

These minutes are published on the basis that such matters (if there be any) which the PCC has resolved shall remain confidential have not been included

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023, 7.15pm in the Reid Room

Present: David Goodhew (Chair), Lindsey Goodhew, Mark Walley, Gail Roberts, Ruth Ritchie, Sue Bell, Phil Edwards, Lynda Walker, Barbara Edwards, Thom Mallam, Paul Bury, Andrew Devereux, Alistair Bolton, James Cawdell, Fiona Houldsworth, Ali Ward.

1. Worship

Andrew read Psalm 121. Both individually and as a PCC as we discuss difficult issues, we should be remembering that our help comes from the Lord. We do not do this in our own strength.

2. Apologies for absence

Tony Hutchings, Malcolm McGregor, Nelly Broughton

3. Minutes of the meeting of 2nd October 2023

There was one amendment: item 7: It was agreed "that the PCC would accept green **and/or** clean energy provision". With this amendment the meeting was happy to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting of 2nd October 2023.

4. Matters Arising

- a) Assistant Worship Pastor – Kel Profitt has been appointed and started work at the beginning of November.
- b) Utility contracts – We now have 4 new energy contracts: with Crown Gas/Power for gas, ending 31st July 2027 and we have achieved the aim of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by contracting with EDF who offer 100% clean green renewable electricity. This contract expires on 30th September 2027. The effect of the increase in costs over 2021/2024 contracts will be about £8,000 in 2024, with the majority of the increase being felt in October to December. Thanks were expressed to David Dickson for all the work he had done.
- c) Community worker – Katharine Jones has begun work, 10 hours funded by a grant from Lyndhurst Trust.

5. Correspondence

A legacy has been received from Thomas Wilkinson, who was a local solicitor.

6. Vicar's Report

The PCC divided into groups to feedback on the harvest weekend, which included services, litter picking and inviting, decoration of the church, the evening with John Archer and church lunch for over 100.

Baptisms – David reported that there have been more baptisms in 2023 than in any year since 2013, both infants and adults.

7. Green Plan (Item 12 on the agenda was taken at this point. Mark Allan and Marjorie Wilson joined the meeting for this item.

The draft green plan had been circulated and is attached to the minutes.

The PCC divided into groups for initial responses to the report. When the meeting resumed together, the discussion focused on how the whole congregation could own the plan. How should it be communicated without people feeling preached at. It was suggested that the wider congregation should be involved in the drafting process. It was felt that there were good things in the report, but the issue of affordability needed to be addressed. It is important that everyone can be part of this and that the less well-off are remembered.

It was agreed that the PCC would pass comments and feedback to Lindsey to be considered by the green group. It will be looked at again by PCC at the next meeting and then shared with the wider congregation.

Thanks were given to the green group for all their work.

8. Festival Teesside

Mark circulated a timetable for Festival Teesside next year. St Barnabas is a partner church. **The PCC agrees to commit £1500 from the 2024 budget to support Festival Teesside and the PCC will review further means of support at a later meeting**, proposed by David Goodhew, seconded by Phil Edwards, all in favour. Mark said he would circulate the link to the website to PCC members.

9. Draft Mission Action Plan

David circulated this. It was agreed that suggested changes should be made to David by email and that the draft should be shared with the wider congregation for comment in the new year, with the aim of approving the new MAP in February.

9. Facilities Management Group report

Andrew gave the report.

- Church Hall Flat - Shelving has been installed and has started to be allocated for use. A combination bolt has been fitted to prevent dumping of unwanted items. Awaiting quote from N Sweeting for repairs to flat roof.
- Kitchen - A replacement hot water boiler has been purchased and will be installed shortly
- Church Roof - The high level gutters have been cleaned, the build up of moss on the roof has been removed and the broken slates replaced. The lightning conductor has been serviced and tested.
- Linden Grove - The gardening team have completed the initial tidy up of the garden which now appears much larger. This has highlighted that the back gate and garage door is in need of a coat of paint. The quotes for decorating are D Bennett £3100, Mat McKenzie £6950. On the basis of PCC direct D Bennett has been instructed to do the work.
- Community Grocery - Planning permission has been granted for the container for Grocery storage. We are awaiting a delivery date from the Message Trust.

10. Number of Elected Members of PCC

This had been raised at the previous meeting. The number of PCC elected from the APCM, three, is smaller than the number suggested by Church Representation Rules, which suggests 4 or 5 for an electoral roll of our size. There was a brief discussion. It was suggested that electing a slightly larger number of lay members would increase representation of the congregation. It would also help diversity on the PCC, though increasing the number on its own will probably not do this. Increasing numbers a little would help with representation on sub-committees. There was concern that if the PCC was too large, discussion would be stifled. The PCC will return to this at a later date.

12. Children and Families

Big Kids had not been asked for an update, but Mark Walley reported that the Pathfinder weekend had gone well, with 12 children attending.

13. Safeguarding

Immy Burgess-Hale will take over as lead recruiter for DBS checks.

14. Church Hall Fire Review

This had been circulated. The PCC was asked to email Gail Roberts with any changes, so that this can be approved at the next meeting.

15. Church Risk Assessment

It was proposed by Paul Bury, seconded by Barbara Edwards that **the PCC approves the church risk assessment**, all in favour.

16. Health and Safety Policy

With the amendment that Ruth Ritchie is responsible for first aid equipment, it was proposed that **the PCC readopts the Health and Safety policy for another year**, proposed by Gail Roberts, seconded by Barbara Edwards, all in favour.

17. Financial Matters

It was proposed that by Phil Edwards that **the PCC agrees that the churchwardens should make use of cash counted and recorded in the mid-November count for stall floats at Craft Aid, and then bank it as soon as possible after Craft Aid**, seconded by James Cawdell, all in favour.

18. Date of next meeting

Monday 4th December, 7.15pm in the Reid Room.

Chairman.....

Date.....