

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

MINUTES OF PCC MEETING 21st NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Greg Wilgar-jones. Rosie Stephens (visitor). Steve Matheson. Roy Pitchford. Jack Knightly. Jill Hosford. Karen Chesterman. Peter Chesterman. Roy White. Katie Law. Dawn Hamilton. Matthew Percy. Mike Limb. Sharon Alexander. Mark Alexander. John Bealey (visitor). Graham Hamilton. Michael Codner. Shirley Codner.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Graham opened in prayer with a reading from Psalm 33.

2. **Apologies:** Tim Stephens

3. **Declaration of conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda:** NONE

4. **Report from Mrs Rosie Stephens, Family Worker.** Rosie gave a presentation, outlining her work as Family Worker for PPT, including the groups that she runs or supports both at PPT and in the community. Rosie is encouraged by the numbers of families that attend the different groups and events and the many committed volunteers that support her on a regular or ad hoc basis. The Sunday club at PPT has around 40 children representing 30 plus families on register although obviously not all attend each week. *Friday Friends* Toddler Group also has around 25 families on register. These are our regular 'in church ministries' with around 20 volunteers involved. Other events in the Town and Church include, Explosion Club, Spree summer camp, Easter trail, Light party, Various School and Nursery visits.

5. **Minutes of previous PCC meeting 19 September 2024 & Standing Committee.** All in order no corrections, Proposed Peter Chesterman. Seconded Roy White.

6. **Matters arising:** None

7. **Safeguarding, Health & Safety Update:** Tim had emailed his Safeguarding update, reporting that safeguarding matters were all in order with almost all our workforce, both volunteer and employed were up to date with training and certification. Again, highlighting that all members of the PCC as well as volunteers must have appropriate DBS checks and regular training. The matter of the cobbled path leading up to the South Door of the church was again raised as a Health and Safety Issue, It was agreed that on days when the path was assessed as particularly slippery the gate would be locked and access gained via the memorial garden and path to the tower. Graham and the Wardens to assess and action this when necessary.

8. **Vicar's report:** Graham commented on the success of the Light Party, Remembrance Service and Harvest, and an Army Cadet Camp with 180 Cadets attending, Graham was able to speak to many and hand out Gospels. There are four new Preachers in training at present which is encouraging and will be of benefit to all of our PPT congregations. Graham will be running an evangelistic course of some kind in the new year and looking at confirmation preparation in the spring.

Graham highlighted the changing National situation with the Makin Report and resignation of Justin Welby and possibly other bishops to follow, which may slow down the PLF process. Significant dates are General Synod 10 -14 Feb 2025 (London), 11 – 15 July 2025 (York) Exeter Diocese Synod 22nd March 2025. With so many uncertainties Graham encouraged us to be vigilant and above all prayerful in the coming year.

9. Review of Ephesian Fund: Graham apologised that the PCC decision on Sept 19th had not been enacted as expected. Standing Committee had reviewed the feedback from the Congregational meeting, and consulted with the Diocese and Ephesian Fund organisation. SC felt we needed to respect the consciences of all congregation members, and proposed that the PCC should set up a second bank account to enable those concerned to use the Ephesian Fund route for paying Common Fund.

Graham proposed use of a second account to enable people to choose how to give ,this was seconded by Michael Codner. At vote 9 in favour 6 against and 1 abstained(Dawn Hamilton and Jack Knightly wish to be noted as against)

Graham will continue with work on Giving leaflet to be distributed in due course, Greg would like also to produce a board or display for the church outlining or income and expenses in a way that is easy for the wider congregation to understand and engage with.

10. Treasurer's Report:Roy had previously circulated his report .

Roy noted that we need to take a look at our spending along side the fluctuating level of regular income . It was commented that giving may increase as people understand how their giving is used and that inevitably the state and condition of the Church of England is having and will have a financial effect on the church. Michael Codner commented that we should be prayerfully and responsibly be spending what we have to do Gods work.

10.1. Draft Budget for 2025: This was circulated and discussed alongside the treasurers report .

10.2. Fees for 2025 :This was circulated for information and agreed by those present.

11. Fabric matters: lighting progress: The lighting project is in process and will be completed after Christmas. Graham liaising with engineers on a weekly basis to enable midweek events as necessary and regular Sunday services.

11.1. Heating situation: discussion of options:The oil boiler is definitely on its way out, we do not expect that the Diocese will allow us to replace it with another oil boiler, so other options must be considered, in the light of the recent energy audit report . A working party was formed for this project ,this will be headed up by Jill Hosford with Mike limb, Peter Chesterman and Michael Codner. Jill will aim to have estimates and options for the January PCC meeting.

11.2. Bell tower update.We are waiting for a second assessment and estimate regarding necessary works to the tower and bell frame. It was noted that this will not be a quick or inexpensive project and it is important to research and confirm details as we go along . We are aware that there are various grants and ways of fund raising for this project .

11.3. Quinquennial work list update- see pricing quotation this was circulated for approval. Shirley to liaise with builders to compete the final initial stage works from the report and then produce the next schedule of works to be progressed as per the recommendations the Quinquennial report

12. Dates for next meeting: 23 Jan, 20 March, APCM Sat 10 May

13. Closing Prayers