

St Swithun's Church, Sandy
Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm

1. Attendance and Apologies:

Present: Rev'd Philip Macaulay, Colin Osborne (Chair), Sandra Watson, Jennifer Watson, Elizabeth Adams, Julia Bickerdike, Matt Bushby, Elizabeth Gammell, Anthony Lock, Ruth Lock, Carole Martin, Jean Peckham, Lynsey Sheppard, Stephen Snow and Karen Varley.

Virtual: Abigail Davies

Apologies: Sandy Stopher

2. Introduction and Opening Prayer.

Philip opened with a reading from 1 Peter 1: 3-6 and led the meeting in Prayer.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2024. These were signed off.

4. Matters arising from 2nd April 2024.

4a. Bell Ringer's Chamber. Steven Akhurst found a dry cleaners who specialise in Church furnishings and they have cleaned our Curtains at a cost of £259.15. The curtains are undamaged and ready to be re-hung. A new rail has been ordered.

Steven has ordered Polo Tops for his Bell Ringing Team as approved last month.

4b. The Pinnacle Magazine. Adrienne chaired a meeting on 22nd April of the Team who will re-launch the Magazine. Stephen is a member of the Team and described plans for a bi-monthly magazine, available in printed and soft copy as before. The format will change a little – with the printed magazines being A5 in size, hopefully with a colour cover. Contact has been made with all Churches in Sandy & Beeston to create a "What's On / Future Events" calendar listing everything the 4 Churches are planning in one table. It is intended that the first new magazine will be published in July.

4c. Fire Drill Report. Fire Drills were performed during all 3 Services on Sunday 28th April. Congregations were evacuated quickly, but there were fewer people in the building than usual. It was necessary to open the bolts on Fire Exits and difficulties were experienced in some cases. Each exit must be opened in a different way and bespoke laminated instructions are required for all doors. It was carried that, after the APCM, a meeting will be held with all Sidespersons, Wardens and Choir Leaders to discuss how fire evacuations may be improved.

4d. Goals for St Swithuns before 10th July. It was felt that, with only 2 months before Jodie is licensed as our Rector, it will cause confusion to change our Service Pattern, or other practices, now. Once installed, Jodie can introduce any changes she has in mind for the future. It will be announced at the APCM that there will be no changes until Jodie arrives.

4e. Churches Together in Sandy & Beeston. It was carried that Stephen will join Jane Godley in representing St Swithuns in CTISB. Stephen attended the AGM for Churches Together in Bedfordshire on 17th April. Rev'd Tim Norwood spoke of how the Holy Spirit is leading CTIB to embrace diversity in the Member Churches.

4f. Soakaway drains. The Wardens and Jean met Liz West from the Diocese last week to discuss a request for funding towards the repairs. We await a response from Liz.

4g. Wi-Fi in the Church Building. Philip intends to speak further with a Congregation Member who works in IT about Wi-Fi installation and will report further next month.

5. Finance Update.

Jennifer, Ruth and Tony will shortly be meeting to discuss a replacement for the current system used for keeping our accounting records.

6. Safeguarding.

In absentia, Sandy commented that Safeguarding Sunday went very well. The message and Sermons were absolutely great and there were positive reactions from many Congregation Members with 2 praising Philip for his caring and approachable manner. The feedback given via the leaves on the Safeguarding tree will be analysed and a report given next month.

7. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (19th May 2024).

7a. Report and Accounts – 2023. These were circulated on 3rd May and were approved for submission to the APCM.

7b. Electoral Roll. As at 7th May 2024, the ER numbered 101 people. 2025 will be a Revision Year and all Congregation Members who wish to be on our Electoral Roll must complete a new Enrolment form, even if they are included in **this** year's ER. It was carried that Stephen will act as the Electoral Roll Officer for 2025.

7c. PCC Members seeking Re-Election, Joiners and Leavers. The following existing PCC Members are seeking to re-stand:

Julia Bickerdike
Abigail Davies
Elizabeth Gammell
Anthony Lock
Ruth Lock
Carole Martin
Lynsey Sheppard
Stephen Snow
Sandy Stopher
Karen Varley

Some 3 to 4 Congregation Members are also seeking to join us. Stephen must collect forms for all nominated members before the APCM. Ruth Lock and Karen Varley (respectively Treasurer and Secretary) will be co-opted so need not seek re-election.

Elizabeth Adams, Matt Bushby and Jean Peckham have indicated that they do not intend to re-stand for membership at the APCM. Ardent thanks were expressed to all 3 for their length of service, the tremendous support they have brought to St Swithuns over such a long period and the First Class service they brought to the PCC.

8. Preparations for the arrival of Revd Jodie Brown.

8a. Rectory. The required electrical repairs are complete. Plumbing repairs will be undertaken on Monday 20th May and Colin is chasing the Architect at St Albans Diocese regarding pending outside work. Solomon has recently mowed the lawns and will do so once more before 10th July. Karen and Lynsey have moved equipment from the Rectory Garages to the Church Rooms store but Christmas Tree Festival Equipment must still be moved.

8b. Licensing Service – 10th July 2024. Jodie, The Warden and Rural Dean have met on Zoom to discuss the Service. Elizabeth G and Luke have suggested some hymns. A decision regarding the final Service content will be made shortly and a Bible – to be presented to Jodie – has been ordered. There will be limited printed Order of Service - this will be shown on the overhead screen. A rehearsal and the final arrangements of chairs, tables etc will be carried out on Tuesday 9th July.

8c. Licensing Service Arrangements. Invitations will be sent out in the next 2 weeks. We look forward to welcoming some 20 people from Jodie's present Church who will travel by Coach to join us for the Service. Refreshments and a Buffet will be served in the Pym chapel. Expect the food to be simple but plentiful and supplied at Nil cost to St Swithuns. Valerie Haygarth will be grateful for donations of food or money towards this.

Jon will record a worship song for the service in time for the late June deadline, Steven Akhurst is handling arrangements for Bell ringing and the Choir will robe in the Church Rooms. Jean will speak to Trixie and enquire about a single display of flowers by the Altar.

9. Fundraising.

12 people have expressed an interest in stalls for the Summer Fete in front of the Church building (inside if wet) and have joined a sign-up list. Jodie has indicated that she is happy for the Rectory Lawn to be used if required.

David Llewellyn's report that the Church Building roof is reaching the end of its usable life was referenced. It was proposed that a blanket letter be sent to local businesses explaining that St Swithuns Church is the centre of Sandy and requesting funding for the required repairs. The proposal was agreed to, subject to approval and direction from Jodie in the autumn.

10. Church Warden's Report.

All matters reported above. Repairs have been undertaken to the Church Organ.

11. Curate's Report.

Philip expressed his thanks to all of our Congregations for the way we welcome strangers into our Church. He thoroughly enjoyed the "What does it mean to be Church?" series of Sermons - driven by the Gospel of Mark - held over the past month and received very good feedback to this.

Jodie supports Philip's continuation at St Swithuns whilst he seeks a role elsewhere. Philip requested Prayers on his behalf as he Searches for the role God intends him to take.

Philip expressed his thanks to Matt for attending to emails received in the Church Office, pending Jodie's appointment.

12. Deanery Synod Report. Nothing to Report. Next meeting will be in July.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 4th June 2024.

Signed Correct:

Dated: