

St Peter's Church PCC meeting

19 March, 2024. 7:00pm – 8:29pm

Minutes

Present: Mo Atkinson, Hannah Beck, Ian Birt, Bella Blake, Kate Blake, Helen Camm, Chris Clayton (Chair), Jan Edwards, Alan Garrow, David Hipkin, Sian Lockwood, John Longstaff, Catherine Medforth, Karin Shaw, Roy Taylor. Mike Davies.

Apologies: Ruth Thompson-Vear, Felicity Moss (Ho), Steve Gibbin, Rachel Fell

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Chris Clayton welcomed everyone and led the LYCiG prayer. Mike Davies was welcomed to share on the inclusion group(s) and thanks was given to Lance Burgess (not present) and Roy Taylor for service given.

2. Bible reflection

Chris led a reflection on the need to listen to God based on Jan Edwards and John Longstaff's readings of Acts 8: 26-31 & 34-38 (Phillip and the Ethiopian).

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 30 January 2024 were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising:

Re: point 5 b: comms in foyer : Initial proposals for stewardship actions have started; freestanding offering point is ready, screens are being used to advertise rentals, Harrogate Chamber of Commerce has since shown interest in the venue. Sian Lockwood is still to work on grants. Hope was expressed that we keep the current wine! However, the campaign may be deferred till to June due to the crowded May diary – tbc.

6. Inclusive Church Network – inclusion group

Mike summarised progress from the inclusion group:

Three teams working on aspects of inclusivity have united because marginalised-groups share commonalities. No objections were raised to this development. Good progress was commended; warm spaces have been established and charity-use of the building has increased.

Mike posed two questions to PCC:

1) Can the foyer be used to make our aspirations for inclusion explicit to passers-by who may not be aware of our views and practice? A widely-appreciated example of St Mark's (Harrogate) welcome statement was discussed. Attention was drawn to *how* the statement was displayed; vinyl stickers on glass doors are visible without getting in the way. Its emphasis on Jesus and following him as part of a process of change (or discipleship) was admired. The acknowledgement of disagreement was seen as honest and therefore positive.

2) How does the PCC feel and think about joining *Inclusive Church Network (ICN)*? *ICN* began in response to sexuality but encompasses all forms of inclusion. *ICN's* website usefully displays a register of churches who seek to include LGBTQI+ people (who are not confident of their welcome in/by churches). *All Hallows* in Leeds and *Ripon Cathedral* demonstrate their memberships to *ICN* differently, finding their own, church-appropriate style of membership. The challenge of moving forward whilst still welcoming people of more conservative theological backgrounds was discussed. It was noted that actions are easier to agree on than beliefs.

Moving forward:

ICN membership requires PCC assent, theologically and practically. It was noted that welcomers, especially, would need to understand the implications of *ICN* membership for their practice. There was conversation about whether the congregation should be included in the discussions but it was felt that St Peter's is already on a journey of

conversations on this issue: Sarah Hobbs has preached and there has been a PCC Away Day.

Action for all:

By the next PCC, all members should have read and thought about the relevant *ICN* statements (a link will be sent out). PCC members are encouraged to raise issues/questions with clergy in good time before the next meeting when we will vote on *ICN*, *ICN*'s statements and the creation of our own statement. Mike's two questions can be fully answered at the next PCC.

7. Finances

David Hipkins shared better news than we had thought for 2023 and 2024 looking as predicted. He gave apologies that all details could not be circulated for the mtg. Year-end figures are not yet audited but will be by the annual meeting. They show that:

At end of 2023 we have a surplus of £64,838. Our 2023 Investment Gains are just shy of £14K. Our 2024 Budget estimates a deficit of £162K. We have reserves of £180K in bank. Gift aid is claimed and up to date (thanks to Sarah Martin for her work on this).

Giving to external charities- the report says we give 5%. David wants to check that we honour the 5% (£7, 680) remembering our long-term commitment to 10%.

CC conveyed the PCC's thanks to David.

8. PCC Annual Report for 2023

Appreciation of Rachel's work was expressed and the report was accepted with the proviso that the figures at the end of the report need signing-off, so it cannot be fully passed until then.

David Hipkin shared financial headlines: Our income was £451,314, of which planned giving totalled £153,600 (across our voluntary giving). We received £24,743 Gift Aid. Our Restricted funds and grant equals £950. We took £47,734 in lettings and fundraising, £15,752 in other income, £38,170 in restricted donations and our unrestricted reserves at year end were £220,864.

The deadline for the Wardens Report is 1 May and 17 April for other docs.

9. Fabric

Sian Lockwood shared and endorsed Carole Raw's report. We await the Church Roof Report from Quinquennial inspections. Some areas need attention and will be expensive – could be six figures and grants will be needed. It was noted that some leading needs replacing. Following receipt of the report we will make a timetable of actions.

The Smell (Sewage Pump problem): Manual override will be used for special occasions. It is improving but big meals (producing extra fats down the drain) produce a spike in the smell. When we use the manual pump after a large event, all is well the next morning.

There have been ongoing small jobs that have been completed.

10. APCM in May

Alan Garrow wants members to think of good additions to the PCC team. Is there an area of church life not represented? The Hong Kong Community and people with young families would be good additions, although both groups are time-pressed. We have 5 and 2/3 spaces (Michael has not completed his full tenure). A candidate needs to have been on the electoral roll for 6 months. Each tenure is for 3 years.

Alan commended this PCC for being positive and constructive.

11. Safeguarding

There were no incidents to report for this mtg.

Safeguarding Dashboard Update by Chris Clayton: The dashboard is a useful voluntary check on safeguarding procedures to help churches'

compliance with Good Practice requirements. Kate Blake makes most of the changes and generates a report.

The Church Activities List was read out so any missed activities which include children or vulnerable adults could be noted. The PCC acknowledged the list of activities presented as accurate to date.

The PCC agreed the adoption of the recruitment of ex-offenders policy.

Alan thanked Chris for his hard work on safeguarding and the dashboard, noting that our private server makes storing safeguarding information easier. We have records on 84 people as leaders.

12. Acceptance of minutes of the standing committee.

The standing committee minutes for January were tabled and accepted.

13. PCC meeting dates for 2024/2025

It was noted that there is no Away Day on the list yet. It is usually in September but this will be during Alan's sabbatical- tbc.

14. AOB

There was no other business.

15. Review of meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting and Roy added that he has enjoyed his time on St Peter's PCC.

The meeting concluded with The Grace at 8.29 pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 25 June 2024 in church.