



• ST GEORGE'S •

St. George's Church, Wilton
Parochial Church Council

Minutes

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm

Present : Nick Griffin (Vicar), Bethan Baigent, Laura Willetts, Rob Cromwell (Curate), Mary Carson, Hilary Hayes and Hilary McKegney (Deanery Synod reps), Jenny Norman (Safeguarding Officer), Pete Underwood, Paul Cole, Ian Pinder (Treasurer), Katie Lanchbury, Matt Norman and Helen Clegg (PCC Secretary)

1. The meeting was opened with a reading and prayer.
2. The new members : Hilary Hayes, Hilary McKegney, Laura Willett, Jenny Norman and Rev. Rob Cromwell were welcomed by Nick.

Apologies were received from Peter Joyce (Churchwarden) and Rev. Richard Kelley will become an ex-officio member of the PCC as he is licensed to this church.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed.

Action points from the previous minutes.

Safeguarding training of the PCC members

Jenny reported that all PCC members had done **some** of the training modules and she is pursuing those who haven't completed all of them.

Hilary McK is working on the wording of the Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders with Jenny and also the wording of the flow chart on responding to Safeguarding concerns and allegations. This work is in progress still.

Social Events Co-ordinator

Rob Cromwell has taken on this role.

Items for Information

4. Vicars Update &
Digital and Technology Coordinator

Matt Norman has accepted this role on a voluntary basis.

Concern was expressed that this was a large amount of work for someone with a full-time job as well. Matt reassured the PCC that this was work he had been doing already and if he found it too much he would let the PCC know. Matt has developed a team that can manage if he cannot be available one Sunday. Finally, he stressed that he **was not** taking on IT work for members of the



congregation. Thanks for his contribution and work were expressed by the PCC.

Home Groups

There are a number of new housegroups desired by the church members but the challenge is supplying sufficient leaders and hosts. Please send any suggestions to Nick.

Suggestions for another Churchwarden would be appreciated by Nick.

5. Financial Update

The Treasurer had circulated a Financial Update Report by email before the meeting. There had been a 29% increase in income from the Christian Giving Scheme for the first 6 months of 2023 compared with the equivalent period in 2022. The church has received a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Elizabeth Mortimer White. The balance so far on the Church Office Building Appeal is £20,867 with the Gift Aid tax yet to be claimed and a grant of £2,000 expected from the Diocese. Costs are broadly in line with expectations.

Michael Small has had to retire as Christian Giving Treasurer due to ill health and we are looking for a suitable volunteer to take on the role. Due to Michael's situation, we have not yet claimed the Gift Aid tax for the first quarter of the year but our cashflow remains good due to the cash balance held for the building appeal.

The Treasurer warned that even though the Christian Giving income had increased we are still running at an annual deficit and the giving needs to improve further if we are to balance our books and to cover the expected increase in Parish Share.

NG reported that he had been successful in a grant bid to Taunton Council for the Community Fridge. The Council would like to be associated with the fridge and have offered sponsorship of £2,500.

JN asked for details of the income from the Bring and Buy Sale in January and BB replied that she thought it had been reported in Newsboard but she would recirculate the details.

6. Buildings Update

Community Fridge The electrical work is nearly completed. The fridge should be installed in the next couple of weeks. Mervyn Roberts is getting a team together and it is hoped that the fridge will be functioning in mid-August. The times it is open will depend on the availability of volunteers and will start at 3-4 days per week.



With the £2,500 sponsorship from Taunton Town Council, the original grant of £3,000 from Hubbub the fridge has nearly been fully funded. A further grant from Co-op has also been requested.

Office Paul Cole explained the elements of the building projects so far and reported that the electrical work on the refurbishment of the office will be completed Wednesday 12th July. The building work is expected to start in the second week of August and take 4 weeks.

7. Safeguarding Update

Jenny reported that this role has involved a lot more work than anticipated and she expressed thanks to Hilary McK. who has been assisting with the Safer Recruiting interviews. Lots of the existing workers with children and young people, who are going through the Safer Recruiting process, have partially completed the process but not yet completed it all. It was noted that each stage completed represents a reduction in the risk.

The steps for each person are:-

Application for a DBS

Checking of ID documents

Meeting with Jenny and Hilary

Filling out an application form

Providing names of 2 referees

Jenny then has to contact the referees and await replies

Applicant has to complete their Safeguarding training.

Provide Jenny with the certificate

Jenny has circulated the Ex-Offenders Recruiting Policy to PCC members. They now need to read these and approve them if satisfied.

Some explanation of the standards for safeguarding were explained. Every group involved with young people or vulnerable adults needs to have a Risk Assessment as the first step which indicates whether all helpers have to be Safer Recruited (following all the steps above) and to do the Safeguarding Training. Some of the leaders and helpers have been in the roles for a long time and so getting them to complete the requisite forms was taking longer than hoped which is a source of frustration.



There was some discussion about the Sunday morning Crèche during the summer holidays. This will not be staffed, just a room with materials and toys available.

All that is required will be a Risk Assessment of the space. Further advice will be sought from the diocese.

Action: Nick

Jenny requested that she be allowed to catch up with the Safe Recruiting process of existing children's ministry helpers over the summer before any new activities are started.

This was agreed and Nick expressed his thanks to Jenny for all her hard work.

8. Deanery Synod Update – Hilary McKegney and Hilary Hayes

This took place a week ago at St. Andrew's Church. There were about 80 people there and Archdeacon Simon Hill opened the meeting and led a Eucharist.

3 representatives were appointed to the Deanery Planning and Mission Group for the next 3 years including Nick Griffin.

Steven Grimshaw resigned as the Lay Dean and Richard Carpenter was appointed in his place.

9. Health and Safety update – Peter Joyce (report circulated)

It was felt that a Quinquennial inspection was overdue and necessary as masonry has fallen from the church tower.

There was discussion about deposits for church hall hire and this was felt necessary and should be proportional to the length of the hire.

There was discussion about the hall cleaning and the church cleaning which is being done by a shrinking group of volunteers. If 2 people work together it takes about 2 hours but some people were doing it on their own which would take about 4 hours. It is cleaned every 3 weeks by 5 sets of volunteers.

It is the 9.30 am congregation that use the church and few of those would be able to take on the cleaning. Jane Joyce has been trying to recruit new volunteers but has been unsuccessful. Katie Lanchbury offered support.

Pot holes in the car park.

Standing committee had obtained an estimate for repairs but decided it was too costly. Temporary repairs will be continued for the present.



10. Christian Concerns progress

An email has been received from Carole saying the Christian Concerns Group have questions and require to discuss their concerns with PCC.

Nick stated that Carole is welcome to attend the next PCC meeting. It was noted that the PCC had already made the decision to change to 12 charities per year now and had expected CCG to give us a list of the 12 chosen for this year. There was some discussion about the length of time it was taking to complete and submit this list

Ian Pinder and Rob Cromwell offered to go and meet with the CCG to find a way forward.

Action Ian and Rob

11. Electronic giving and Gift Aid

Bethan has received a list of 6 devices from the Diocese which might be suitable and is looking into them and where and how to use them. She will prepare a report and circulate it.

Action Bethan

The meeting was closed by saying the Grace together.