

PCC minutes 16th March 2023

Present: Bridget, Trudi Bramson, Angela Stebbings, Peter Watson, Yi Baylis, James Murdoch, Sue Tearle, John Murray, Clare Johnson, Adriaan Goosen

Apologies: Gladys Ekpo-Daniel, Laurie Roberts, Mia Hadfield-Spoor

Declarations of interest

None.

Any Other Business

The meeting agreed to discuss the following points under AOB.

- Living in life and faith
- Deanery Synod

Approval of minutes

The following amendments were identified:

- Pg 2 safeguarding spelling Lorek
- Correspondence – Clarify diocesan secretary
- Working group also the implementation team and have authority to do so

With these amendments the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Angela Stebbings, Seconded Peter Watson

All those present at the meeting approved.

Matters arising

None arising.

Standing Committee minutes

Notes rather than full minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Mia raised several questions via email which were discussed during the meeting. Mia suggested a number of ecological issues at the meeting. In response, neither we, nor Thames Water see any environmental impact in having a water meter. The minimal use cannot be significantly reduced as it is related to toilets and hand washing.

The PCC discussed the possibility of generating terms of reference for the group so that the eco church may have more autonomy to investigate options and present back to PCC. Sue offered to be a link between the PCC and eco church group to facilitate moving some ideas forward. It was appreciated that Mia had taken care reading the information provided and generating her response.

Annual accounts

Conway talked the PCC through the information provided on the accounts. John passed on his appreciation to the finance team for drawing the accounts together. Adriaan asked for clarification over the fuel bills. Conway stated that there were several months where the building did not have heating (when the boiler was being replaced). Yi drew attention to the

measures mentioned in the trustees' report that have been taken to save costs on fuel and behave in a more ecological way. The pipework within the building does not enable us to zone the building so we have been manually turning the radiators on and off so that we are not heating parts of the building that do not need it. Thanks were given to Conway, Yi and Ros.

The accounts were proposed by John and seconded by Adriaan. All those present at the meeting voted in favour.

The accounts will now be sent to the examiner.

Annual report

James circulated the draft report prior to the meeting. James is looking for a volunteer to edit and spell check the report. John Murray offered his services. Mia asked for clarification over the mention of Wild Church as it was not clear in the report that Wild Church is coming to an end. James stated that during this period it was relevant.

John Murray asked for clarification over the amounts mentioned on Page 8.

Sue mentioned that the possibility to zone the church is not practical as it would require the entire heating system to be replaced. The current approach is to manually zone the building by turning off radiators in areas that are not used.

Bridget commented that, on page 12, there is reference to the Parish Administrator and their salary. This has been benchmarked with the Diocesan HR team.

Grateful thanks were given to James for being the driving force behind the report.

Angela proposed that we adopt the report. Conway seconded; all those present at the meeting voted in favour.

Annual meeting will be on the 14th May. Prior to the meeting we will need to look at when members term's come to an end.

Next steps for St Peters

Worship at St Peters is suspended until November this year. Bridget asked how we have the conversation about the future of St Peters. Bridget wanted to propose a next step. The suggestion is that we have an away day for PCC and ministry team on 10th June. Curate Chris is willing and able to attend. We want to look at where St Peter's fits in the overall vision of the parish.

At this away day it is suggested that we:

- Look at vision
- Gap analysis
- Options analysis

Nick Shepherd is senior vision and strategy consultant in the Church of England and would be willing to lead the day and lead us through the process. We would probably have to

clarify at the end of the day the decisions that we have come to. No decisions have been made at this point. It is likely that we will have to ask for an extension to the suspension of worship but the Bishop's team would want to know that we have a plan. Angela wondered if we might have some parameters so that we could consider what might be acceptable and what isn't. James wanted to ensure that such parameters wouldn't limit our thinking at this stage. John wondered if that thought was to run the session at St Peters or not? James wondered if we might use the convent instead as we may have a greater focus on the spiritual rather than the building. Sue wondered if this was something that we are wanted to turn up on the day with an open mind or come prepared. It was felt that prayerful contemplation over the strategies would be useful but openness to hearing God through one another. Bridget doesn't feel that this is a particularly fast conversation but however it unfolds the date seems to loom quickly.

The PCC were happy with the proposal and Bridget stated that she would be mentioning it at the annual meeting.

The meeting paused for prayer over the work and groups that run at St Peters.

Update on the wall

James referred to his email updating the PCC on the state of the wall. There is very little to say. Conversations have been had with the Lee Manor conservation group who are happy to proceed subject to seeing final plans. All parties involved working towards replacing the 9 sections of the wall on Wantage Road. Yi asked for clarification on the cost. James reiterated that the wall needed deeper foundations and it is a particular shape which involves specialist bricks. There are also the local authority constraints over the material which are acceptable to be used. At the moment we are working within the best guess estimates that we have but we just don't know how much it will cost.

Bridget referred to St James Hatcham (Check with Bridget) who have similar issues with the local authority and have been quoted £100k. The local authority and Lee Manor conservation group feel that it is a local landmark hence the issues around planning.

The PCC approve applying for a faculty, applying for LA planning approval and going out to tender to repair/rebuild the nine sections of the Boundary Wall along Wantage Road. James proposed, Adriaan seconded and all those present at the meeting approved.

The PCC sent their thanks to Rosemary who has taken on this work pro bono.

Update on the Weigall Road and the Curate's Accommodation

James confirms that the Tenant will be staying on and the Curate has housing secured.

Safeguarding

Reminder emails have been sent out and thanks are given to those who have completed the training.

H&S Update

Nothing to report.

GDPR

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Notification of Area Dean inspection which has been booked in.

Woolwich area lay conference takes place on 1st April 2023 at Ark All Saints CofE Academy.

We have received a letter from Bishop Christopher thanking us for the increase to parish share and the support that this provides other churches within the dioceses.

Any Other Business

Deanery synod

Peter reported that he was impressed and that it was a good opportunity to meet people and hear what is happening. The new Area Dean was impressive! Peter felt that there was a general feeling of disappointment back from the general synod regarding the Living in Love and Faith findings. It is a matter of watching how the implementation happens around the Deanery. Juliet talked about mission through exercise and Peter felt it was really inspiring. Juliet uses her training and a personal training to get people within the parish involved in physical exercise sessions. It is aimed at all levels of fitness and appears to have been really good at getting people connected to the church and even resulting in people attending on a Sunday worship. The deanery as a group is becoming more active, better organised and more efficient. Deanery wide Ascension service. Bridget is the new Area Dean; James is taking over the organising a group for church wardens. Bishop Christopher will be attending the Ascension service. There is a deanery Vocations group starting, organised by Father Max at St Mary's Lewisham. There was also talk of organising a deanery first aid course so each church can have a member trained. There is funding for a deanery administrator who can take some of the burden off clergy in the organisation.

Living in life and faith

Bridget stated that she would be very happy to perform services of blessing for same sex couples. When we have further guidance, we can put it on the agenda for a future PCC. We are still waiting for the liturgy and guidance from the Bishops.

Annual Meeting

APCM 14th May – short meeting following the meeting. Bridget suggests that we have an in-person meeting at the beginning of the new PCC so that all the business can be dealt with at this meeting. All forms and declarations will be completed at this meeting.

Agenda item for APCM

St Peters members ratio on the PCC

John closed the meeting with prayer.

