

## Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the Vicarage, 7.30pm

Present: M Smith (chair), D Dewes, A Grace, R Crow, R Saunders, J Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: I Wallis, N Massey, J Wheeler, P Barnes

1. MS welcomed everyone. DD introduced the app 'Lectio 365' and we spent 10 minutes in a led reflection on Mark 4, Jesus Calms the Storm.

2. Apologies were accepted from IW, NM, JW and PB

3. Minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved by all as a true record of the meeting and signed by MS.

Matters arising:

- No suitable options for carved wooden nativity figures have been found. Hobby groups are not taking commissions and professional work is too expensive. Small wooden sets are easy to buy, but too small to be left out unprotected in church. Possibly a knitted set. JV to look for patterns. **Action - JV**
- RC and Gloria Light are continuing to build up a scrapbook of church life. **Action - RC**

4. Items proposed and approved solely by email since last meeting are as follows:

- The risk assessment for Wild Church was adopted by PCC on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with the added note of river hazard. This event has now taken place and was a success with around 60 people from across the Deanery attending.

5. Vicar's heads up

A new prayer meeting will start at the Vicarage, monthly on Monday evenings. It will be a central prayer meeting for all UTG. Details have been circulated to all via church email. During the summer it will move to meet in church and rotate around the 4 parishes.

New order of service booklets for Common Worship are in process and will be used across the benefice to provide a staple and consistent approach. There will be 3 different services in accordance with the liturgical year and booklet covers will be gold, purple and green.

A dedication of the new church roof will take place during a morning service. DD suggested the 5<sup>th</sup> December, AG and RC to discuss with the team at the next roof committee meeting. Invitations will be extended to all groups who have given donations/grants. **Action – AG, RC**

DD has been reviewing church governance and is planning some re-organisation. In the new year, it is likely that PCCs will meet on Thursday evenings on a 3 monthly cycle. Month 1 – UTG joint PCC, month 2 – committee meetings, month 3 – individual church PCCs.

Various things can be dealt with more efficiently at a group meeting (eg. policies) and group PCCs will also support the united approach that has developed with the Transition Team and UTG services on the second Sunday. DD also wishes to discuss and plan a Year of Discipleship and Welcome for 2022.

## 6. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 4,017

Restricted: £ 48,409 broken down as follows:

Organ fund:	£ 3,456
Fabric:	£ 3,781
Roof:	£29,427 (of which £26,000 is loans to repay)
Children's Educational charity:	£10,228
Funeral Donation:	£ 293
Hymn books	£ 300
USPG	£ 518
100 Club	£ 429

Regular giving to date for 2021 is £27,088 and includes monies given through Parish Giving Scheme, standing order and the plate.

Internal transfers account for £30,450 in our income and expenditure, so need to be removed from figures.

We are currently owed £2,034 from other parishes in the benefice to cover shared costs (eg. youth workers).

We have had to break into reserves to pay recent bills and parochial fees.

Our Parish Share request from the diocese for 2022 is £48,240 but we cannot afford this. It is not the right time for a stewardship campaign. Our projected income for 2022 is around £40,000 and we would aim to give around 2/3s of income in Parish Share. Therefore, AG proposed and MS seconded that we pledge £28,000 to the diocese for our 2022 Parish Share, and will give more if we are able, according to any increases in income. All were in agreement. AG to notify the diocese. **Action - AG**

Parish Administrator hours have increased by 2.5hrs per week.

The 4/4 Community Choir have requested use of the church for weekly rehearsals. PCC members were happy with this. AG to speak to the choir treasurer and request that they cover £20 heating costs for the time being, but with the understanding that this may increase with the next oil top up if there is a rise in cost.

## 7. Fabric/Building/Roof project

The Nave roof has been completed. We are holding 5% retention fee for a year.

There have been no issues from the south transept work and the 5% retention fee is due in December for this.

Flood water in the boiler room from the storms in May is drying out.

Consultation with the wider community and church family will start this autumn and will seek suggestions for improvements to the interior of the church building.

Barry has replaced several bulbs in the tower cross and this is now up and lit at night.

The porch light is not working and an electrician is due next Monday to check the wiring.

The Martin Travers altar frontal is disintegrating and cannot be repaired. After discussion, PCC

agreed to 3 new frontals being made (2 people have offered to do this) in liturgical colours. AG to research and work out costs. **Action - AG**

## 8. Youth and Children

Three youth worker trainees from South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) are now in post. Two are living with host families, in Garstone and Brinkworth and one lives at home in Chippenham. Becky Fisher is fulfilling the role of Youth Enabler at present, but a second advert is out to recruit for this post.

We have paid our share of the overall cost, as previously pledged (see minutes of 13/01/21).

The trainees are preparing a roadshow aimed at primary school age children which will visit various churches across the Deanery. It will be on the theme of remembering, to coincide with Remembrance Sunday. MS to find out more so that we can pass info to schools in Cricklade. Also, MS to co-ordinate discussions with Informal Worship families and gather ideas for future ways to involve and use the trainees' skills in our youth and children's ministry. **Action – MS**

## 9. Safeguarding

JV proposed and RC seconded that we adopt the policy for the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders (previously circulated and based on the Diocese model policy). All agreed. JV to forward to Avril to be updated on the Safeguarding Dashboard. Other Dashboard updates are a work in progress, in particular, risk assessments. JV to find template documents and complete for Informal Worship. **Action – JV**

Safeguarding training is up to date. DD and JV are doing/booked to do Safeguarding Leadership level.

## 10. School

DD has joined St Sampson's School Governing Body in ex-officio role. She will focus on building a positive relationship with the school, providing support for staff and will also be involved in the SIAMS inspection (due now, but will be delayed following post-pandemic catch up).

Julian Thomas is reaching the end of his term of office as a Foundation Governor, but wishes to continue. Julian continues to be an active member of Informal Worship. JV proposed and RC seconded that Julian Thomas be nominated for a second term of office as Foundation Governor at St Sampson's CE Primary School. All agreed. JV to forward our approval to diocese. **Action - JV**

## 11. Churches Together

Commemorations for Remembrance Sunday will be all churches together.

Churches Together activity seems to have become less and less and perhaps it has run its course. JV to contact Suzi Tipper to find out more. **Action - JV**

## 12. Jenner Hall

PB had sent an update to inform that the Jenner Hall has reopened with a new set of charges and Food Bank is operating from the Jenner Hall. A cupboard is to be moved from the hall into the church vestry – to be arranged. **Action – AG, PB**

## 13. Deanery Synod

First meeting in person took place this week and Bishop Lee spoke about Living in Love and Faith. These are resources that have been published to facilitate CoFE exploration of human sexuality. Discussion groups are likely to be organised across the deanery. Information will follow in the coming months.

14. Correspondence

none

15. AOB

AG has been in touch with Cantores to let them know that their March 2022 concert can go ahead in church.

16. Future meetings

DD to set meeting date for the first group PCC (all 4 parishes). **Action - DD**

Following this, further dates for 2022 will be set.