

MINUTES OF THE ALL SAINTS' PCC MEETING

held at All Saints' Chilton on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 7.30 pm

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton PCCs were present together for Items 1-6. For the other items, only All Saints' PCC members were present.

Items were taken in the order on the agenda.

1. Opening & Prayer

The Rector, Rev Jeremy Parsons welcomed the PCCs to the joint part of the meeting and read from Psalm 105 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Appointment of Revd Sasha Reeves as Curate with particular responsibility for Valley Park

Sasha was attending her first PCC meeting following her licencing and subsequent commissioning to our Benefice at the beginning of this year. She will be sitting in on the All Saints' PCC meeting.

3. Children and Families Work update

Lucy Ryan was commissioned to do some of the children and families work in the Benefice at the service in February when Sasha was commissioned to be Curate. Lucy will be working with the Fledgelings families and coordinating the volunteers of this work.

Jeremy reported that the post will be readvertised under the ECHO banner with the hope to recruit a person for the beginning of the new school year in September.

The various children and family events that took place through the year, including the summer Holiday Club, will be looked at by a team and decisions made after Easter about what will be running.

4. Update on the committee structure and decision making consultation

The consultation project lead by Geoff Maughan is underway. At a recent meeting he reflected on the structures and, although these were not a problem, work is needed on how workflows and decisions operate, and on clarifying the boundaries between governance and executive responsibilities. Early indications of how to start structuring things will be available soon and it is hoped this will be reported at the next PCC meeting.

5. Approval of Steven Luney becoming part of the leaders and preachers' team

Steve and his wife Carole moved to Didcot from Ireland six months ago and have been involved in various parts of church life in the Benefice including becoming members of a Home Group and helping at the recent Alpha course. Steve belongs to the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and is currently working on converting his qualifications to be in line with the Church of England regulations so that he can become an accredited LLM.

Jeremy proposed that Steve became part of the leaders and preachers' team. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Annual Report – Sections 1-4

Paper A refers. These sections were approved in principle, for formal confirmation later in the meeting by the individual PCCs.

All Saints' PCC only

Present:

Revd Pam Rolls

Judith Russell (Churchwarden)

Naomi Gibson (Secretary)

Debra Dewhurst

Liz Morris

Revd Sasha Reeves was also present.

Hazel Benton (Vice Chair)

Alex Reich (Churchwarden)

Stuart Gibson (Treasurer)

Steve Hale

John Pigott

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Pat Moseley and Jan Radford.

Hazel Benton chaired the meeting.

2. Standing Committee discussions between Meetings

The Standing Committee had met twice this year, the February meeting discussed items for the agenda for this meeting, and the January meeting discussed items to do with finance as follows: -

- **Review of Finances**

The income had reduced last year due to falling numbers in the congregation as well as the death or relocation of significant givers. It was agreed that Stuart would do a short presentation to the church and interactive congregations to emphasize the shortfall and suggest an increase in giving to perhaps the cost of a takeaway coffee per week, which would significantly help the situation.

Action:SG

- **Collection options at Sunday services**

The Standing Committee also agreed to reinstate the passing of the collection bag around at services and to display a QR code in church and the village hall (for the second Sunday of the month) so that people can scan with their mobile phones and donate to the church. This is in addition to the Collectin and Parish Giving Scheme which are popular ways of giving.

- **Proposal for consultation with community re Sunday services**

It was suggested that a consultation should take place in the church and village communities about people's preferences for Sunday services such as timing. This would follow on from the Season of Invitation encouraging people to return to church after Covid.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 7th November 2023

Liz Morris was thanked for writing the minutes in Naomi's absence. The minutes of the meeting on 7th November 2023 were unanimously accepted as a true record and were signed.

4. Matters Arising

- **Update on becoming a carbon neutral church**

Debra has signed the church up with the A Rocha Carbon Neutral Church Scheme and she will be filling in the form with John Pigott. Once this has been completed the energy audit will be carried out. Debra will investigate the timescales for this taking place.

Action:DD

Debra will also investigate the grants available that the Diocese of Oxford has recently advertised.

- **Health and Safety volunteer update**

No one has stepped forward to help with this despite it being advertised by various means. Judith agreed to ask Elaine Shrimpton from Harwell if she would help us with this and then encourage someone from Chilton to assist her.

Action:JR

ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION (Sunday 28th April 2024 at 10.30am after the morning service)

5. 2023 Accounts

Paper C was circulated before the meeting. Stuart reported that the accounts had not yet been examined and he would follow this up with our Independent Examiner, Jane Moreton. Stuart highlighted the main concerns, namely the need to borrow £6,500 from the Legacy fund to balance the General Fund deficit. He also reported that unfortunately we were unable to pay £900 of the Parish Share.

6. 2023 Finance Reports

Paper D (section 5) refers.

Stuart was thanked for all his hard work in producing the reports.

The Accounts and Finance reports for 2023 were approved unanimously.

7. 2023 Fabric Report

Paper D (section 6) refers. Judith produced this report on behalf of the Fabric Committee.

Hazel thanked the Fabric Committee for all their hard work and Judith for leading the group and producing the reports.

The Fabric report for 2023 was approved unanimously.

8. Safeguarding Report 2023

The PCC would like to thank Judy Gold and Sue Greatbanks for producing the report.

Naomi reported that all the PCC had carried out Safeguarding training apart from one who was hoping to complete the second module before the APCM.

The Safeguarding report for 2023 was approved unanimously.

9. Presentation of the Logbook, Terrier & Inventory

The Churchwardens confirmed that the Logbook was the Fabric Snapshot prepared for each PCC meeting and filed for reference. The Terrier was kept in the church safe and will be available at APCM, along with the Inventory which is updated annually.

10. 2023 Annual Report

The Benefice part (sections 1-4) was approved in principle at the Combined meeting.

Parish Specific sections 5-6 & appendices were approved.

It was unanimously agreed to approve the annual report 2023.

Debra Dewhurst has kindly agreed to format the report for circulation to the parishes before the APCM. The report will be uploaded to the website and hard copies will be available in the church. The chair thanked Naomi for producing the report.

11. Annual Meeting Agenda & Minutes of 2023 meeting

The agenda for 2024 and 2023 minutes were approved unanimously apart from one abstention as Sasha was not present last year.

There may be an additional item on the agenda about the All Saints' Group, Hazel agreed to ask Judy Goodall if she was prepared to do a short presentation. ***Action:HB***

PCC membership was discussed. Debra Dewhurst, Steve Hale and Liz Morris are at the end of their two year term. Debra and Liz agreed to stand again. Steve is still considering whether he wants to stand again. We also have a three year vacancy as we are allowed nine members.

There are vacancies for two members of the Deanery Synod. The PCC were encouraged to prayerfully consider who may like to stand for this and the PCC role and to ask them.

Judith and Alex are willing to stand another year as churchwarden.

12. Finance report including 2024 budget

Paper H refers. Stuart explained that the budget for 2024 is currently running at a deficit of £6,700 which includes the General Fund shortfall from last year. Stuart is investigating the amount that All Saints' has been allocated for the Parish Share this year as it is higher than quoted. He will contact Andy Lord, Area Dean.

Action:SG

A figure has been added for the Joint part of the budget with Harwell but the Finance Committees have not met to confirm this. Stuart will update the PCC when these figures have been finalised and ask for approval of the 2024 budget at this stage.

Action:SG

- **Review of fees for organist and bellringing.**

Stuart proposed that the fees for the organist (£80 for organist and £20 for church) and the bellringing fees (£25 per rope and £25 for the bellringing fund) should stay the same for 2024. This was in line with neighbouring counties' charges.

Pam mentioned that the choir charges £50 to sing at services if requested and this charge would also stay the same.

This was agreed unanimously.

13. Fabric Report

Paper I refers.

Judith Russell circulated the paper before the meeting. She confirmed that the cost of the guttering work was in the region of £3,000.

John reported that the clock automatic winding mechanism seemed to react to changing weather conditions and was adjusting it regularly at the moment.

Judith is working through the items of the last Quinquennial report and would value extra help from the congregation.

14. Future Dates

These were noted. Pam reminded the PCC of the Good Friday service at 9.30am on Friday 29th March and the Easter Vigil on Saturday 30th March at 8pm.

15. Any other business

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed in prayer led by Pam at 9pm.

Naomi Gibson
PCC Secretary

Signed by

Date