



**St. George's Church, Wilton**  
**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council**  
Tuesday 26 July 2022

**Present:** Nick Griffin (Chair); Michael Yardley (Vice Chair); Peter Joyce, Chris Michell, Bethan Baigent, Paul Cole, Mary Carson, Pete Underwood & Helen Clegg (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:** Matt Norman, Ian Pinder, Hilary & Pete Mckegney.

1. Nick opened the meeting with a reading and a time of open prayer.
2. **The minutes of the last meeting** on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**3. Action points from the last meeting.**

a) Bike Racks

The ones by the Church are in place and the others, for the hall are here and waiting to be installed. Pete Mckegney has procured them and is arranging for the supplier to install them at no cost to the church.

b) Hearing Loop in the Church.

A new wiring loop and amplifier were installed and the system is working well.

c) Prayer Room and Store.

The adaptation of the Old Choir Vestry into a combined Prayer Room and Store has now been included in the Church's insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance, for an increase in our annual premium of £29. This includes an estimated building replacement cost of £15,000

d) On-line banking

This is now up and running and is making banking much easier. There are also plans to install new financial software (Xero) which would also allow people to work from home.

e) Safeguarding

PCC members are required to undertake on-line training and Bethan will circulate the details.

Members are asked to let her know when they have completed this.

f) Roof Guardian

We replied to the Ecclesiastical Insurance offer of a trial use of 'Roof Guardian', but have heard no more. Bethan will follow this up.

**Action Bethan**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**5. Financial Report** - Ian Pinder

Ian was absent but had sent a financial report which members had already received.

We are making a loss on the Hall and need to increase the lettings and/or reduce our running costs. Various ideas were discussed.

The church owns the allotments but we haven't been reviewing the rents annually in November as had been previously agreed with the Allotments Secretary. At present the total rents almost certainly do not cover their water bill.

It was concluded that our finances needed further analysis and there was more to do but with new software this will be easier to do. Ian has made an excellent start on the analysis and updating of our banking systems.

**6. Vicar's Update**

The **tuk-tuk** is working again. Terry is ordering materials for its conversion and has also got someone who will help him. This has been funded by a grant of £3,000, with £1,000 from



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church funds. There is also a legacy which could be used to cover the conversion costs. More grant applications are planned

The **Prayer Room** still requires some further construction and decoration work. The aim is to finish the project by September and then open it properly for use.

**Curate emplacement** The Vicar has been interviewed with a view to him becoming a trainer of curates but hasn't had a decision yet. New ordinands will be looking for curacy places in June. A curate would be with us for 3-4 years and the only costs to us would be their expenses.

**Ministry Experience Scheme** The first course has finished and this week there will be an Open Evening for anyone wondering about doing it. There are potential participants already.

**Curate Jan Church** This woman will be joining us for 2-3 months in the autumn for one weekday and Sunday each week. She is a curate elsewhere but wants to work in a different type of church.

### **Building Project.**

A special meeting will be arranged for the PCC to look at the plans Paul Cole has drawn up and discuss the options.

## **7. Update on Services**

Harvest Festival will be on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, held on a farm. It will be a joint 9.30 & 11am service but there will still be a 9.30am service in the church for those who don't want to travel to the farm.

From September 11<sup>th</sup> we will be restarting children's work on Sunday mornings. There will be an unmanned Crèche in the Dunning Room and other children will be upstairs and in the Scout Hut. All thanks to Bryony and her team who have worked so hard on this.

Congregations are increasing from a previous average weekly attendance of 65, to around 100-120/week.

## **8. Health and Safety**

Peter had no major problems to report. The potholes in the car park need attention. Maintenance of the bells was discussed as Brian Matthews had checked them regularly for many years. Peter Joyce will talk to Brian about this. **Action Peter J.**

## **9. Safeguarding**

Liz Flower has expressed a wish to stand down as Safeguarding Officer within the next year, leaving time to find and train her replacement.

There will now be a separate email address for the Safeguarding Officer.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

### **10. Distribution of Communion**

It is the tradition of the Anglican Church that Communion is received in two kinds bread and wine in a common cup. This has altered during the pandemic but now we have to decide how we move on. Three alternatives were suggested.

1. Continue as we are receiving a wafer intincted with the wine.
2. Go back to the shared cup and kneeling at the rail.
3. Introduce individual cups for the wine.

It was decided that we continue as we are for the moment and the PCC members should sound out the congregation to find out the balance of opinion. This will be discussed at the next meeting.



**11. The condition of the Church building-*Michael Yardley***

It was pointed out that there is peeling paint and plaster in the church. It was last painted about 30 years ago. On either side of the East window there are murals which are covered by panelling to protect them. It was also noted that the covering panels were installed as the congregation previously decided that the murals did not particularly enhance the Church. The vestry, besides having peeling plaster, is not an efficient use of space and has little storage. Claire Steel has looked with Paul Cole at how toilets and a servery could be added in the church. These ideas will be considered at the proposed special PCC meeting in September to discuss building plans that Paul has been working up.

**12. Main points from the meeting to be communicated to the Congregation.**

- a. Conversations will be held around the distribution of Communion post- Covid.
- b. The re-introduction of childrens' work on Sunday mornings.
- c. Introduction of on-line banking and proposed new financial systems.

**Date of next meeting : Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 7.30pm.**

The meeting was closed with the Grace.

**Signed :** .....(Chairman)

**Date :** .....