

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 14th July 2022 at the Vicarage, 7.30pm

Present: D Dewes (Chair), A Grace, R Crow, M Smith, L Brierley, J Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: J Wheeler, N Massey, P Barnes, S Danby

1. DD welcomed everyone. We began with prayer and reflection on Psalm 91
2. Apologies were accepted from JW, NM, PB, SD
3. Minutes from 7th April 2022 were approved by all as a true record of the meeting and signed by DD. There were no matters arising.
4. On 24th May, the PCC voted via email and approved a spend of approx £1400 for the removal of trees growing on one of the church turrets. The work has now been carried out.

5. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 10,326

Restricted: £ 43,756 broken down as follows:

Organ fund:	£ 3,144
Fabric:	£ 3,182
Refurbishment:	£24,488 (plus £26,000 in loans to repay)
Children's Educational charity:	£ 9,058
Funeral Donation:	£ 293
Hymn books	£ 300
USPG	£ 1,732
100 Club	£ 506
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£ 52
Altar Frontal	£ 1,000

At our last meeting we agreed to contribute towards Jenner Hall running costs when we use the Jenner Hall. To clarify, we wish to make a £10 voluntary contribution for each session we use, rather than enter into a transaction where we are invoiced. This is in line with our Albermarle Agreement with the Jenner Hall Trustees. JV to communicate with PB on this. **Action – JV**
We made a donation of £75.75 to Christian Aid following the collection on Christian Aid Sunday. The final amount raised by the Flower Festival was £2,526 and this will go towards the church refurbishment. A huge thank you to Gloria and the team for such a wonderful event and money raised.

Our Reserves Policy states that we will hold enough money in reserve to cover 3 months running costs, however the Diocese is now recommending reserves to cover 1 year. We discussed bringing our policy in line with this and agreed that we would move towards it incrementally. AG to work out running costs for 6 months. We aim to strike the right balance between being good stewards and trusting God. **Action - AG**

6. Fabric/Refurbishment

Barry Hammond is investigating a leaking outside tap and will report back on any action that needs to be taken.

We discussed security to protect the lead on the church roof. The Diocese asked for churches to take part in security surveys and visited St Sampson's, along with local police, Town Council and community residents to discuss protection for our lead roof. St Sampson's is one of 3 Wiltshire churches being surveyed. Our security is good overall but the Building Committee will discuss what else we can do, perhaps keep one of the metal gates on Church Lane locked to reduce possibility of vehicle access.

The Building Committee presented a suggested statement of why we want to refurbish the church, beyond 'we want to improve the heating and lighting'. It has a more visionary tone and is necessary as work moves forward. PCC discussed the statement, made further suggestions and AG will work on the wording. **Action – AG**

The architect has requested that a digital survey be carried out of church interior, exterior and below ground. This is to be arranged.

7. Hire Fees for Church

St Sampson's Lettings Policy was agreed by PCC in 2019, but does not include charges for church hire. We recognise that we want to welcome groups and organisations to our church for concerts, special services and other community events etc and payment or voluntary contributions to cover running costs may be requested. Some will have free use. AG to clarify wording and different types of hire (eg. community use, profit-making use) and policy to be amended accordingly.

Action - AG

8. Youth and Children

Two members of our church are keen to set up a church toddler group and have presented a proposal to PCC. Several things are still to be researched/planned/organised, but PCC agree wholeheartedly, in principle. Some of the money from the Children's Educational Fund can be used. May also be a possibility of start up grants. More info and guidance on Diocesan website, Childcare.co.uk and Early Years Alliance. JV to give feedback and our support. **Action - JV**

9. Safeguarding

PCCs' joint training went well back in May. JV has updated all PCCs on new training requirements and clarified some individual questions. JV and LB to meet in August to discuss further actions.

10. School

Links between school and church are regular and positive; Governors, Eco Warriors, Open the Book, Collective Worship etc. JV to work on formalising these through the Church School Partnership Award. **Action - JV**

11. Jenner Hall

No update

12. Deanery Synod

Some discussion about Eco Church at the last meeting.

13. Correspondence

None

14. Vicar's heads up

Discussion about BBQ and DD to email details to organisers.

15. AOB

LB met with Sarah Smith to discuss raising the profile of Traidcraft items once again. SS will discuss reverting to Traidcraft refreshments for Sundays. Aim overall is to be a 'Fairtrade Church' and the PCC fully support this. LB to feedback to Sarah. **Action – LB**

Ride and Stride will take place on 10th September. RC will have forms available in church nearer the time and it will be advertised on the weekly email.

DD plans to offer Open House at the Vicarage in August, TBC.

DD and SD are offering joint support to new curates through formation group meetings, something that DD was involved with before and is glad to offer again.

**Next meetings now confirmed as Saturday 15th October (joint Benefice PCCs)
and Thursday 10th November (St Sampson's PCC)**