

St Peter's Church PCC meeting

28 March 2023 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Minutes

Present: Ian Birt, Bella Blake, Lance Burgess, Judith Clark, Chris Clayton (Chair), Rachel Fell, Sian Lockwood, John Longstaff and Sarah Martin.

Apologies: Hannah Beck, Beverley Cooper, Catharine Davies, Stewart Davies, Alan Garrow, David Hipkin, Felicity Moss, Roy Taylor and Ruth Thompson-Vear.

In attendance: Kate Blake.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Chris welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Bible reflection

Judith led a reflection on inclusion.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were noted.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of January's meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 24 January 2023 were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising

- The Evensong congregation on the first Sunday of Lent was a larger than usual 24. Publicising the service with local hotels will continue.
- The actions highlighted in the last meeting relating to the LYCiG conference are ongoing.

6. Inclusive Church – workshop feedback

Sian tabled the inclusive church workshop paper and outlined the themes of the workshop.

Around 30 people attended the workshop in January, with a mix of ages and services represented. The group started by considering the

“protected characteristics” set out in the Equality Act and the group added to them and chose five that they wanted the church to focus on, being:

- Loneliness, isolation, not being valued
- People economically disadvantaged or advantaged
- Older people including people living with dementia
- People with physical disabilities
- Sexuality and sexual orientation

The workshop then considered the barriers that we may inadvertently put in the way of making people in these groups feel welcome and recommended actions to remove those barriers.

The recommendations and proposals are:

- *Loneliness and isolation* – it’s proposed to set up a specific group separate from the pastoral care team to enable people on their own, in care homes, etc to feel included. Jan Edwards and Catherine Medforth are to lead this group. Loneliness in younger people is to be considered too.
- *People economically disadvantaged/advantaged* – to use the foyer, notice boards, website and weekly news to communicate the work of the church and make clear the church is for everyone. Work has already begun on this with the new foyer displays. We are also taking steps to learn from other churches including St Stephen’s Bradford.
- *Older people with dementia* – to increase the size of the pastoral care team, develop their knowledge and skills and signpost to the work being done by other churches and community groups to support people with dementia. In addition, consider setting up a network of “prayer warriors” (description to be determined) being older people who are committed to praying for the life and mission of St Peter’s.
- *People with physical disabilities* – to start the conversation about remodelling the front of the church to give access to the chancel and provide accessible seating. It was acknowledged that the 8.30 service in particular excludes those with physical disabilities and that the

pews are also a barrier. It's also proposed to bring together a group of people with physical disabilities to identify the barriers they experience and think of ways to address these.

- *Sexuality and sexual orientation* – to have a year of conversation, discussion and education to understand the barriers to feeling welcome for people with different sexual orientations. This will start with individual conversations with church members with different sexual orientations and be followed by further PCC discussion.

Sian and Sarah plan to go back to the workshop group to take forward the proposals with people who expressed interest in participating.

Chris thanked Sian and Sarah for their hard work in taking forward this important work.

7. Reintroducing full communion

Chris noted that it has already been announced that we will be moving back to full communion gradually.

In a straw poll of members present, some expressed a desire to continue to receive by intinction. It was recognised that those with medical reasons/compromised immunity would wish to continue with this.

Generally, the decision to revert to sharing the cup was endorsed, provided an option to receive by intinction is retained in some way.

8. Finances

David's finance report was tabled and noted.

Despite the challenges of 2022 and the fact that an expected substantial legacy did not arrive, we ended the year with a small surplus of £8,824.

We are also in a reasonably good position in 2023 – after the first two months income is tracking almost exactly to budget and expenditure is lower than budget by around 20%.

9. PCC Annual Report for 2022

The PCC annual report was approved, subject to adding in reference to our new environmental value.

10. Fabric

The fabric report from Carole was tabled and noted and members were also referred to the update given to the standing committee.

In summary, the main items are:

- Following damp/roof leaks in the Gallery, quotations were received from two roofing firms. The difference between the quotes was substantial, mainly because one firm needed to install scaffolding whereas the other can use its own mobile scaffolding. The cheaper quote has been accepted.
- Discussions around the projector and screens faculty remain ongoing between our architect and the diocese.
- Quotes have been requested to replace the remaining non-LED lights in the building with LEDs.

In addition, following repairs to the West doors, they now stay open without door stops.

The meeting expressed its thanks for the hard work of all those involved in fabric matters including Nigel and Asim.

11. APCM in May

Chris thanked all those whose PCC terms are coming to an end this year, being Hannah, Catherine and Beverley as Deanery Synod representatives and Lance, David and Roy as PCC elected members. David will stay on the PCC due to his role as Treasurer and Lance and Roy have agreed to stand for an additional year given their term of office was cut short by the pandemic.

Chris asked all present to consider candidates for PCC recruitment – the PCC would benefit from having a mix of people as members.

12. Safeguarding

Kate reported that there were no safeguarding issues to raise with the PCC.

In relation to safeguarding training – Kate would like to understand why training is not being undertaken where this is an issue. Rachel will report

back to Chris and Kate in relation to those members who haven't yet confirmed they have completed the training.

When advertising for new PCC members, it will be made clear that safeguarding training and a DBS check will need to be completed.

13. Acceptance of minutes of the standing committee

The standing committee minutes for March were tabled and accepted.

14. New Administrants

The following were unanimously endorsed as new chalice administrants:

Carol-Ann Howes

Bonnie Carter

Bill Carter

Joy Armitage

Dan Brewer

Cathryn Brewer

15. PCC meeting dates for 2023/2024 and away day

The dates were tabled and noted.

16. AOB

There was no other business.

17. Review of meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting.

The meeting concluded with prayers at 8.15pm.

The next meeting is on 27 June 2023 in church.