

St Peter's Church PCC meeting

29 September 2020 7:00pm - 8:05pm via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Barbara Agar, Kate Blake, Chris Clayton (chair), Peter Dickinson, Rachel Fell, David Fisher, Alan Garrow, Sarah Martin, Christine McManus, Paul Medforth, Stella Pilling, Judith Simpson, Patricia Stableford and Angus Turner.

Apologies: Sue Heapy

In attendance: Carole Raw

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Chris welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Bible reflection

Chris led a reflection on Psalm 32 vs 6-8.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies from those absent were noted.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of July's meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 14 July were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising

In relation to re-opening church for in person worship, Chris and Sarah reported that last Sunday saw a congregation of around 70 for the 9.30 and 25 for the 11 o'clock. Afternoon church was fully booked. Between 17-20 people on average are attending Thursday communion. On 11 October, Evensong will be trialled as a walk-in service. Carole also agreed to remind those attending services (via their confirmation email) to arrive at least five minutes before it starts.

Paul reported that around £80-90 had been donated via contactless giving since the device was introduced. He recommended that we continue to use the device (as it has been purchased) and noted that a new, simpler way of giving (a £3 fixed amount) will be trialled soon.

6. Environment

Alan explained the background to the diocese's strategy in relation to environmental matters and that a model environmental policy has been made available to parishes by the diocese (tabled to the meeting).

Alan noted that although there is not much that is controversial in the policy, it is important and he took the meeting through its main points and how they apply to St Peter's.

In particular:

- Alan has asked Stewart Davies to be our environmental champion/officer given his professional experience. There may also be suitable people amongst new PCC members who are willing to take on this role.
- Creationtide has been celebrated in worship and teaching over recent weeks and the worship team will reflect on this shortly.
- An energy audit has been undertaken in recent years. Although the church hasn't switched to a green energy supplier, we have installed LED lights. Insulation is difficult to improve.
- Jemima Parker (the diocesan environmental officer) being based in Harrogate gives us the opportunity to join in with any wider community and cross-church initiatives.
- The environmental tips in the Weekly News could potentially be revived to encourage people to reduce their environmental impact.
- The policy suggests "minimising" the use of red meat and dairy in church – it was suggested that this should be changed to "reducing".
- The item relating to the assessment of wildlife on church grounds is probably not relevant to St Peter's as it doesn't have a churchyard.

The meeting accepted the policy as a good starting point (with the amendments described).

In relation to the animal welfare board, it was acknowledged that this was a difficult issue. Alan's preferred outcome is for the new environmental officer/champion and the board's curator to collaborate together on the use of the board.

In response to a question about the possible installation of solar panels on the church roof, it was noted that this had been considered in the past and the roof had been deemed unsuitable. There may also be issues relating to DAC and listed building consent.

7. AGM – approval of PCC annual report and accounts for 2019

Chris took the meeting through the PCC annual report and, subject to a few minor amendments, the report was unanimously approved.

The 2019 accounts were also unanimously approved.

In relation to the 2020 budget, David reported that he had recently revised this to reflect the fact that the church was not fully open by September (as had been originally assumed in March). Therefore, expected income from cash collections, refreshment days and rentals had been further reduced. To offset this, however, there has been an increase in donations and grants received in 2020. The forecast deficit is now £73,000. Taking into account a surplus from 2019 of £26,000 and £30,000 that the PCC has agreed can be taken from reserves, this leaves an expected deficit of £17,000 for 2020.

Chris thanked David for his hard work as Treasurer.

8. Fabric – inc Altar frontals update

8.1 Altar frontals

Patricia noted that the PCC has already approved both the choice of Polly Meynell as designer and the design (ie design "B" previously circulated to members). Alan also reported that feedback from the congregation on design B had been overwhelmingly positive.

In connection with the Faculty application, the PCC was asked to approve the creation of the following liturgical textiles using design B:

- Altar frontal
- Pulpit fall
- Three stoles
- Burse and veil.

After a short discussion, Polly Meynell's creation of these liturgical textiles using design B was unanimously approved.

Patricia further noted that the £5,000 cost of the textiles has been met entirely from donations.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Patricia and the commissioning group for all their hard work.

8.2 Other fabric matters

Paul updated the meeting on various fabric matters as follows:

- Roof: the roofers have completed the lead repairs and have inspected the Brostoff Hall roof following recent leaks. Further repairs are required to this at a cost of £500. However, the guttering work can be deferred until next year.
- Carpet: there is still an issue with the transition between the carpet and tiles. Our architect is sourcing edging strips.
- The boiler continues to prove troublesome.

In addition, the Quinquennial inspection is due although Paul recommends this is deferred until next year.

9. Acceptance of minutes of sub-groups

The minutes of the Standing committee (September meeting) were tabled and accepted.

In relation to the AGM, Alan noted that it should be possible for those participating by Zoom to ask questions and vote.

10. AOB

Chris noted that PCC members are required to undertake a DBS check and that Carole will be in touch further to explain what is required.

Chris also noted that Patricia, Paul, Christine and Barbara will be retiring from the PCC at the forthcoming AGM. All were thanked for their service to the PCC.

11. Review of meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting.

The meeting concluded with prayers at 8.05pm.

Minute	Action	Responsibility
6	Amend and circulate revised environmental policy	Alan
10	Request and provide information for DBS checks	Carole/all