



St. George's Church, Wilton
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council
 Tuesday 17th January 2023

Present: Nick Griffin (Chair), Michael Yardley (Vice Chair), Peter Joyce, Hilary McKegney, Ian Pinder (Treasurer), Chris Michell, Matt Norman, Paul Cole, Pete Underwood, Mary Carson, Katie Lanchbury and Helen Clegg (PCC Secretary)
 Jenny Norman and Liz Flower were in attendance

1. Nick opened the meeting with a reading from Ezekiel Ch. 2 and a time of open prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Bethan Baigent

3. The minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record after correcting Pete Underwood's name.

4. Katie Lanchbury was warmly welcomed on to the PCC.

5. **Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

a) Hall Bookings

Maggie Beart has volunteered to help Bethan in the office with hall bookings, among other things.

The income from hall rents was £4,307 in 2021

£13,846 in 2022 but of course 2021 was an
 exceptional year because of Covid.

b) Building Projects

A meeting planned for before Christmas had to be postponed because of illness but will be taking place soon. The Diocese has offered £2,000 towards the work on the office but this can only be claimed after the work has started.

6. Safeguarding Training

Liz Flower is stepping down as Safeguarding Officer after many years' service. Nick expressed everyone's thanks for all her hard work, and gratitude to Jenny Norman for taking on the role.

All PCC members are required to do the Church of England on-line training which consists of 3 courses namely Basic Awareness, Safeguarding Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. This training will need to be repeated every 3 years.

This is **NOT Optional**. Please let Jenny Norman know the date you complete these for her records.

Action all PCC members

Jenny will circulate some papers which will go out with these minutes for the PCC members to read before the next meeting.

Action all PCC members

7. Vicar's Report

Cosy Café is running twice a week for 5 hours and is financed by a Somerset County Council Warm Spaces Grant. This has allowed us to employ Ian to run it. The money stops in February and we can decide later if it should continue with volunteers or finish. The attendance has been lower than we might have hoped.

Alpha Course

15 people completed the course although more started it.

Nick expressed his thanks to Ian and Val for cooking for it. There was one fresh commitment and some others recommitted themselves through the course.

It will be a regular occurrence with 1, or hopefully, 2 courses each year.

Those who completed the first course will continue as a Home Group run by Hilary and Michael Hayes and Rose Slack.

Tuk-tuk

The next phase is legislative work, obtaining insurance cover and training people.

Community Fridge

A grant has been obtained but the money hasn't arrived yet. James Russell is helping with the project. There is a planned visit to the West Monkton

Community Fridge which is the only other one in Taunton at present. The main purpose is to avoid food waste rather than to feed people who lack funds to buy food but it is hoped it can do both.

Christmas

A success.

Ministry Experience Scheme

There are 8 people on this and 3 are looking towards ordination.

Worship Director

Chris Sampson will begin his work as Worship Director tomorrow to develop our music life and bring unity across our services.

8. Financial Report *Ian Pinder*

The Treasurer reported that the annual accounts to 31 December 2022 were in progress but at present are incomplete. 2022 was the first complete year of normal activity following Covid interruptions and the accounts will reflect that. IP reported some key figures for 2022 as follows:

Christian Giving income was £90,572 (up 16.5% from £77,696 in the previous year).

Charity collections were £11,640 (2021: £4,856).

Hall rent had increased to £13,846 from £4307. It was noted that there was increasing use of the hall for church activities which reduced the time available for lettings.

A legacy of £30,000 had been received from the late Brian Underwood. The Christmas Fayre had generated a surplus of £1,944.

On the expenses side, gas and electric bills had increased by about 60% although grants totalling £1,750 had been received from the national church to help with those costs. £8,460 had been spent on tech equipment for the hall and the church.

The Parish Share of £83,767 had been paid in full. The church bank balances at the end of the year totalled £56,660.

IP reported that the Diocese had offered two alternatives for the Parish Share for 2023. Option A was a 2% increase to £85,442. Option B was a 6% increase to £88,793. After a lively debate, the majority decision was in favour of Option A.

9. Charity Collections

PCC members had been asked to consult with the congregation as to their feelings about us giving away all our collections.

The report back was mixed with a trend towards long-term members of the church wishing to continue that and newer people thinking it wasn't such a good idea but there was no clear consensus of opinion and it was decided to keep the status quo. What was clear was that more information as to how the church work was financed and how much was needed was clearly necessary, as well as more information about the work of the charities supported.

Last year we supported 24 different charities, a third of which were local, and a third were overseas. Nick suggested that in future the total number of charities supported was reduced and spread between local and International charities, with a different charity each month.

After a full discussion Nick will draft a proposed policy for the PCC to consider.

Action Nick

10. Deanery Synod Representation

Our 2 deanery synod reps have been in post for many years and would both be glad to stand down although Michael Yardley would be happy to serve 1 more year from the next APCM. At the APCM we need to identify new representatives and ask them if they would be willing to serve. We can have 3 reps.

11. Health and Safety

There were no matters of concern.

12. Proposal to set up a Standing Committee

It is proposed to set up a Standing Committee to deal with business matters between PCC meetings. It is recommended good practice that we should have one. It would consist of 5-6 people : vicar, the church wardens, treasurer and a nominated member of the PCC. They would meet monthly and have an agreed amount of money they could spend without having to refer to the PCC for approval each time (£2,000 possibly).

The terms of reference can be circulated and it would replace the present staff meeting.

There would be no minutes, just Action Points. The committee would oversee maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard. They would deal with risk assessments and Health and Safety matters.

Peter Joyce will circulate the Term of Reference.

Action Peter Joyce

The meeting was closed with the grace.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 25th April 2023.

Future meetings

11th July 2023

14th Nov 2023

Signed :(Chairman)

Date :