



Minutes of PCC Meeting

12th September 2024

Nave

PRESENT Stephen Webster (SJW) Pam Weatherington (PW), Ian Goldsmith (IG), Peter Taylor (PT), Rob Dillarstone (RD), Sarah Vogt (SV), Sally Saunders (SS), Louise Foote (LF), John Grubb (JG), Claire Weston (CW), Louisa Baker (LB), Kim Treverton (KT), Ben Treverton (BT), Angela Newell (AN), Sian Fytche (SF),

ATTENDING by invitation: Karenza Treverton (KaT), Dan Saunders (DS), Emma Kirby (ERK).

APOLOGIES David Gooda, Annabel Copeland

OPENING PRAYER

SJW opened the meeting in prayer.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None reported.

MINUTES OF MEETING 15th May 2024

Accepted – Proposed Ben Treverton; seconded Pam Weatherington. All in favour.

MATTERS ARISING - None

GROWING FAITH ADVENTURE

Comments led by Emma Kirby, Karenza Treverton and Dan Saunders – KaT and DS newly elected Youth Voices on PCC. ERK reported how much she had enjoyed her first year as Youth Minister. The young people she worked with were brilliant and they had provided great encouragement. KaT added that a group of young people in Years 10-13 met on Mondays weekly to explore the Bible- either at LB's house or the Coffee Tavern. There was also a discipleship group for younger people (Years 7-9) who met ERK with PW Judith Hodgson for Bible discussion and games. These two groups had now combined and this was going really well with a core of five young people. In addition, DS and KaT had joined the Northants Young Leaders Programme

BT asked about West Porch Café and how we could increase the numbers in the group. It was pointed out that whilst more people were always welcome having 40+ teenagers on a weekly basis in Church was very encouraging and if we did regularly have more then we would want to increase our volunteer based. The point of West Porch Café was open to all. The intention is that for many it may be their first contact with Christians and the Christian faith. Whilst deliberately there is no regular 'God slot' it is the

firm intention of ERK that it should be a natural place for discussions about faith to take place; that volunteers would be willing to take the opportunities that arise to talk about their faith and offer care and support that is firmly based upon their faith in Jesus Christ and God's love for each and every person. The fruit of West Porch Café was seen in Chattabox+ during the summer. Of the 44 attendees – only 3 were strongly connected to St Peter's. The rest from elsewhere (mostly Prince William School) and had in large part signed up for C'box+ because of their experience of West Porch Café.

DS went on to speak about Chattabox+. This week long event is intentionally about sharing our Christian faith, about encouraging those who are not yet Christians to consider the claims of Jesus and to encourage those who are Christians to grow in discipleship. This underpins the event. Yet the week is also full of fun. DS mentioned in particular the laser tag and silent disco. He was pleased to report the growing friendships, the development in team work, and the really helpful evening sessions and discussion groups where ongoing questions could be discussed. Small mustard seeds of faith were planted. Out of the event a WhatsApp chat group of young people emerged – keen to keep in touch with one another. Over 20 young people from Chattabox+ attended the Chattabox service on the subsequent Sunday and some have done so since. The ongoing hope and intention is that young people will come to faith, grow in faith and the Church will grow with more young people in it. A new weekly Sunday evening Group at No. 1 St Osyth's Lane is envisaged as well as other regular Chatterbox+ follow up services and events.

SF asked what extra help was needed, and the answer was food and general help was always welcome. AN, LB and PW were keen to help. Discussion was has about how young and older generations might share skills and life experiences .

ERK was encouraging young people to take on more roles (eg the sound desk and music for services) and several Chattabox+ attendees were already getting involved.

SJW led a prayer, and EK, KT and DS left the meeting.

VISION MORNING

SS reminded the meeting that this was to be held on Saturday 28 September. SS asked everyone to think in advance of that day about their own faith journey – and in particular of the people who had been important along the way in that. Who played an important part in this? Who helped when faith was struggling or floundering? How might this relate to being Church across the generations – from babies through to those 90s?

Those who couldn't come to the Vision Morning were encouraged to pass on their thoughts in advance.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

SJW explained that whilst it used to be necessary to have a Bishop's licence to administer the Bread and Wine at communion – now it is only required that the PCC approve a list. A list of people was being drawn up and would be presented to the next PCC meeting . If any PCC member wishes to help, please let SJW or ASMC know.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RD said that the report (sent in advance of the meeting) was in a slightly different format from previous reports. At the half year stage we were better off than the budget had envisaged – however this is in the context of a deficit budget having been set.

Moving to 2025, RD was encouraging the PCC to break out from the recent deficit budgets, recognising that this represented a very considerable challenge. RD said he wishes to report on what the PCC wants him to report on and for PCC members to tell him.

PT mentioned that in respect of the mission support budget, this was 10% of pledged giving and 10% of the unpledged giving from the previous year. PT wondered if we could do the same for the overall budget, but this might cause a hiatus for one year in respect of the previous year's 10%. CW suggested reflecting on the balanced budget for next year and appreciated the summaries in more detail. LB liked getting the information early on and suggested *teaching* on giving to St Peter's - also more regular financial reporting to the congregation (for instance headlines in the newsletter of income and expenditure).

JG asked if there would be an appeal in November and SJW said we would invite people to give as this was an important part of Christian discipleship. BT mentioned mission of the month to highlight where some of the giving goes.

SJW said that the seed funding ends in March 2025, and tis was a significant challenge for 2025's budget. Our Finance Administrator had asked the PCC to confirm that spending the £418 from Grocer's Company be formally approved from the Grocer's Fund. Proposed SF; seconded JG; all agreed.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The meeting was asked to review and confirm the Church H&S policy. It was noted that the wording regarding food preparation needed to be updated to include reference to allergens and the addressing of risk in this area.

For any food provided, we need to provide allergen information, and SF said there were 14 items.

RD said the wording should be we will provide allergen information, rather than we will seek to provide.

SF had a table of allergens, and volunteers preparing food for Church events would be required to tick on the table which allergens were present. Tis information would be provided so that those consuming could make a decision regarding what to eat. We need in any case in addition to be a rigorously nut-free Church.

It was the responsibility of those whose allergy required they carry an epipen to ensure they had it with them – and in the case of under 18s it was their carer's responsibility.

PT said there was a shortage of epipens, and they had a short shelf life, so we did not hold them in our first aid kit.

In general the meeting was happy with the wording of the policy, subject to the discussed changes being made, and it was proposed to be accepted by KT, seconded by RD and all agreed.

GREEN GROUP

Procurement, Recycling and Waste. This policy had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was proposed to be accepted by LB, seconded by JG and all agreed.

Exploring future policy – the green group had said they were all ‘getting older’ and were hoping for other people to be involved.

It was suggested that this could be flagged on a Sunday morning, and that the youth might wish to become involved – eg in a litter pick. The Green group will talk to the younger people, and it was also suggested that an eco congregation could be part of the new group’s work. An idea was to have a range of ages and voices – led by young people who could, as CW said, ‘hold us to account.’

We would ask Alan Rayden to talk about this on a Sunday morning. In conclusion the PCC was keen to see a renewed Green group set up and thanked the group for its proposal.

SAFEGUARDING

The policy and other relevant papers had been circulated prior to the meeting. LF explained that small changes had been added to the policy, but these were not significant. All 3 benefice PCCs have to take this on board, and the policy needs to be ratified subject to the food regulations mentioned above (a bullet point to be added about allergies). Proposed to accept policy – PT; seconded SF – all agreed.

Equal opportunities policy was discussed, particularly about recruitment of sex offenders (recruitment policy from 31-8). Any issues to be passed to the HR team. Proposed by LB; seconded PW – all agreed.

Summary of action plan – agree a list of regular activities we carry out – update activities-include Chattabox ++ Tuesday club transport and West Porch café.
Proposed BT; seconded SV all agreed.

LF emphasised the importance of safeguarding training – please all complete this and refer to LF if there is an issue.

BUILDING UPDATE

JG highlighted details from a briefing note about lighting

Spotlights - Friends of the Parish Church had agreed to fund this like for like replacement.

Lights to highlight the new organ – quote was £2100 plus VAT proposal was to go ahead but ask the organists first to check how this might affect their playing. Proposed CW; seconded PT – all agreed.

It was suggested that work on the above lighting took place at the same time.

Lighting the steeple – estimated cost £10,000 plus VAT – faculty needed, together with architect involvement. PT said the town council had cash available towards this cost. Some discussion ensued and it was felt that as this lighting could be seen for miles it was an attractive thing to have and both the town council and local businesses were in favour. There was a majority in favour of lighting the steeple, but there were strong contrary views. RAG was asked to put more information together with detailed information and how it was to be funded.

South porch light – it was suggested that this may make the Church more welcoming – cost approximately £3000 but a faculty was needed. The PCC felt this suggestion was ‘out of the blue’ and more information was needed. The general feeling was that this was not approved as the need to further light the porch was not clear, in addition to the costs involved.

Drainage – West end wall - the outside drain is higher than the wall – a report is awaited. It was suggested that the Town Council has some responsibility in this and they might be approached for a contribution. We do not yet know the cost to update the outside drainage, but should be able to report at the next PCC meeting.

QI – report awaited.

3D model of building has been prepared, and this could be put on our Church website.

Heating – Radiators at the West End of Church do not work – two pipes are not connected. The choice is to dig up the floor or put in electric storage heaters. We will continue to be updated. This challenging issue continues. JG was thanked for his hard work on this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IG put forward the following proposal

‘The PCC adopts the two concerts being organised by the Friends of Oundle Parish Church Fund as PCC activities – these are the Jazz Concert with Oundle School Jazz Bands on 7/2/25 and the Brass Band Concert with the GUS band On 26/4/25.’

Proposed – PW; seconded LF – all agreed.

IG also said that the bell clappers were soon to be removed for refurbishment / repair and that this work was being funded by monies in the bell fund. This meant that the bells would not be heard for a time (but the clock would still chime).

SJW closed the meeting in prayer.

SIGNED BY.....

DATE.....