

Parish of St.Peter, Bengeworth

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm in the church.

Present: Andy Smith (Chair), Lucy Anstey, Steve Bramley, Simon Browning, Tim Clack, Patricia Chick, Simon Cooper, Phil Cooper, Kimberley Gunn (Secretary).

There were apologies of absence for Dave Cockram.

General welcome: with a special introduction to newly elected PCC members, Phil Cooper, and Lucy Anstey. A big welcome to Patsy Chick who was also present.

Declaration of Interest and AOB:

- AOB: HR Update - regarding Julissa Cooper's employment.

Matters Arising from the minutes:

None.

Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting:

Approval proposed by Simon Browning, seconded by Steve Bramley, all in favour.

Thanksgiving and prayer:

- The PCC spent time giving thanks to God and in prayer.

Co-opt and welcome of Patsy Chick to the PCC:

- Patsy Chick has been attending St Peter's Church Bengeworth for approx. two years but has only recently joined the electoral roll. With approval from the PCC, Patsy will be cop-opted as a member. Proposal by Tim Clack, seconded by Lucy Ansty and all in favour.

Vicar's report:

- Andy is excited by this PCC and the new additions to the group. He is keen to promote a positive and collaborative culture within the PCC, wider church, and community.
- The PCC aims to build on the established foundations at St Peter's, while exploring new avenues for development and growth of relational ties.

Re-visiting and reviewing the vision:

- The current vision statement at St Peter's, established by the PCC shortly before the planting team joined the church in 2021, is:

Making Christ Visible in Bengeworth.

- The outbreak of covid and ongoing difficulties somewhat disrupted plans to enact this vision.
- As the church has grown and developed over the past few years, St Peter's will now revisit the vision statement, to discern if there needs to be any changes or new additions.
- This revisit will also allow participation from the wider church to shape the direction of objectives moving forwards.
- The PCC engaged in a collaborative discussion about how best to approach the revisit and concluded the following:
 - Participation should be facilitated from the broadest possible demographic of church attendees for the vision to be inclusive.
 - This will be an open invitation for all people attending St Peter's to get together and generate ideas for the vision statement.
 - A team of church leaders should also be established. This team will further discern, refine, and hone the ideas from the church into a clear vision statement. This will consist of ALM's, worship leaders, group leaders etc. Andy Smith will gather a list of proposed individuals and pass this to the PCC for approval and suggestions.

- **Conclusion:** A date will be scheduled for the church leaders to gather and plan the vision revisit process. A meeting date will also be communicated to the wider church for the generation of vision ideas. This gathering will probably take the form of a lunch / open session at St Peter's. Efforts will be made to ensure members from across the congregations are present, and space made for all voices to be heard.

Update from the Standing Committee:

- None today. Last meeting used to set the agenda for this PCC meeting.
- The PCC were invited to join the standing committee.
- Group members from the PCC consisting of: Andy Smith, Tim Clack, Steve Bramley, and Patsy Chick were proposed by Simon Browning, seconded by Phil Cooper, and all in favour. Lucy Anstey may also become involved.

Finance Report (Tim Clack):

- Income at St Peter's Church is buoyant. The Parish Giving Scheme is now providing an income of approx. £3400 monthly from 35 giving units. This amount has doubled since Rev Andy Smith arrived at St Peter's and it received a large increase in members during January 2024. This regular income stream enables more accurate budgeting and financial forecasting. The church receives additional income streams from charitable bodies, including the John Martin Trust, irregular giving, events, and cash donations.
- The parish share paid by St Peter's to the Diocese will be £36,000 this year (around £3300 per month) and supports the payment of clergy stipend.
- Progress with church accounts: Tim has been modifying the existing accounts system he inherited when taking over the treasurer role to his own system. After lengthy dialogue with the bank, he now has permission

to issue bank transfers rather than cheques which will streamline payments.

- Tim invited the PCC to consider the giving options/policy for St Peter's to local, national, and international charities, to give back to those in need. This would take the form of an agreed percentage of income that is set aside specifically for donations.

This will be revisited by the PCC after further thought and discussion. Initial ideas included:

1. **Building on the links with Uganda** – supporting charities at work there. The church has connections with ROTOM (Reach One Touch One Ministries) and a charity connection through the church organist, Jayne.
 2. Looking into **local** projects to support and possibly a national mission.
- The church was recently given a sum of money to spend blessing the local community (£5000 + gift aid.) The project is being managed by a group of people from St Peter's as the ARK project. Patsy Chick volunteered to join Andy and the other ARK members in helping to organise how funds are spent.
 - A full accounts report from Tim Clack for St Peter's Church will be issued later in June 2024.

Buildings and Fabric Report:

- The new carpet project for the church is on hold, after the intended supplier was unable to meet the fitting requirements. Alternative providers will be investigated by Rev Smith and Steve Bramley. An update will be issued to the PCC and wider church as this develops.

- The church tower has recently been visited by contractors to remove pigeons and block up entry points. A return visit is due in a few weeks for a final clean and fitment of additional deterrents. When this is completed, we expect repair works for the church clock should be able to proceed. An update will be issued to the PCC and the church as this project progresses.
- Water leaks into an area of roofing in the Bostock Room/toilet area and the front of the church have now been resolved. New slate and leading has been fitted.
- Lawn cutting is now taking place regularly at the church by a new provider. This is scheduled for a twice monthly trim in the growing season, and further cuts when necessary outside of this.
- Dog fouling incidents within the church grounds have reduced since Steve Bramley fitted signs and dog bag dispensers.

Health & Safety Report:

- The church fire extinguishers underwent inspection recently and are in working order.

Church House Report:

- Bookings are continuing at Church House.
- The church will look to issue providers with a questionnaire to see how we can improve our service and building facilities at Church House.

Correspondence and AOB:

- Julissa Cooper has been doing an outstanding job as the cleaner of both St Peter's and of Church House. She has accepted the cleaner role offered to her by the PCC and is now employed by the church.

- Youth & Children's Worker applications have been received and are currently undergoing deliberation. An interview is scheduled to take place next week. Andy Smith will take the interview, with Simon Hill and Susan Medina.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th July 2024.

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