

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 21st September 2015 at 8pm

Present: Rev'd P Bradley, K Bell, A Grace, A Ramage, S Smith, J Valpy, P Fray, R Saunders, N Dye, M Smith

Apologies: B Blyth, Rev'd S Danby

PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a Bible reading (James 1:2-8) and reflection

1. Minutes from 20.7.15 were approved and signed.

2. Arising

All matters will be covered during the course of the meeting.

3. Chair's report

PB explained that there is currently a range of external circumstances creating extra work. A little delegation may be possible, but most of the responsibility falls to PB as incumbent. PB has appropriate support.

AG will support Ashton Keynes church in writing application for a faculty. **Action - AG**

Rev'd John McGinley from Holy Trinity, Leicester, will be our Awayday speaker next May.

Clive Wilce has offered to carry out a heating survey in church for free. All agreed to accept his offer. **Action - PB**

PB expressed grateful thanks to Derek Whitbread for his hard work gardening, to improve the rose beds behind the church. They look wonderful!

4. Upkeep and maintenance of church (report attached)

PB thanked AG for her hard work gathering all of the information together and presenting to PCC.

Fencing around steps: AG confirmed that this is St Sampson's responsibility, not that of the Town Council. We will need to apply for a faculty. **Action - AG**

Jackson's quote is cheapest - proposed by RS that we accept their quote and carry out the work, seconded by KB, all agreed.

Notice board: Proposed by RS to refurbish, seconded by PB, all agreed.

Hatch doors: AG confirmed that the doors will be sealed following cleaning. Proposed by AR to carry out work, seconded by KB, all agreed.

Money from the fabric fund will be used to pay for the work for the above 3 items.

Tiles behind altar: The PCC felt that this work was not essential at the moment and agreed to put on hold for the time being.

Choir stalls: The PCC felt that the organ renovation should be carried out before any work is done on the stalls. The stalls can then be appropriately finished to match the organ.

Windows: It was noted that repairs need to be carried out on external stonework around the window in the choir vestry before windows are cleaned. AR to contact cleaning company to confirm whether this is included in their quote. Decision to be taken at the next meeting. **Action - AR**

Cupboards: The money raised to pay for new cupboards is £671 short. PB proposed that we make up the difference with money from the fabric fund and go ahead with order, seconded by PF, all agreed. The choir will pay for locks on their cupboards.

Dry rot: A general discussion took place around the possible extent of the rot, wooden floors being returned to stone floors, underfloor heating, pews, chairs etc and the PCC noted that the rot could lead to significant work needing to be undertaken. AG to contact special advisers at diocese and organise a survey to present all options and costs for further discussion. Item at next meeting. **Action - AG**

Michael Yelton visit: The PCC approved paying his travel expenses.

4. Deanery Synod update

RS agreed to join KB as our second Deanery Synod rep. 1 vacancy remains.

All churches are asked to consider increasing their pledge by 5% - item for next agenda. It was noted that St Sampson's are currently giving in line with the recommended pledge amount, but as an Upper Thames Group of churches we fall short.

KB and ND recently attended a 'Looking after our Clergy' event. NB proposed that, in future, any incumbent formally representing the PCC or St Sampson's at any event, should not pay for or bear costs of attendance in any way. This is also to include family members of the incumbent. KB seconded and all agreed. PB expressed his thanks.

5. Leadership Team

The notes from the last leadership team meeting will be circulated with these minutes. **Action - JV**

The team talked around our church vision and a recognised that we need to become a praying church. PB noted that growing churches the world over have a significant and active prayer life, collectively and as individuals. Fortnightly prayer meetings have started on Monday evenings, meeting in church.

6. Finance update

Main acc £15,478.23

No.2 acc £17,151.30 (of which £14,356 organ restoration)

Fabric acc £22,618.09

Our pledge has been fully paid for this year and we do not currently owe any money. Derek Whitbread has been paid for materials used gardening.

Insurance has reduced a tiny amount from £346.04 to £345.47

7. Church Teams

Admin and Communications team have met, looking at further ways to communicate and spread the word about what's going on - school notice board, Town Council website are possibilities.

It was noted that signage in the town to the church is very poor. SS to speak with Clive Smith on this issue. **Action - SS**

8. Choir update

2 members achieved their bronze medal and 2 have achieved silver. 1 has passed with commendation. Aiming for gold medal next! Congratulations!

9. Youth and children's update

Matt Smith has joined the team as a Vibe leader and Becky Otter has joined as an S Club leader. Last week saw the launch of the Youth Cafe in the Jenner Hall - 6 attended and there is a rota of 12 volunteers. The group have been given a pool and football table and are hoping the cafe will grow in numbers.

10. Safeguarding

Megan Cantillon from Ashton Keynes has completed DBS check. Ben and Helen Curtis are going through the process. AG and SS offered to help PB assess and follow-up results from safeguarding audit.

11. Group Council

No meeting since last PCC.

12. Jenner Hall update

A new treasurer has been appointed. The refurbishment of the storage area will begin later this month.

13. Events

Henry Olonga visit on 20/10/15. PB to check sound rota with David Bell for this event and PB/AG co-ordinating refreshments. **Action - PB, AG**

Trips up the church tower will take place during the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 27th September. All agreed to wait until next year to plan a Barn Dance because the United Church have one organised for Autumn.

Carol Service will be on Sunday 20th December at 6pm. Richard Sutcliffe will play the organ. Advent Quiet Morning to take place on 28th November, 10-12.30at Ashton Keynes. Format is currently being planned.

Bishop Mike is coming to preach at 4pm Informal Worship, 13th December - to be advertised in November newsheet. **Action - SS/PB**

14. Correspondence

Letter from Diocese urging PCC to consider 5% pledge increase - item for next meeting.

Letter from Archdeacon encouraging churches to consider options for reducing additional winter heating costs. Could we meet in another building for Sunday services, eg. school, Jenner Hall? Lots to organise, but food for thought. Bishops are prepared to license other buildings for Eucharist.

PCC asked to ponder for further discussion at next meeting. **Action - all PCC members**

15. AOB

Our church has been invited to have more of a presence on the High St during the switching on of the Christmas lights. What could this look like, what would our purpose be?? Various ideas were shared. Possibly booklets entitled 'Why Christmas' to hand out, fliers with details of Christmas services, Lent talks etc. There are already sheep from Marilyn's farm - could form nativity tableau?? Choir singing carols or playing a recording of them singing. JV to speak to Marilyn, RS to talk with choir, SS to discuss with communications team and all liaise with PB. Agenda item for next meeting.

Action - JV, RS, SS, PB

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 16th November, 8pm. Plan is for meeting to take place in Red Lion. **Action - ND**