

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 19th September 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Rev'd P Bradley, A Grace, K Bell, R Masters, M Smith, G Otter, L Dodd, D Rowley, B Hammond, J Valpy

Apologies: None

PB welcomed everyone and began with a Bible reading (1 Corinthians 3:5-9) and reflection.

PB informed members that Rosemarie Saunders has resigned from the PCC because of ill health. This means that she will also step down from her role as PCC representative on the Jenner Hall committee. We prayed for Rosemarie and for God's healing.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of 18.7.18 had previously been approved by email and displayed in church and on website.

PB signed a copy.

2. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

CAREC (project to provide a home and support for a Syrian refugee family in Cricklade) is progressing, slowly. No active involvement needed as yet from church.

3. Chair's report

PB notified PCC that some medication he is currently taking is causing some difficult side effects and that, following doctor's advice, he may well need to be signed off work for a time. This will be confirmed asap and the congregation notified in due course.

PB also reflected that there are many things going on at church and that some people are beginning to feel weary. He read from 2 Peter 3:8 and encouraged the PCC to remember the message from these verses; that there is no rush, God's timing is what matters. We recognised that some things to be done need to take priority and have a fixed timescale, whilst others do not.

4. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 14,618

No2 account: £ 27,498 broken down as follows:

Vicar's discretionary fund:	£ 2,934
Organ fund:	£ 3,820
Regeneration (includes roof):	£ 6,948
Fabric:	£ 9,691
Children's Educational charity	£ 4,103

USPG money, fuel costs and parochial fees still to pay this year, but overall our balance is much healthier and we are £6.5K in the black against budget.

Giving has increased, expenses have been lower.

AG pointed out that the fabric fund is going down rapidly following a succession of repairs/fees; asbestos removal was £4406, £900 to pay architect, £384 for stonework and £732 for a woodwork survey. BH also noted that VAT pushes these costs up significantly. There are various ways to build up this fund once again, but no immediate action needed.

We have been awarded a grant of £2,000 from the Red Lion Charity, towards the repair of the roof.

AG proposed and GO seconded that we continue with Ecclesiastical Insurance and accept their quote and new policy. After some discussion, PCC agreed unanimously - their service is very good.

PB, AG and KB will attend a presentation on the Parish Giving Scheme tomorrow night and we plan to adopt the scheme at church in due course, as agreed by PCC and minuted on 18.7.18. PCC members are

encouraged to give through the Giving Scheme by way of example as the new process is introduced. There is an option for individuals to have an automatic inflation rise in their giving every year (you are notified first). All giving is done by direct debit. Small 'tokens' will be available at services so that people still have something physical to put in the collection plate.

5. Parish Share

Our Parish Share for 2018 is £45,000. The Diocese are asking for an increase of £1,130 for 2019, so next year's Parish Share request is £46,130. Latton, Leigh and Ashton Keynes' Share takes the total for UTG to £70,000. Parish Share is paid on a monthly basis. MS proposed that we meet the Parish Share request, LD seconded, agreed unanimously. Given the significant drop in our Parish Share from 2017 (£49,000) and in light of our much healthier finances the PCC agreed to review our Share amount in June to see if we can give more. Our monthly payment will increase from £3,750 to £3,844.

6. Fabric

BH gave the following updates, in addition to the report previously circulated:

Discussions with Town Council continue regarding the tree outside the front of church. It is a healthy tree, but needs reducing in size so that it no longer touches the porch. Its crown also needs lifting. BH proposed and DR seconded that he represents PCC at next Town Council meeting to present this route forward. Town Council are responsible for the tree and would pay, St Sampson's would give a contribution.

Asbestos removal in the boiler room is complete. Faculty for new railings around the boiler room steps is in progress, project on-going.

Insurance claim underway for the large brass cross that was stolen a few weeks ago. Estimated value £800.

Town Council are looking at installing new CCTV cameras in certain places around Cricklade. There is a significant amount of anti-social behaviour (thefts/vandalism/litter/drug use) around the church and all agreed that CCTV could help to protect the area more. BH to contact Council to discuss further.

Action - BH

Discussions ongoing about colour of the glass being repaired in the Lady Chapel. It will be completed asap, before winter.

Ceiling in Lady Chapel - lots of damp which may have been building up for years. Not an immediate danger, but needs attention.

Electrical work in boiler room will commence 1st October. Porch lights done at the same time.

At PCC meeting 18.7.18 the PCC agreed to obtain a temporary licence to remove the rear pews for 15 months. This is now in process and is all the more urgent because insect infestation is causing the wood beneath the floor to crumble away.

7. Church Building Regeneration

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) have visited church to discuss renovation ideas and PB has produced a draft Statement of Need. The DAC were very favourable and will issue a report following their visit. PB to circulate to PCC. Next stage is to begin tender process to find an architect. Repairs to the roof and removal of the back pews will be carried out first though. **Action - PB**

8. Deanery Synod - no meeting

9. Together we are Stronger

Following discussion, everyone supported the suggestion to postpone the Christmas Experience event until 2019. Time is running out to do it well and people are stretched in terms of time to plan. The group will plan a church social event in the New Year though. **Action - RM**

10. Youth and Children's

PB attended the recent Town Council meeting 'Shaping the Future of Youth Services', which plans to form a Local Youth Network (LYN) in Cricklade. This was well attended by lots of local representatives, including police and leisure centre. Plenty of discussion about different ways to positively engage our local young people, including possible use of church as one of several 'safe places' in Cricklade. The group will put a proposal together for Wiltshire Council to suggest best ways to spend money.

11. Safeguarding

New safeguarding policy is being written. PB to organise safeguarding training for PCC members.

12. Prayer

Sarah Smith had produced a brief summary of the recent 24/7 Prayer weekend in church. It was appreciated by so many and there were many positive comments and deep experiences of God's presence. Perhaps we could consider a permanent prayer space in church, especially when we do the renovation work. Prayer ministry is also an area to grow in the future.

13. Jenner Hall

BH volunteered to become the new PCC representative on the Jenner Hall Committee. Accepted by everyone.

14. Correspondence

Paper copies of Parish Share information circulated and leaflets on becoming a school governor. A confirmation service will be held at St Sampson's on 7th November at 7.30pm. Bishop Vivienne Faull, new Bishop of Bristol, intends to visit too - to be confirmed.

15. Date of next meeting

14th November 2018 in the Red Lion. All agreed to go back to start time of 8pm. Date for APCM 2019 to be confirmed - **Action PB/JV**