



**St. George's Church, Wilton
Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Agenda

21st May 2024 7.30pm, St. George's Church

Present: Rev. Nick Griffin (Chair), Rev. Rob Cromwell, Rev. Richard Kelly, Bethan Baigent, Lisa Westlake (Churchwarden), Hilary McKegey, Laura Willetts, Matt Norman, Mary Carson, Lucy Norris (PCC Secretary) Ian Pinder (Treasurer).

Apologies: Peter Joyce (Churchwarden), Paul Cole, Katie Lanchbury, Pete Underwood.

1. Opening prayer and song: Nick read Psalm 27 and led a time of prayer. Rob led worship.

2. Giving communion training

There has been a change in Church of England legislation which permits members of the church to distribute communion, once approved by the bishop.

Nick explained there have been challenges organising a rota for people to distribute communion. Therefore, asking PCC members if they can be on the list to distribute. Nick explained what communion is, how it should be carried out and when.

Bread: This is an intimate moment – make eye contact if appropriate. Note, some people may not wish to touch the bread due to theological reasons or because they have physical difficulty - normally people will indicate this. Usually, gluten free is distributed by the priest. To say: *"Body of Christ keep you in eternal life."*

Cup: For most people hand over the cup; however, a few may need the cup to be tipped. Use a purificator after each person. Priest reconsecrates wine. To say: *"Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life."*

Blessing: Suggested that to touch arm or hover over head. To say: *"[Name] the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you. Amen."*

Actions:

- Nick to circulate list of other members of the church proposed to distribute communion for PCC approval.
- Nick to send list of approved members of the church to Bishop.

3. Minutes from last PCC meeting and APCM

- Nick welcomed Lisa Westlake as churchwarden.
- The minutes of the last PCC meeting were passed as a true record.
- No comments were made on the APCM minutes.
- The hog roast received donations of £560, which is a loss of £440. However, it was worth running as it brought community together.
- Two actions outstanding: looking ahead calendar and health and safety.



4. Items for discussion

4.1 Building accessibility

Nick explained that challenges have been identified around church accessibility for wheelchairs, pushchairs and those seated. An opportunity was given for the PCC to experience access in church using wheelchairs and pushchairs.

The following challenges were identified:

- Visibility and physical access limited (including narrow aisles, columns blocking views, accessible entrance door being bolted), which could lead to people feeling vulnerable, frustrated, 'in the way', excluded and lonely.
- Access goes beyond mobility difficulties to vision, hearing, cognition, communication, and self-care. For example, there are no toilets, which could lead to difficulties for children and people with self-care needs.
- Evacuation could be difficult and could be a safety issue.

Potential solutions discussed:

- The priority is safety. Need to complete risk register and review critical incidents.
- Next look at how we can make the space accessible and inclusive looking at 6-month, 6-12 month and 2-5-year plan.
- **Short term:** Temporary permission granted for two years to remove pews at the back, including a ramp and raised platform. However, this would not solve the problem of visibility. The reason permission was granted was due to ease of removing these pews (i.e. not tied into the fabric of the building). There are more desirable pews to move, which would be more difficult to do.
- **Long term:** Ideally remove all pews but this would take longer as it would require a Faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). This would require full plans on flooring, pipe work, chairs etc.

Next steps:

- DAC pre-visit taking place in 5-6 weeks with Nick, Paul, and Peter for advice on how to make the church accessible and fit for mission.
- Special PCC meeting on 11th June 2024 to consider options.
- Need to agree on what we want, discuss regulatory bodies and fundraising.

Actions:

- Nick and Lucy to work on incident review and risk register.
- Nick to explore permission for moving different pews.
- Nick, Paul, and Peter meeting with DAC.

5. Items for decision: Plaque for Peter Ball: Peter was a licensed reader for 43 years who has died. Proposal from Peter Joyce to acknowledge Peter's work by putting up a plaque underneath the church south wall. This was proposed by Matt Norman and seconded by Laura Willetts. Approval received, but to consider putting in place criteria for decisions in the future.



6. Items to receive

6.1 Safeguarding: Nick and Hilary have completed safer recruitment for six people. Children’s work needs volunteers due to requirement of two safer recruited volunteers. Suggestion that we move towards parents of children volunteering, requiring six to eight volunteers. Role descriptions will be put in place, and it has been proposed that safer recruitment workshops are carried out.

6.2 Health and safety: Concern raised about children upstairs with increasing numbers. Immediate proposal is for under 3’s to be in the main hall, which will be sectioned off using temporary screens. It has also been proposed that coffee takes place in the churchyard (weather dependent) and/or sectioned off hall. Noting there is a small overlap between coffee and children’s groups in the hall. Proposal: Tots in hall, kids in Dunning room and youth upstairs.

6.3 Financial update:

- £53,000 in the bank, Gift Aid claim (£7,000) and Parish Share payment (£7,000) due.
- Grants: Hubbub grant of £1,000 for the Community Fridge, £3,500 from Warm Spaces which will be spent on kitchen refurbishments, a grant application of £2,500 has been made for an oven.
- Robin Stamp has forecasted Christian Giving to increase by approx. 10%.
- Consultations on Parish Share may mean St. George’s share decreases.

6.4 Standing Committee: Summary of the main decisions were circulated before the meeting.

Special PCC meeting date: 11th June 2024.

Next PCC meeting date: 9th July 2024.

Future PCC meeting dates: 10th September 2024, 19th November 2024.

	Action summary	Who
1	Circulate list of other members of the church proposed to distribute communion for PCC approval	Nick Griffin
2	Send list of approved members of the church to Bishop	Nick Griffin
3	Update and distribute calendar	Bethan Baigent
4	Check if meeting took place re: health and safety	Peter Joyce, Paul Cole
5	Work on incident review and risk register.	Nick Griffin, Lucy Norris
6	Explore permission for moving different pews.	Nick Griffin
7	Nick, Paul, and Peter meeting with DAC.	Nick Griffin, Peter Joyce, Paul Cole