

PCC Minutes of Wed, Nov 8th, 2023.

Present; Shirley Glover, Linda Dye, Martin Penny, Janet Bird, Verity Tranter, Helen Briggs, Colin Bird, Andrew Belfield, Mary Penny.

- 1 Apologies from Nerine Chalmers. Samantha Bowden was absent. The Wardens asked for 3 items under AOB to be taken as item 14.
- 2 The minutes from Sept 21st, both Part1 and Part2 (that was read to the meeting) were approved and signed by Verity Tranter (Churchwarden).
- 3 Matters Arising; Offer from Samantha Bowden is carried forward. Re the Copier, Martin is minded to speak to a new copier provider because the current one is foot-dragging. Car Park. A few places have been paid for under the new scheme, but some regular parkers are not yet paying. The gates continue to be kept open for genuine visitors to the Churchyard.
- 4 Sustainability; Colin gave a verbal update and the minutes which contain confidential information will be read at the next meeting.
- 5 Vacancy; Thanks to the generosity of clergy from other parishes, many of our Eucharistic services can now proceed. An open Vacancy Meeting with Bishop Jane is arranged, and then we do the Parish Profile which has been circulated. There is no published agenda for this meeting. We understand that this meeting to be about process.
- 6 Finance; Colin published the most recent accounts, and informed PCC that the final part of the Parish Share will now be paid following a legacy.
- 7 Hall; Thanks are offered to David Dean, Graham Jones and Brian Dilley for the clearance of the boiler room to make space for the new Hall Boiler. The hall is functioning well, and the income is still improving.
- 8 Fabric; Memorial Garden Wall; Repairs are now completed. Organ: Fewer pipes than predicted have been removed from the Fanfare Trumpet but some are so badly damaged that new ones will be made. Car Park Surface: On a pathway in the Churchyard closest to the Hall, there are a few patches of new Tarmac placed by an unknown person. Quinquennial. The architect is needed to advise us on an inspection of the South Roof. Church Boiler: After a recent failure we found a "commercial" gas engineer who diagnosed the fault and was able to put our boiler back into service. Colin Bird has found a replacement maintenance company. After having two boilers, we are now have only one in commission and it is already 20 years old and not reliable. We are keen to remedy this uncertainty as the Church has many bookings before Christmas. CCTV: Advice has been sought regarding the South Side from where missiles were launched through windows on several occasion this year. We will have motion sensors and a control box with a screen to be placed near the kitchen. Sound: This is deferred temporarily.
9. Events; Christmas Fayre. Organisation is well advanced and will include an exhibition by Morgans Primary School.
10. Health and Safety; There was a brief discussion regarding the need for a notice near the West Door to provide information when calling emergency services, and to signpost the site of the defibrillator in the vestry.

11. Safeguarding; Since Rev Jo's retirement, the Safer Churches Poster is updated. Emily Belfield is the All Saints Officer, and she is joined on the poster by Mary Penny.

12. Access request. This concerned a request received dated 18 02 21, from a neighbour whose land abuts the Churchyard and who wished to buy land for access. Janet discussed this with the DAC who enquired further of the registrar, who cautioned that the PCC should not agree to it. After PCC discussion, Janet Bird (Warden) proposed, and Linda Dye seconded that the request from the neighbour in Queen's Rd be refused. A response is to be written.

13. Meeting Dates; January 17th, March 27th, APCM April 28th, May 15th.

14. AOB. Verity brought two queries from members of the congregation. The first concerned ushering of communicants. This was always done at special services and became the norm when the church was opened after the closure for the pandemic to manage the social distancing when distribution was done at the head of the nave. The second query is linked and concerned the use of the high altar for distribution. Richard Toyn is unable to provide enough sides people to support communicants at the many changes of level and this is unsafe. An anthem is often delivered by the choir in the Memorial Chapel where since Covid, crushing of the choir behind the altar is discontinued and they now stand in the open space. It was unseemly and distracting when occasionally people leaving the altar have walked through the choir. At the PCC Meeting on March 29th2023, it was decided that distribution would continue at the head of the nave, not at the High Altar. This was confirmed.

The second query from Verity was from Fiona Earle who asked on behalf of Tina Banks if she might use St John's Hall for a dog charity, ALFS, and would PCC endorse this community venture. PCC would like more details of the venture and in the meantime, Tina is encouraged to book the hall by the usual method.

Janet Bird informed the meeting that the Town Council noted that the tower clock was not changed when all clocks changed. (As the strikes matter on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday this was now urgent) Richard Toyn has kindly implemented the change for us.

After thanking Colin and Janet for hosting the meeting so we could be in a warm place, the meeting ended at 9.25pm with The Grace.