

**The parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and
St Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey**

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING
21st September 2023**

1. OPENING PRAYERS AT 7.30 PM:

2. APOLOGIES:

Jack Knightly
Barry Newport
Jill Hosford

PRESENT: Dawn Hamilton (DH) Roy White (RW) Tim Stephens (TS) Mike Limb (ML) Roy Pitchford (RP)
Sue Nichols (SN) Peter Chesterman (PC) Michael Codner (MC) Sharon Alexander (SA) Matthew Percy (MP)
Mark Alexander (MA) Shirley Codner (SAC)

VISITORS PRESENT:

Simon Merritt (Good stewards Trust input)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:
NONE

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PCC MEETING 15TH JUNE 2023 :
Proposed RP, Seconded MC, CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING:
NONE

6. SAFEGUARDING, HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE:

TS Reported that the ladder to the bell tower is not in a safe condition and needs to be replaced. TS was asked to price and take the lead with this, being qualified to both climb and work at heights MC will assist when nec.

SC advised that all PCC members must have current DBS checks in place and complete 2 levels of safeguarding training and Domestic violence awareness training all of which are online. SC will contact those who need to update and offer assistance if needed with training.

7. FAITH IN THE FUTURE.

GH running a 3-part course at 5pm on the 1st Sunday in Sept, Oct and Nov at 5pm service and repeating on following Friday in the church room each month.

7.1 General Synod update form July:

Prayers of Love and Faith, GH reports:
Little or no progress.
No guidelines published yet.
No obvious pastoral reassurance or guidance.
Key House of Bishops meeting on 9 October.

8. BISHOPS LETTER /RESPONSE:

All PCC members have read Bishops response.

GH suggests little benefit in replying until after November.

POINTS RAISED:

There will not be a new Bishop until Sept 2024

PPT is a NET giver- Common Fund is calculated per head in the congregation. At this point we have paid enough to cover cost of clergy etc and Hennock pays £9,000.

TS reflected that it was a difficult decision to pay less than required but this was necessary in order to pay Children's work and Youth work.

DH commented that the Bishop's reply lists the things we have not paid but does not comment on what has been paid.

PPT has had no visit as part of negotiation or in response to communication.

DH wrote to the Archdeacon and received no reply.

MA said that from a legal point the Common Fund is voluntary and that the Bishop makes no reference to this point in his letter.

RP commented that they do not seem to grasp the seriousness of this issue which is that "Biblical truth is Being diluted".

It was agreed that there is no urgency for us to respond.

8.1 GOOD STEWARDSHIP TRUST

Simon Merritt spoke on behalf of himself and Jack Knightly who have joined representatives of other Devon Churches in consultation around setting up a Good Stewards Trust. Aim: to enable churches to have some control over how donated funds are spent. Due to the present climate within the Anglican Church these churches are seeking to ensure that money given is spent in line with Orthodox Biblical Teaching.

A National Good stewardship Trust is being set up by CEEC.

MP commented that it would be better to join something Regional rather than National.

The Trust would have Charitable status and be run by board of Trustees.

This is still at consultation stage and Simon and Jack would welcome any further questions and will keep GH and the PCC informed.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT:

RP reports accounts up to date as of 31/08/2023.

Record thanks to Claire Lillington for her on going help and to RP for persevering with the task of streamlining and producing the latest accounts. Claire is still able to view our accounts as examiner.

Specific gifts will be allocated to funds either general or designated, which can be changed and over which PCC have control.

Restricted gifts are designated by the donor and cannot be changed.

Paused CF monies are being put into a separate savings account, from which we can pay when the time is right to do so.

RP has moved £78,000 into a savings account with interest rate of 3.4%

RP to check internet rates and also research "Kingdom Bank".

RP has changed signatories at Lloyds bank to add Wardens and remove historic signatories. Wardens need to present at Bank with ID to complete the process.

PCC had no further questions regarding 2023 budget.

2024 budget to be modelled on 2023 and presented at November PCC meeting.

10. FABRIC UPDATE:

PCC wish to record thanks to David Horton for his continued commitment to the fabric of our church and church rooms.

- Organ platform now in place to enable Mike Wigney to play the organ .Mike will play for the first time at our Harvest Service .
- Shelves in the kitchen for recycling and also to store the coffee flasks
- Safety gate on kitchen to help keep our children safe .

10.1 GLASS DOOR PROJECT: We are now ready to ask for tenders for review and update at November PCC meeting.

10.2 DEFIBRILLATOR:

Proposal for Defibrillator at church rooms from Katie Law.

Public access Defibrillator.

Various charities helping with funding at the moment alongside advice from British Heart Foundation. Robert and Katie Law to continue to research our options and apply for funding. Robert and Katie to keep PCC informed.

10.3 SOUND SYSTEM REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT.

Standing committee recommendation: 2 new microphones , repair of hearing loop and investigation into buzzing speaker to be carried out by ASCL.

MP and SA voiced concerns at cost of this, PC highlighted the need for 2 microphones.

GH proposed using ASCL as they installed and know the system.

Carried by majority (2 abstentions)

10.1.3 CHURCH LAWN STORAGE

MC explained the project and estimated cost of £1500.

To replace storage broken storage boxes with a shed which will house the marquee as well as the outdoor childrens and youth equipment.

All in favour. MC to lead project.

9.1.4 LIGHTING AND ELECTRICS SCHEME

Neil Blake to visit and demonstrate system and answer questions 30th September 7pm

ML to confirm.

9.1.5 BOILERS

Church room gas boiler has been serviced.

Church Oil boiler service to be rebooked.

Electrics in the church boiler room are failing intermittently due to damp . Quote to rewire and make safe boiler room from Brights Electricians £500.00 approx..

MC monitoring oil in tank and will order when needed.

9.1.6 ENERGY AUDIT UPDATE.

Energy Audit has been carried out.

Building measured, utility bills reviewed. Under pew heating advised and radiant heat panels in smaller areas such as organ space, children's corner, and lady chapel.

Report to be sent to PCC and reviewed by working party and fed back to PCC.

11.CHILDREN AND COMMUNION.

Preparation group for children first of 3 monthly sessions held in September attended by 12 children. GH leading these sessions using adapted material by Nick Harding.
First communion for children will be 21st January, the 9.30 am service will use non-alcoholic wine.

GH to apply for permission from Bishop of Plymouth

11.1 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEWS.

GH reviewing Risk assessment, details sent to PCC.

Gate into kitchen to be labelled 'no access for children U12'.

Fire Drill to be carried out 1st October after Harvest service

12. VICARS REPORT:

- Anne Power would like to see a day of prayer for Ukraine, is writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- We still haven't seen the film made this year at PPT, GH to find out what is happening .
- GH hoping to run marriage course Spring 2024
- GH reported that the David Jagg concert was a success and well attended.
- Diary dates reviewed.

13. Next PCC Meeting Thu 30th November 2023.