

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 28th September 2023 at the Vicarage, 7.30pm

Present: D Dewes (Chair), A Grace, L Brierley, J Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: N Massey, P Barnes, M Smith, B Smith, J Wheeler

1. DD welcomed everyone. We began with prayer

2. Apologies were accepted from NM, PB, MS, BS and JW

3. Minutes from 13th July 2023 were approved by all as a true record of the meeting and signed by DD. It was noted that the new swing boards for use outside church are not in full use yet because posters need printing to fit them.

4. No items for AOB

5. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 5,386

Restricted: £16,693 broken down as follows:

Organ fund:	£ 3,057
Fabric:	£ -982
Refurbishment:	£ 7,739 (plus £26,000 in loans to repay)
Children's Educational charity:	£ 5,371
Hymn books	£ 300
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£ 52
Altar Frontal	£ 1,000

We are meeting all our financial obligations and maintain a balance of around £5,000.

The Fete raised £1,314.

The refurbishment account is decreasing as invoices are settled for the various reports needed for the DAC and faculties. Still waiting for National Churches' grant of £6,700.

The retention fee for the replacement of the nave roof has been settled.

Still considering a way to reclaim VAT on invoices for various reports. The fabric fund is in the red due to two pieces of work to replace delaminated stone on the roof which has allowed water ingress again (nothing to do with lead roofs). Cost for stone mason was £2,866 and scaffolding was £1,080. Electrical work has been carried out on light in the north aisle, £523. VAT to be reclaimed.

Parish Share – the total Share request for the Upper Thames Churches is £63,795. It was proposed by DD and seconded by LB that St Sampson's PCC commit to a Parish Share for 2024 of £35,725. This is 56% of the total amount and follows the % split formula that is used by the four churches when sharing costs. It is an increase of £795 from 2023 Parish Share. To be agreed via email with St Sampson's PCC (not quorate at the meeting). **Action - JV**

6. Fabric/Refurbishment

There are plans to lift the lead to inspect the underside of the north gallery in preparation for air source heat pumps in the future – we hope to reclaim VAT on this work if it goes ahead.

All agreed that it makes sense to hard wire the contactless giving machine because the Wifi is often not strong enough. Estimated cost £50. Adina will give Barry the go-ahead to organise.

Also, Barry to add conduit to protect the cross on top of the tower, approx. £150. All were in agreement. **Action – AG/BH**

We discussed the use of infra-red heaters to heat the church this winter and make it more welcoming/comfortable. They are 3rd of the price of electric heaters and we are at capacity for use of electric. It is highly likely that future work on the church will require more electrical cable to be laid. Building Committee to investigate this process, costs, timescales etc to see if it can be done earlier, and in the meantime SSE will be asked to carry out free survey, as a starting point, for implementing this work. **Action – AG/BH**

7. Global Mission

Plans are underway. Getting personnel together in order for it to run smoothly and will agree at Better Together joint PCC morning on 21st October.

8. Youth and Children

Youth – there is a new intern, Josh, working with NWMA. Jessy remains very active and enthusiastic and the team organise regular social and study/teaching events, some in schools across the Deanery. Our 6 regular youth members go to some events.

Laura and Jo are now organising 2 children's sessions a month, alongside the 10am service. 1st Sunday is craft and play in the children's corner with Laura. 3rd Sunday is S Club in the Jenner Hall with Jo. Dawn Fletcher and Chris Anota will be regular helpers and are undergoing Safer Recruitment process. Pam Cowler, Grace Valpy, Bruce Valpy and Matt Smith will be on standby when extras are needed – all have current DBS checks in place.

9. Eco Church

Most of the action plan for this year has been carried out. We are doing really well with some areas of church life – Community and Global Engagement, Lifestyle – already bronze or silver level. And Worship and Teaching is already Gold! LB is continuing with action plan and focusing on Land and Buildings, which will involve some discussions with Town Council. 2024 action plan in place for continuing work and all agreed. We also agreed to re-committing to being a Fair Trade Church. LB to follow up. **Action – LB**

10. Catering Team for events at church

All agreed that this would be a good idea for events like Harvest lunch and other social gatherings. It was difficult pulling things together so soon after the Fete this year. BS is already in touch with some possible volunteers. AG to pass on go-ahead to BS. **Action - AG**

11. Church History/Information leaflet

All agreed that it is time to produce something new that can be available for visitors to church. It will take time though, and so we will continue to print off copies of the existing leaflet until there is something else in place. AG and BS to discuss further. **Action – AG/BS**

12. Safeguarding

No current concerns.

The new children's team is being Safely Recruited. Updates on the Parish Dashboard are ongoing. JV working on specific actions regarding our various church activities where children/vulnerable adults are involved. Risk assessments will be introduced at joint PCC meeting in October. JV and LB to discuss and produced template. Clarification around Open the Book DBS checks is needed.

Actions – JV/LB

13. School

JV is working with Mrs Baker and the pupil Ambassadors to help plan a pop-up Prayer Space in school later in the Autumn.

The school breakfast toast has stopped running because of increasing demands on school budget. This is important to pupils, especially those for whom breakfast is difficult before school, for various reasons. AG to discuss with the school how we can best help. **Action - AG**

14. Jenner Hall

Nothing to report

15. Deanery Synod

Debbie attended the meeting last night. Eco church was discussed.

16. Correspondence

None

17. Vicar's heads up

Communion will be offered with the common cup once again at the confirmation service. There will be an option to dip wafers for those that prefer in the side chapel. Debbie wishes to trial offering the common cup at communion services from January, with dipping option still available. This is at the request of the Bishop.

18. AOB

None

Next meetings:

Saturday 21st October – Better Together in the Jenner Hall (joint PCCs)

Thursday 16th November – St Sampson's PCC at the Vicarage (date changed from 9th Nov, see Debbie's email)