

St Peter's Church PCC meeting Minutes
26th November 2024.
7:00pm – 8:30pm

Present:

Alan Garrow	Ian Birt	Hannah Beck	David Hipkin
Helen Camm	Chris Clayton (Chair)	Sian Lockwood	Catherine Medforth
John Longstaff	Ruth Thompson-Vear	Mike Davies	Paul Harris
Leigh Thompson (PCC Secretary)			

Stewart Davis arrived to present information regarding ELM

Apologies:

Tim Robinson	Karin Shaw	Steve Gibbin	Kate Blake
Bella Blake	Beverley Cooper	Jan Edwards	

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Chris welcomed everyone and led the LYCiG prayer.

Hannah who was not Present at September's meeting agreed that the meeting could be recorded to assist in minute taking.

2. Bible reflection

Alan led a reflection on readings from John 2, 1-12 The wedding at Cana.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were noted.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of Septembers meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on the 24th of September were unanimously approved. After the correction on the name of the Grants team. Thank you, Sian.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

Alan mentioned that Charles Stones is no longer in the Grants team. He also highlighted that in reference to the donation for the Ladies Chapel was to come from Pat Swallow, she has now left the areas so it may be a tougher ask than previously.

Progress is being made on the Volunteers Code of Conduct, it has been reviewed and amended, The redraft needs to go to the Vicars and Wardens, then to team leaders for their comments, then it will return to the PCC in January.

6. Financial Report

David distributed a financial report to the meeting. He advised that in summary our financial situation is looking much better than he had previously anticipated although we are still in a deficit it's looking like we will end up with a deficit of £70,000. Income in various categories is up, expenditure in various categories is down, so we have approximately £225,000 of funds moving into 2025.

Looking forward into 2025 David says that with what he's looking at now, that we're going to be in deficit but right now he can't say just how big this will be.

We have now paid our third instalment of the Parish Share with a remaining £57K to pay by year end. We have been able to make all payments from the General Fund without the need to use reserves.

The other big expenditure is how much we've spent on the building and how much grant we get. We have the benefit of having fixed contracts on our Electricity and Gas so there will be no hike in prices.

Looking at our reserves policy, based on a calculation based on the budget of three months of costs at the lowest share come in at £74,000, repairs £42,000, reserves requirement about £116,000. Our policy is currently set at £115,00. David feels that we would probably be safe at leaving it at £115,00, with the likelihood that we may have to dip into it at some point.

David proposes we keep the current level in place.

It was agreed that we would approve the 2025 budget in January,

Chris thanked David for all his hard work.

7. Grants Team update

Sian said that they are very grateful to Richard Morris and advised that they have been working on standard responses to standard questions so when they get going, they can get going very fast.

They are meeting with Tom Crooks in January to talk about a specification that they can get quotes on.

Chris thanked Sian and the team and to ensure that Richard Morris and others get a thank you from us.

8. Main Item – Mission Action Plan

Alan advised that he had been contacted by Richard Morris saying that one of the boxes he needs to fill in is for Mission plans. We don't have a bit of paper that has that written down. We need to be able to say, that if you invest in our building, then there can be some amazing things happening, we need to look like an organisation that has a bit of foresight and strategic thinking is comforting to funders.

Alan suggested that "We want St Peter's to be a sign of what it looks like when the Lord's Prayer gets answered." He also said let's see how it works when we see it through that lens.

Up – In - Out = Worship, community, outreach.

He presented a PowerPoint presentation which had all the panels used for the Stewardship campaign, as an inspiration and a reminder of the amazing things that are happening in our church.

We were given a paper with statements and a sliding scale to encourage us to think about whether it's true that God is honoured in our worship. And where we think we are. We had 15 minutes to discuss these points.

Alan then asked how we all feel about using the Lord's Prayer as our Mission Statement. Hannah suggested that we use our Logo as our mission statement. She feels it is something that people will remember,

John said that he likes the simplicity of "Feeding hungry people" Alan said that we could always do a simple Up – in – Out exercise, What's our worship like, what's our community like,

Ian like the ideas of using the Lord's prayer but He also like the simplicity of Hannahs suggestion. He mentioned that we need to ask, "How do we make ourselves more approachable to people outside?"

Some people have asked whether they are allowed to come into the church. We need to let everyone who passes the building to know "This is for you if you want it".

What do we do next; Maybe a an awayday, Sian feels that a half day should be sufficient, she pointed out that it isn't our mission to attract fundraising, but a good mission will attract fundraising. She thinks it ought to be kept simple.

Alan mentioned that we ought to get our congregation to be thinking about what it is we're trying to do, and whether it would be helpful if the Clergy and warden knock something up and then followed up with the PCC for further discussion.

Alan also mentioned that Karin is experienced in this sort of thing and it maybe best to get her to help us through doing the more conventional way.

John Longstaff suggested that we speak to someone from outside to kick start this process in a way that we can't because we are too close to it, somebody who has experience in this sort of thing.

In summing up:

Clergy and wardens are going to have a bit of a think about it, and they are going to ask Karin to help with that, and maybe seek the advice of an outside consultant, and then book a Saturday morning to put the flesh on the bones.

9. Eco Church update

John Longstaff has asked earlier in the meeting amount the heating controls now that Charles has left. There are no new policies, and this has now been handed back to Carol.

Mike said that on the ECO front he asked that if we knew anybody who would be interested in taking on this role to please be put in touch. He had presented to us the Energy and Net Zero Carbon Audit for St Peters. There were no big surprises but there is some big stuff like suggesting air source heat pumps, also there are things like redoing the roof combined with installing solar panels which will cost \$250,00 and another £100.00 maybe. It also mentioned things like draft proofing, Mike is going to attend the webinar which he needs to do the Secure the £3,000 promised if we did the audit, but he feels there may be strings attached,

One of the things mentioned in the report is the draft proofing of the doors, the Eco group had previously looked at this and looked at Ripon and Wakefield Cathedral. The Idea is to do it properly and not just install draft excluders but to create an air lock. The west end has this already but could be improved upon, Mike asked whether this is something we would go for. Ian Birt pointed out that nothing about the church is

standard and everything must be custom made, and that it would be easy to cover the back end, but nobody would be able to see in, but that we want the visual impact of people being able to see in. Mike suggested that with the £3,000 we could go to an architect with the question is it possible to retain the ability to see inside while draft proofing the doors.

The PCC agreed this was a good idea and to explore further.

Chris reminded us to keep our eyes and ears open for our new ECO champ.

10. Inclusive Church Update

We are now a member of the Inclusive church. To get your entry on the interface they are asking for money, anything from £5 and £500, it was suggested that we use a refreshment day to raise these funds. £250 was agreed to be a reasonable amount. This will happen in the new Year.

Another thing we need to consider is what communication we put on the sight describing ourselves.

11. Acting as Employer for ELM co-ordinator

Encouraging Lay Ministers is an initiative being undertaken in the Harrogate deanery. There is a new role created for an ELM co-ordinator with specific reference to rural benefices. There is a bit of funding coming from the central church which we have been encouraged to bid for, it is called the rural change fund, which is £11,000, with that money we are asked to employ somebody as the Deanery can't employ people directly. It's not a non-responsibility and carries an element of risk and a bit of admin. David says it's now very simple to put some on the payroll.

Stewart pointed out that there is something in it for St Peters and the other town churches. It's going to encourage a lot more sponsored lay ministries, getting people together and forming communities. Stewart said that he will continue to be involved with this but it this will not be successful unless there is someone who can focus on it, which is the ELM Co-ordinator.

This is a part time, temporary roll for 9 months. during school time and they would report into Alan with Stewarts support. The PCC will be the employer. This person has to be currently engaged in the licenced ministry of the type of which they will be supporting.

Sian asked, who would do the selection? Stewart replied that there is a steering group who will be on the recruitment panel. Sian then asked, shouldn't there be someone from the PCC involved? John Longstaff agreed with Sian that someone from the PCC should be on the selection panel. David asked about funding, are we going to be funding the cash flow on this upfront. Stewart informed us that whoever does the finances for Barnabas will be in contact with the treasurer of which ever PCC take this on to arrange for these funds to be transferred.

Chris suggest that accept this on the proviso that a PCC member be on the panel. This was agreed by the PCC.

12. Fabric

Carol is too poorly to write the report, but Sian says there's nothing very new to report. The scaffolding had come down from the front of the church, we hope to have the drying on the inside completed early in the new year. We have a new leak in the chancel, Thanks to the heavy rain and Snow.

Thank you mike for putting the new attachments on the hymn boards making it easier to put them up.

13. Safeguarding

We are still looking to find a new PSO to replace Kate Burke, Ian Burt has offered to be a backup. Alan is still in conversation with a potential candidate.

There are no new incidents to report.

14. AOB

There was no other business to discuss.

15. Review of the meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting

The next meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2025

7:00pm – 8:30pm

in church.