

Minutes of PCC Meeting 16 January, 2024

1. Apologies: Liz Reed, Paul Brebner
2. Phillip opened with a prayer and a short reading from Jude highlighting Mercy, Peace and Love and the need for us all to “contend for our faith”
3. Minutes of last meeting were agreed
4. Matters arising:
 - The live stream lead through the vestry wall is still to be investigated
 - The muniment gullies have been cleared
 - Security camera—PB is hoping to do this next week.
5. Safeguarding: No change –we are still looking for someone to fill this role

6. LIF:

Phillip updated the PCC on recent developments: prior to the November Synod 44 Bishops including Bishop Roger and Bishop Giuly had signed an open letter confirming their support for the blessing of same sex relationships as part of normal services. Phillip had written to both stating his opposition based on Scripture. The November/December Synod went further and by a small majority voted that stand alone services could be done for same sex couples following a pattern similar to the orthodox wedding service. Phillip said matters are moving quickly.

Phillip mentioned the Ephesians Fund established by the England Evangelical Council which the Church Wardens and finance committee had been made aware of in November. This Fund provides an opportunity for those who oppose the new service arrangements to remit their Parish Share to this alternative Fund rather than to the established Diocesan Fund. PW stated that Phillips position is well known both inside and outside the church and the teaching he preaches and the services we hold are not going to be changed so saw no need to consider any change in the present Parish share arrangement.

PCC members were given an opportunity to discuss all aspects of the subject, and the consensus was overwhelming in its support for the status quo, whilst continuing to be committed to being a welcoming and tolerant Church. Phillip agreed to circulate related documentation to PCC members, and the PCC agreeing we should monitor the ongoing situation and remain open to further discussion with Phillip.

7. Finance:

John reported that the 2023 result was in line with our expectations and will need to be signed off at our next meeting on 19 March. The 2024 budget was presented with income expected to be £129,000 and us agreeing to pay a Parish share of £49,129, which is an uplift from 2023 of 5.4%. The Diocese has set an “aspirational” target of £52,159 (an increase of 11.9%) and based on our budget we have an opportunity to meet this requirement.

We wish to record that we received the Legacy from the estate of Carole Duffield in the amount of £5,920 which under the terms of her Will she asked be left to the Fabric Fund. We gratefully acknowledge this kind donation.

8. Christmas Services:

All expressed their joy at the excellent numbers that attended the different services and were grateful for all the work done by so many people. We need to check on the capacity of the church for future events and next year may need to return to 2 crib services.

9. Fabric:

- The organ is planned to be removed w/c 29 January. There is an issue with bats but we are hopeful of official approval to proceed by this time; the PCC agreed to this, accepting if the removal had to be delayed that we would incur some costs related to skips and scaffolding. The PCC agreed that the church should remain open and that H&S rules need to be put in place to ensure segregation of visitors and contractors. In relation to the new build further thought needs to be given to where exactly materials can be stored.
- The window repair project is progressing but there are logistical issues surrounding work on the organ conflicting with the windows and how best this can be managed. The faculty is being prepared alongside obtaining final quotes for the masonry work
- New bell ropes have been ordered and the supplier will fit; delivery is expected March/April. FODC have agreed to fund these
- WE have some issues to resolve regarding the electrical supply to the AV system and the certification of the supply
- Bearing in mind all the works currently being undertaken it was unanimously agreed to put the issue of font relocation on hold.

10. Children and family Worker:

There had been 3 expressions of interest; Two have indicated that they will not be applying and Phillip thought it unlikely the third candidate would apply, so no candidates expected before closing date of 26 January. Phillip thought we should leave a few months and try again

11. AOB:

- Liz Reed was asking members to think of people who could contribute articles for the magazine and was also asking members to send in a verse of scripture and what it meant for them
- Vee announced that she would be standing down as a church warden at the Annual meeting in April: we are looking for someone who is interested in taking on this role. PCC members were asked to let PW Know if they intend to stand again and if they know anyone else prepared to join the PCC.

12. Phillip closed the meeting with a short prayer at 9.10pm

13. Date of next meeting; 19 March at 7.30 at Duchy Barn