

CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, ABINGTON
MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th September 2023 AT 7.45PM PARISH
ROOMS

PRESENT: Bob Purser (Chair), Rev Tracy Pegram, Prester Coleman, Sue Harrison, Liz Kelly, Cathy Tinsley, Susie McKay, John Wishart, Jim Mercer, Esme Cushing, Donald Loe, Lizzie Loe, Damian Pickard, Dianne Ward, Alison Barnes, Jane Evans, Melissa Tallack (minutes).

42/23 OPENING PRAYERS AND DEVOTION

The meeting opened in prayer.

43/23 APOLOGIES:

Chris Waters, Douglas Rutherford, Rev Jun, Andrew Munns, Matthew George

44/23 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Bob read out the names of people who have recently joined our congregation and we discussed how we can make an extra special effort to make them feel welcome.

45/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th July 2023

Approved subject to correction to the numbering.

46/23 MATTERS ARISING

The AV team is expanding which gives us a team of about 5.

Joseph will join the Altar server team.

47/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The marathon was very disruptive and we will seek the opportunity to input into next year's planning.

Baby Loss Awareness week – 9-15th October. We are hosting a service for bereaved families on the evening of the 15th October. There are also plans to make approximately 500 more (smaller, white) hearts available and we will dedicate a section of railings to baby loss.

Northampton Women in Fellowship – will be holding a service at Pentecost (22nd May)

Street Pastors, Northampton – we would also like to invite them to hold a service.

48/23 SAFEGUARDING

About 6 members of the PCC still need to complete the DBS check.

No safeguarding issues have been raised.

49/23 TREASURERS REPORT

Income is currently approximately £104,000 and expenses £101,000.

Generally our costs are tracking where we expect them to be and electricity is still the biggest cost for the rooms.

We have a number of large expenses coming up, which are all planned items.

We are still expecting a deficit of £4,000-5,000 at year end.

Some areas of expenditure are coming in under budget which is helping to offset any deficit.

We now have a quote for £5,100 to make the rooms thermally efficient which will help to reduce the ongoing energy cost for the rooms.

The balance sheet remains stable.

Tim Dolan had the organ repairers out recently and a more substantial repair will need to be done soon. We have 10 years before we need to undertake a major overhaul which could cost up to £100,000.

We received a number of legacies last year which has helped our reserve position and Suzy proposed we take an amount of this (£10,000) to start a designated (not restricted) organ repair fund and this was universally supported. Tracy suggested using the 800 year celebrations as a means to raise specific funds which was agreed as a good idea. We will also look into securing some grant funding to help with the costs.

50/23 REVIEW OF LAST THREE MONTHS

We really enjoyed the Charterhouse visit and would like to arrange to go back next year.

Ribbons of Prayer – we can't believe how many ribbons there are. The Archdeacon was very taken with the ribbons when he visited and how sincere the prayers were on the hearts. We need to think about what happens with all the ribbons and hearts and whether we take them down at some point to prevent them from becoming too tatty. We discussed an appropriate time to this might be Lent and we also discussed that it might be nice to allow people to retrieve the hearts they wrote their prayers on. To be discussed with Jun.

Family Fun Day – was very well attended and is a great opportunity to interact with members of the community.

51/23 WORSHIP PLANNING

- Harvest Festival: Sunday 1 October (All-Age), followed by Harvest Lunch – need to prompt people to sign up this Sunday so that we know numbers for catering.
- October Music Recital: Sunday 8 October at 3 pm
- Commemoration of All Souls: Sunday 5 November 4 pm
- Remembrance Sunday: 12 November with St. Christopher's
- Deanery Confirmation: Sunday 26 November at 3 pm at Christ Church
- Carol Service: Sunday 17 Dec at 6 pm (need to check time with Jun)
- Christmas Eve: Sunday 24 Dec: 10 am Eucharist, 3 pm Crib service,
- Christmas Midnight Service: 11.30 pm with Park Avenue Methodist
- Christmas Day: Monday 25 Dec 10 am

52/23 ADDITIONAL CHURCHYARD RESOLUTION

The Buildings Committee will propose a resolution at the last Buildings Committee meeting (4th Sept) that if eligible families are not intending to have a memorial plaque, the ashes would be spread around the perimeter of the churchyard or under the east window, which is how it has historically been done. This will be brought as a formal proposal to the PCC at the next meeting.

53/23 DEANERY PLAN

In the last version of the Deanery plan the view was that Abington would work more closely with Christchurch. This is no longer the plan after a revision. The plan now proposes that All Saints will work with Holy Sepulchre and Christchurch will work more closely with St Michaels.

54/23 800 YEAR CELEBRATION

Ideas, volunteers, or suggestions welcomed. Alison suggested a flower festival.

55/23 SELECTING CHARITIES FOR HARVEST AND CHRISTMAS

USPG – Partners in Global Mission has been suggested as the charity for Harvest. Collection will continue throughout October.

Food donations on Harvest Sunday will go to the Foodbank.

Readeasy organisation – teaching reading skills to adults proposed by Damian.
Street Pastors were also suggested.

Christians against poverty was also suggested but agreed might be more suitable for Lent, so we agreed will support two Christmas charities, Readeasy and Street Pastors.

56/23 SIGNBOARD FOR CHURCH ROOMS AND NOTICE BOARD FOR THE CHURCH

Church rooms will be put up on Friday and the centre panel for the Churchyard notice board will also be updated by Friday.

57/23 PLACEMENT FOR JAN JONES (READER CANDIDATE)

Jan will act as supervisor for this reader placement. Please pray for Jan in her placement.

58/23 REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION

Cathy's report will be circulated with the minutes. Cathy will be working to integrate the children into the services a bit more. Cathy asked everyone to pray for how we develop the youth ministry. We have agreed 6th October for bowling night. During half term we will also pack the shoeboxes and make pizzas. Thank you to Cathy for all that you do.

59/23 REPORT ON ANNA CHAPLAIN

Abington Park View has been sold to new owners and we hope to be able to continue the good relationship we have built up. Please pray for the home as it transitions to new ownership. We are holding a messy vintage in the next couple of weeks. Liz is also leading a bible study group at St Christophers which is 18-strong (a very large group!).

60/23 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings - The lighting work in the church will be complete by Christmas, the Robinia tree needs to come down soon, the church path is still work in progress and the last three new tables in the rooms have been delivered. The garage doors have now been replaced and the table store and lobby has been decorated. The ladies toilet will also be decorated. Thank you to Donald and the Buildings Committee for all their work.

Discipleship - We are in the second week of the studies in Acts and 32 people have signed up.

61/23 AOB

None

62/23 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Lunch: 1st October after the service

Antiques Fair: 7th October and 4th November

October Music Recital: 8 October at 3 pm

Commemoration of All Souls: 5 November 4 pm

Quiz Night: Friday 17 November – hot meal and raffle

Deanery Confirmation: Sunday 26 November at 3 pm at Christ Church

Reverse Advent Calendar for Baby Basics: from the 1st Sunday of Advent, 3 December

Carol Service: Sunday 17 Dec at 7.30 pm

Crib Service: Sunday 24 Dec, 3 pm

Christmas Midnight Service: 11.30 pm with Park Avenue Methodist

Christmas Day: Monday 25 Dec 10 am

63/23 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2023

Next PCC meetings: 29 Nov (all Wednesday at 7.45pm)

APCM 2023: 23 April

Standing Committee: 8 Nov (all Wednesday at 7.45pm)

THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE