

St Peter's Church PCC meeting

24 January 2023 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Minutes

Present: Hannah Beck, Ian Birt, Bella Blake, Lance Burgess, Chris Clayton (Chair), Beverley Cooper, Stewart Davies, Rachel Fell, Alan Garrow, David Hipkin, John Longstaff, Felicity Moss, Roy Taylor and Ruth Thompson-Vear.

Apologies: Judith Clark, Catherine Davies, Sian Lockwood and Sarah Martin.

In attendance: Kate Blake.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Chris welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Co-option of a new member

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Bella Blake as a co-opted member of the PCC.

3. Bible reflection

Alan led a reflection on being thankful and all read the general prayer of thanksgiving.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were noted.

5. Acceptance of the minutes of November's meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 29 November 2022 were unanimously approved.

6. Matters arising

- A poster advertising Evensong has been prepared and is ready to be distributed to local hotels. A banner will also be placed in the foyer.
- Ison Harrison have agreed to write five wills for free for St Peter's and otherwise offer 50% off their usual will writing fee on an ongoing basis.

7. Leading your Church into Growth (LYCIG)

Following a recent LYCIG course attended by Chris, Sian and Catherine Medforth, Chris outlined to the PCC what LYCIG is about, what the course was about and what the main outcomes of it were.

7.1 What is LYCIG?

LYCIG is a Christian organisation equipping church leaders and churches to grow both numerically and spiritually.

It exists to encourage and share good practice and strategies.

7.2 What did the course cover?

In essence, it covered a methodology of how to grow your church using six steps:

- Change the culture
- Pray for growth
- Become an inviting and welcoming Church
- Build an evangelism strategy
- Make disciples
- Improve the worship

The emphasis is on making small changes and building on what the church already does.

There were around 55-60 attendees from around the country and listening to others' experiences made Chris feel thankful for what St Peter's already does, although there is always room for improvement.

7.3 What were the outcomes?

Some of the outcomes generated are "quick wins" (ie no cost, easily done) whilst others will take longer to action.

The quick wins include:

- Making prayer for growth central (eg it is on the agendas for PCC and standing committee)
- Advertising Sunday evensong (already being actioned)
- Christmas and new year information and planning

Medium term actions include:

- Closer engagement with uniformed organisations
- Catherine to work more closely with the welcome team
- Develop a programme of social events through the year(eg Chinese new year, quizzes, summer party, pancakes)
- Design and print new welcome cards which include a tear off list of services

Longer term actions include:

- Offer training to natural evangelists, commissioning them to reach out into our parish. Help everyone to feel more confident to talk about Jesus.
- Introducing a quiet service (eg Saturday afternoons)
- Mentoring scheme.

The challenge is to find the right people with the time/energy to commit to these.

Roy noted that the “Frontline” course is to be done by home groups over Lent and beyond – the aim being to equip people to talk about God and have a Christian impact throughout their life.

8. Finances

David’s finance report was tabled and noted.

In relation to the 2022 accounts, David highlighted the main outstanding items namely finalising the cash income for November and December and obtaining a year end valuation of investment fund holdings from Cardale. Currently, however, David estimates a near break even figure between income and expenditure, with around a £10k loss expected

once the Cardale valuation is received. This is despite not receiving an expected legacy of £150k in 2022.

In relation to the 2023 budget, David noted that there will be a significant increase in our costs including a large increase in Parish Share to £209k, increased energy costs and staff wages. In relation to energy costs, although our gas prices are fixed until 2026, our electricity contract runs out in March 2023. Using an energy switching company (Bionic), the lowest quote we have received for a one year fixed rate is £26k (up from the current £10k). It was agreed to proceed with this given the lack of lower tariffs in the market.

Despite increased costs, the receipt of the legacy expected in 2022 and a further expected donation during the year, means that we are expected to almost balance our books once again with a budgeted deficit of just under £10k.

On behalf of all present, Chris thanked David for all his efforts as Treasurer.

9. Fabric

Chris referred the meeting to the reports given in December and January's standing committee minutes in relation to fabric matters.

In particular, Chris drew attention to the refurbishment of the church notice boards, repairs to the West door and the ongoing projector/screen faculty application.

It was noted that the new thermostats and timers were working well. It was also agreed to ask the caretaker team where there are any non-LED lights in church that could potentially be replaced.

10. Safeguarding

Kate gave a short report on safeguarding matters and did not have any incidents to bring to the meeting's attention. Members were reminded once again to complete their required safeguarding training.

The proposed Responding to Safeguarding Concerns procedure was tabled to the meeting and approved. It will be displayed in suitable places in church.

11. Complaints procedure

The draft complaints procedure previously circulated to members was discussed and approved, subject to adapting for Breakfast Club complaints.

A simplified version will be created for reference on a day to day basis by staff and volunteers. It was also agreed that feedback on complaints received would be given to the PCC once a year.

12. Acceptance of minutes of the standing committee

The standing committee minutes for December and January were tabled and accepted.

13. AOB

There was no other business.

14. Review of meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting.

The meeting concluded with prayers at 8.10pm.

The next meeting is on 28 March 2023 in church.