

St Peter's Church PCC meeting

27 September 2022 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Minutes

Present: Hannah Beck, Ian Birt, Rachel Fell, Alan Garrow (Chair), David Hipkin, John Longstaff, Sarah Martin, Felicity Moss, Roy Taylor and Ruth Thompson-Vear.

Apologies: Lance Burgess, Chris Clayton, Catharine Davies, Stewart Davies and Sian Lockwood.

In attendance: Judith Clark.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Alan welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Bible reflection

Rachel led a reflection on the feeding of the five thousand.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and were noted.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of June's meeting

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 28 June were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising

New PCC members were reminded to complete their DBS and safeguarding training.

Alan thanked Ian for the gift of a new stepladder for use in church.

On the new proposals for charitable giving, it was agreed that the standing committee would review and make some suggestions for the PCC to consider.

6. PCC away day

Stewart's summary of actions arising from the away day in relation to the heating in church was tabled. The key priorities are:

- To make church users comfortable in the building (a "warm welcome"), reduce our environmental impact and reduce our running costs.
- Control the heating to meet user needs and reduce waste, explore options for making the fabric of the building less inefficient and have a longer term plan for renewable energy sources.

The actions discussed at the away day to control and plan our heating use were:

- Moving to 12 hour per day (5am to 5pm) heating of the main church building.
- A no-heat season from May to September.
- Installation of 24-7 programmable thermostats in church and in Brostoff and Bramall to match heating with use.
- Reducing the temperature set point in church by 1.5 degrees.
- Implementation and monitoring of a rigorous weekly heating plan matched to the use of rooms.
- Review policy for use of main church building for mid-week events in the heating season (vs options in church meeting rooms).

Longer term potential fabric projects to explore include use of local electric water heaters, reconfiguring the glass doors to minimise drafts, localised heating in café area, roof and window insulation and use of renewable heating throughout (subject to upgrading insulation in the main church).

A small group will take these proposed actions forward, in particular the programmable thermostat proposal – volunteers would be very welcome. Initially, the group will involve Sian, Roy, Chris and David (with Stewart providing support/advice). Ian had also obtained some useful input from the building manager at Scargill and was also invited to

contribute to the group. The meeting also agreed it would be important to involve and take into account the views of Carole and Nigel.

7. Responding to the cost of living crisis

Alan outlined the main ways we can respond as a church to the cost of living crisis, namely:

- Our continuing food ministry. We are noticing an uptick in demand for food.
- Providing a “warm welcome” in church ie a warm space for people to go during the day or possibly at other times too.
- Financial support, being chiefly the fuel poverty grant using the Sykes fund.

In general, we are being encouraged to build on what we already do in town. So, in addition to providing access to a heated church in the mornings we could also look to provide hot drinks and food and/or extend the church’s opening hours, subject to volunteer resource and capacity (and appropriate safeguarding checks).

It was therefore agreed that St Peter’s would take part in the “Warm Welcome” initiative being sponsored by churches and Christian (and other) charities. Thought will need to be given as to how this is publicised and communicated.

We will also re-run the Sykes fuel poverty grant scheme.

8. Finances

David reported that as of the end of August, there was a surplus of around £11,000 in unrestricted funds. The two major legacies we were expecting to receive this year have not yet been received although we believe they will be soon. We are nevertheless able to pay our share instalment due at the end of September and pay for the new boiler.

Alan also confirmed that it is still intended to write to regular givers who aren’t in the PGS.

9. Fabric

Sarah reported the main outcomes of her meeting with Tom Crooks (the son of our former architect Richard Crooks, who sadly died a few months ago). Tom has taken over his father's business. The key points arising from that meeting are:

- Walls: where there are damp patches, the lime plaster needs to be replaced before painting. The flaking paint in other places is not indicative of damp and can be repainted without replacing the plaster.
- West doors: to improve insulation, Tom recommended installing brushes at the bottom of the doors and strips on the door edges (although this isn't a perfect solution). The doors also need re-aligning and Tom recommended a contractor in Huddersfield who may be able to do this. An alternative/better solution is to install aluminium strips around the door edges but this would be expensive (around £50k).
- In Tom's view, fan assisted heating for the front of church would not be optimal as it may create drafts.
- The flying freehold area should be kept clear of combustible items, as it is an emergency exit for adjoining offices/buildings.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Tom as our architect going forward.

Sarah also reported that the faculty application for the new AV system had been submitted as we have now received a quote for the work.

10. Safeguarding

There was nothing to report.

11. Acceptance of minutes of sub-groups

The standing committee minutes for July and September were tabled and accepted.

12. AOB

There was no other business.

13. Review of meeting

There was a brief review of the meeting.

The meeting concluded with prayers at 8.10pm.

The next meeting is 29 November 2022 in church.