

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting
Wednesday 21st November 2023 at 7.30pm
St Gregory's Church, Dawlish**

		Action
1	<p>Meeting began 7.30pm Opening reading from Ephesians 3 LH. Prayers led by CS. In attendance: L Halse (Chair), W Halse, R Sulch, P Jones, N Twibill (secretary), J Smith, S Coope, C Slade, G Brown, A Lunn, J Workman, R Smith, K Chambers, L Chambers, A Leigh. Apologies: R Orr, A Fuller & M Burden Minutes of last meeting: Agreed & Signed. Matters Arising None</p>	
2	<p>Parish Matters 1. Churchwardens Report – RS Vacancy This process is about ¾ complete after 9 months of Services organised and managed so well by Helen Bays. The Team Rector candidates visited the Benefice on the 17th October followed by Interviews in St Greg's on the 18th October. The decision to appoint a candidate proved to be very difficult, and required direction from the Patrons – the outcome was that Rev Linda Cronin was appointed. Bishop Jackie will officiate at Linda's licensing and it will take place in St Gregory's in Dawlish on 15th February 2024. Church Maintenance We have had various maintenance & servicing visits on the Lift (3/11/23), Boiler System (16/11/23), Roof Inspection (19/10/23) and Fire Extinguishers (26/10/23) – the relevant reports are all available. We now have a CO² extinguisher in the kitchen, which was not required in the Tower. Our church Roof, Gutters and Downpipes are in need of further work, for which we await quotes from West Access. A new Fabric Committee has been formed and will be led by Bob Mead. Other members are Paul Jones, Richard Sulch, Ray Williams, Ray Moore & Mike Smith. It is hoped that minor issues can be solved in-house, and priorities decided upon for work that requires contractors & quotations. Other news In September we hosted the Kenn Deanery Bell Ringing Festival, with teams ringing for both enjoyment and perhaps some competition. Devon Archaeology Society carried out an 'Historic Graffiti Survey' of all areas of our church on 28/9/23, essentially to look for really old items of graffiti. We await their report. The Harvest Service on 8/10/23, followed by Bring and Share Lunch, a large quantity of food donations and cash going to St Petrock's. On Saturday 14/10/23 there was a Choir Concert which was well attended. Our Bell Ringers held their AGM after practice on Wednesday 1/11/23, and they will have a visit from Topsham Bell Ringers on Saturday 18/11/23. The Remembrance Service at 3pm on 12/11/23 was very well attended with the retiring collection going to the Royal British Legion. Men's Breakfast has now finished at the Mount Pleasant Inn, and will start again in St Gregs at 9am on 4/12/23. The aim is to provide a wholesome breakfast whilst collecting donations for various charities. A team led by Jacqui Seymour will be providing the breakfasts.</p>	

2. Treasurer's report – PJ

October accounts circulated to PCC.

Insurance was the biggest expenditure. We are stuck with one of 2 options due to size of the building.

Independent Examiner

For various personal reasons our Independent Examiner Derrick has advised us that he will be unable to examine our 2023 Accounts.

Chris Wall volunteered to take on the role, subject to PCC approval. All agreed.

PCC Fees

The CofE/Diocese have just issued the updated fees tables for 2024. We have to accept the centrally issued fees but following discussions I propose the following for local fees....

Vergers and Bellingring fees to remain unchanged

Choir and Organist fees increase to £75 (from £60)

Clergy petrol allowance increase to £18 (from £15)

Hire of the Church increase to £120 (from £100)

Use of the Organ increase to £60 (from £50)

Rehearsal charges increase to £60 (from £50)

Narthex hire increase to £60 (from £50)

Narthex hire for frequent users or following a Church funeral to remain unchanged

Our printer contract is about to end so we may also have to revise our printing charges.

Proposed to accept revised fees and printing charges.

Proposed RS second SC. All agreed.

Bank Account – Dual Signatories

At the last PCC meeting we decided that dual signatures should be introduced for online transactions, in the same way that it applies to cheques.

Nat West tell us that they cannot support this feature on our accounts (fees and collections).

For Lloyds (our main account) this has now been fully enabled.

Digital Giving

We now have a payment card reader (for credit and debit cards).

The technology we use will also enable us to add the option for giving via our websites.

Suggest having a poster nearby to draw attention to the facility. We will try out different positions to see if this encourages more giving.

Kitchen Floor and Nave Carpet

The floor in the kitchen is lifting as a result of the leak in the roof that we fixed last year and we are also concerned that the edges of the carpet in the Nave needs re-securing.

Both jobs will come to approximately £830 (£550 for kitchen, £280 for the Carpet)

Suggested getting kitchen done straight away and do the Nave carpet at a later date.

Proposed JW seconded AL. Agreed by all.

Window Repairs

Glass windows in the upper Narthex need some work. Glaziers came in to map and survey all the windows and will give a quote to get the work done.

Local Elections

The Church has been booked as a polling station for local elections on 2nd May 2024, and we have been reminded that a General Election is due before the end of January 2025

	<p>Budget Deficit of £28,000 predicted, this will be the 4th consecutive year of deficit. Significant expenditure in the near future includes work on organ and maintenance of the building. We could turn the heating off to reduce the fuel bill! Possibly increase in planned giving and fundraising could help in boosting funds. Proposed to accept report CS Seconded AL. Agreed by all</p> <p>3. St George's Report – AL Attendances continues to be good, other services of baptism, funeral & marriage blessing have taken place. 'Warmer place' has restarted for winter, although they will not meet in December, starting again in January. Eat & Enlightenment going well. Electrical survey highlight work that will need to be done before Christmas.</p>	
3	<p>Safety and Security.</p> <p>a. Safeguarding – WH There no issues at the moment. WH is currently half way through the Safeguarding Leadership Pathway training. A brief presentation on Safeguarding was included in Greg's@10 on Sunday, 19th November. Further actions required; WH to liaise with Mick Wallis (Tower Captain) to review and encourage Safeguarding training for bellringers. WH to review an up-to-date list of stewards and coffee rota team members and encourage all members of these teams to complete basic awareness training. WH to chase up PCC members who have not yet completed all the required training.</p> <p>b. Health & Safety – CS The annual check on all fire extinguishers has taken place and one has been moved from the bell tower (as it was wrong type) to the kitchen where it was needed. The tiles should hopefully soon be sorted as per requirements for the faculty following the removal of the side pews. We have had an estimate for the removal of the damaged flooring in the kitchen and at the same time an estimate for the carpet edging in the church, we need to decide the best way forward but initial thoughts at standing committee were to sort out the kitchen first as we don't know if flooring under the laminate that is there is damaged</p>	
4	<p>Mission</p> <p>a. Kid's Swapshop – CS Swap shop started again on the 3rd October after an extended break due to volunteer's summer holidays. This is the start of our third year and it turned out to be a very busy. When the scheme started it was thought it would be used by families struggling to afford clothes for rapidly growing children but it has now turned into so much more than that and is now primarily, a recycling facility with a lot of very good quality items some brand new with price tags on being donated. On the session on 7th November the Mayor came to visit us and see what we were up to and photos were taken which were then put up on the Town Council Facebook page. Today had about 35 people came along with a lot of children.</p>	

	<p>b. Men’s Breakfast – RS met today with team, organising cooking and logistics. RS & RH will do shopping to feed about 20 people each month. We have purchased some new equipment and J Seymour has renewed her Food Hygiene Certificate. The first breakfast at St Greg’s will be 4.12.23.</p> <p>c. Mothers Union – AL At the October meeting Katie Drew gave talk about the MU in Melanesia and dressmaking workshops they run. Expressed gratitude to members of St Greg’s who have donated sewing items /equipment, which will be sent to Solomon Islands later this month. A Heyward gave talk about her pilgrimage from Glastonbury to St Michael’s Mount. 4.12.23 MU will be watching the Westcliff Christingle. A short service blessing of cribs members set up at home will be followed by refreshments. 2024 is 800th Anniversary of Christmas Crib, MU organising a Podasa, figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey will travel from home to home of MU members arriving at Church on Christmas Day. UN 16days of worldwide activism against gender based violence will be marked, as last year, with a ‘Red Chair’ in Church to remind us that every 11 minutes a woman or girl dies at the hands of partner or family member.</p> <p>d. Pudding Club – LC The Pudding Club continues to be a valuable friendship and support group for all those who attend. At our November meeting, by pooling our contributions, we filled three shoe boxes for children in Ukraine and Moldova. The December meeting will focus on decorations for our entry for St Gregory’s Christmas tree festival. In December thirteen of us are looking forward to our Christmas meal together (with or without pudding!) and we already have plans for the New Year. Any ladies from the benefice or community are always welcome to join us.</p> <p>e. “A” Group (Lunch Club) – SC The meeting on the 16th October had a guest speaker from the Exeter branch of SENDS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), explaining their role and accessibility both within and outside the academic environment, which was extremely helpful to the parents who attended, who were also provided with leaflets giving them useful telephone numbers relating to the Organisation. The next meeting will be on the 11th December.</p>	
5	<p>External Reports</p> <p>a. Deanery Synod Report – CS The Deanery Synod met on 18th October at St Greg’s. Guest Speaker: Annie Jefferies – Coordinator for Devon Anna Chaplaincy Network and is also Diocesan Synod Chair of the House of Laity, and member of the Vacancy in See committee who had been elected to sit on the Crown Nominations Commission towards the appointment of the next Bishop of Exeter Annie told the meeting about the former Bishop of Exeter, who had encouraged the model of Anna Chaplaincy within the diocese towards the spiritual care and well-being of older people; with statistics now showing that there are more people over 85 than under 5 within this diocese. Annie provided a history of how Anna Chaplaincy evolved alongside anecdotal stories of her own experience; and expressed the importance of having listening skills to walk alongside those they are ministering to. Things happening in the deanery were also shared by members:- Good News, including initiatives towards diocesan Come and See ‘23! update: CS shared about the success of the ‘Kids Swap Shop’. The Revd Carol Green, acting Team Rector for Haldon Mission Community, spoke about the employment of a Youth Work</p>	

	<p>Enabler helping to support the Pop-Up Café, as most of those attending each week during term time were from Teignmouth Community School</p> <p>She also hoped that the work in schools and with families will develop following the appointment of the next Team Vicar [a half-time post in parish ministry and the other half developing work with families across the Mission Community]</p> <p>Although Dawlish Mission Community was not arranging a specific event for the Come and See '23 Weekend, 'Come and Remember' invitation cards would be useful to encourage others in the community to attend their annual Remembrance Day Service</p> <p>b. CTDD – RO</p> <p>The Christians Together for Dawlish and District held a prayer meeting, praying for the ROC meeting and meal at Hope Church this Friday.</p> <p>Arrangements are in place for the carol service from the Bandstand at the Christmas lights switch- on 1 December. The prayer group will meet again in the early new year.</p> <p>c. ROC – S Andrews</p> <p>Work of A Gidney (post partly funded by St Gregory's)</p> <p>2023 focuses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG developing the ROC Champions peer-to-peer support program. Had a good start with the year 10 children showing a wonderful concern for the year 7 children assigned to them. Excited to see how this programme progresses and the impact it will have on the year 7 cohort overall. • The ROC Classroom Assistance is being established and rolled out in Westcliff. It is a new programme designed to support school staff in the development and practice of their RE curriculum. • AG developing a new chaplaincy model. Looking into what it would be like build upon the existing school's work. It would hopefully enable greater access to school sites and then position us to provide greater pastoral care to the school communities. • A full year's worth of assemblies in place, the Be-Dazzled clubs (after school at Westcliff) are running well and we have a Christmas party coming up. • Started working with Kenton school (they're at Hope at the minute). • AG has organised the primary schools to all sing on the bandstand this Christmas. • The Hope Connection project between DC students and Hope is going well. • Family Mentoring is looking to expand its referees. <p>d. DCMC Forum – Not meeting at the moment.</p>	
6.	<p>Projects</p> <p>a. Eco church – KC</p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Evidence of a bat in the bell chamber. In spring, when bat is out, an expert can go into chamber and block the hole where it could get in.</p> <p>Energy Audit – we need to think about whether we need this after the recent report.</p>	
7.	<p>Future Events</p> <p>Christmas Tree Festival 11th & 12th setup. Opening 13.12.23 by mayor at 6pm. Concert on Saturday.</p> <p>17th Carol service</p>	

8.	<p>Items for consideration/AOB (to be notified to Chair at least 24 hours before meeting)</p> <p>Alex P to set up Instagram account for the Church with Parish Administrator. Dill C - request to have a Music Workshop in May 2024 to raise funds for organ & choral society. All Agreed.</p> <p><u>DAC Application</u></p> <p>After discussion with the Churchwardens and the PCC the following has been undertaken: The exposed area of flooring in the south transept has been rendered safe and smooth with the extraction of any pew fixings. The loose tiles that have been revealed in this area are in the process of being fixed in position along with all loose tiles throughout the church which have been identified with coloured stickers ready for repair. The exposed floorboards present a pleasing aspect with the natural grain and knotting of the wood evident It is the intention to decide on the appropriate application of a wood preservative to enhance the natural beauty of the flooring. Main problem where pews removed, loose tiles & raised areas of floorboards so this will be started on Monday 27th November. Other problems will be addressed.</p> <p><u>Charity Commission</u></p> <p>PCC members were encouraged to fill in questionnaire. The link had been circulated.</p> <p><u>Gasworks</u></p> <p>These will be going on from 8.1.24 – 1.3.24. This could mean that will be no easy access to the church and would impact accessibility and parking at the licensing of new vicar, funerals & other services.</p> <p><u>Display of Art work</u></p> <p>Paintings done by a member of congregation have been offered for permanent display in the South Transept. If this was to be a permanent feature, we would need a faculty. It was thought that it would be unlikely to be successful and would cost £200 to apply for the faculty. It was suggested that they could go on the folding screen for a designated period of time (Christmas – Easter). However, due to the size and weight of the pictures in their frames this was thought to be unsuitable. The artist would also like to sell some of his artwork in the church. The PCC felt this to be inappropriate, advertising one artist and use the building to sell such items here. Issues of insurance were also discussed. The PCC also felt if the display of these paintings and selling other works was allowed it would set a precedent for others who might want to display and sell items which they had made. The PCC did not feel able to offer a permanent home for these paintings or allow commercial sales and therefore voted against the proposal.</p>	
9.	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <p>Lead opening prayers next meeting – KC</p>	
10.	<p>Meeting closed at 9.15pm with Prayer and the Grace.</p>	

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dawlish Charity No. 113318

Dates of future meetings;

Standing Comm.

Tues 9th January

Thurs 21st March

PCC

Tues 30th January

Thurs 11th April

APCM - Sunday 12th May 11.30am