

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

MINUTES OF PCC MEETING 23rd JANUARY 2025

PRESENT: Greg Wilgar-Jones... Roy Pitchford. Jack Knightly. Jill Hosford. Karen Chesterman. Peter Chesterman. Roy White. Katie Law. Dawn Hamilton. Mike Limb. Sharon Alexander. Mark Alexander. Graham Hamilton. Michael Codner. Shirley Codner. Tim Stephens.

ONLINE: Steve Matheson, Matthew Percy.

1. Opening Prayer: GH opened in prayer with a reading from Isaiah 9

2. Apologies: None

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

4. Minutes of previous PCC meeting 21 November 2024 & Standing Committee 9 Jan 2025

Budget proposed by JH, seconded by TS: 1 abstention all others in favour

5. Matters arising: none

6. Safeguarding, Health & Safety Update: TS (safeguarding officer) reported that the Diocese safeguarding teams are being swamped with DBS requests and checks and concerns following recent events within the Anglican Church. TS reported that we have not seen such an increase which is a good sign for our safeguarding system at PPT. Most DBS checks are complete and reading a green light on the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard, with the next cohort who will be ready to recheck and complete training shortly.

JH asked if there are those on the PCC or in post without the relevant level of check. GH agreed to check this and address any issues before the next PCC meeting

MA asked how one would know if a check is needed, SC (safeguarding admin) informed us that emails are sent when updates are necessary.

Concerns around bell tower inclusive access and safeguarding. This is a work in progress. GH and Warden with TS to advise will meet with tower captain and ringers to progress planning and risk assessment.

7. Vicar's report: GH reported that his health remains good, though energy limited. 3 monthly oncology check due 27/01/2025. There are Baptism preparation, Marriage preparation and Simply Christianity courses running at the moment. GH plans to run the **walking the way** Discipleship course in March, leading to a confirmation service in the summer.

Outreach plans for 2025: Fr Matthew Cashmore, vicar of St John's, supports a plan for joint door to door visiting on the new Longstone Cross estate (which is in his parish). GH would like to host an evening with James Carey at PPT later in the year (possible costs from Outreach budget)

David Robinson who has moved here from Oxford will be preaching on 16th February at 9.30 and 11.00 am. Graham is hoping to support him as he seeks approval for licence in March.

OTHER DATES

National Synod 10 – 14 Feb, Exeter Diocese Synod 22nd March, General Synod York 11 – 15th July

The process of selecting a new Archbishop of Canterbury has begun and will last until the autumn. The Prayers of Love & Faith project is delayed until early 2026. A new electoral roll will be created in March

8. Treasurer's Report: RP presented the accounts for 2024, subject to review by Mrs Clare Lillington, our independent examiner. RP re-affirmed that monies in RESTRICTED accounts cannot be changed while those in DESIGNATED accounts can be changed with PCC approval.

Our deficit is considerable. Our outgoings are also considerable which is because we are 'fixing' our old church and its aging systems.

8.1. Approval of 2024 accounts (subject to examiner's report)

PROP - RP, 2ND - JK 1 abstention all others in favour

8.2. Approval of 2025 budget

RP presented the budget for 2025, which forecasts a deficit of £15,000 after the outstanding bills for the lighting project. There was discussion regarding decision to facilitate donations toward refreshments, while there are many and diverse opinions GH ended discussion outlining that donations are welcome but no one will be required to pay for refreshments except when specific catering is involved i.e a prepared meal or pre planned social event.

MA expressed the opinion that we should not pay common fund considering the bishops' decisions. JK reminded us that we should be paying our costs (as we are) JH said that the diocese pays for a lot that we do benefit from, particularly training and DBS support.

SM commented that there are areas where we can tighten up and we should address those primarily as a PCC and Church community.

In summary we need to encourage a 10.9% rise in regular giving, whilst encouraging to give appropriately in their individual situations.

GH thanked RP and SM for their hard work in refining the budget through several iterations.

Budget proposed by RP, seconded by JK: 1 abstention all others in favour

9. Fabric matters:

Lighting project progress. The lighting instalment is complete and Neil Blake will streamline the settings and provide some coaching for those who operate the system on a regular basis.

9.1 Heating proposal. (JH) An electrical system is now our only option for heating, as we will not be granted a faculty to replace the boiler, under new 'Net Zero' rules.

Propose installing under-pew heaters and infrared panels in a 2 phase project , phase 1 being under pew heating which can be authorised by the Archdeacon, phase 2 being i radiant heaters which would require a full faculty. JH is collecting quotations from suppliers and is in dialogue with the diocese.

In discussion it was clarified that the existing oil boiler can still be used, serviced and repaired, but not replaced..

PROPOSE. Principal of under pew heating. Proposed MA 2nd JH (3 abstained) all others in favour

Give to Go Green initiative. is a national church scheme for match funding up to £10,000 if our application is successful. This fund raising would require a specific work party and a digital fund raising initiative .

PROPOSE. Applying for this funding initiative . Proposed GH, seconded by RP. 3 abstained, 1 against, all others in favour

10. Outward Giving Proposal for 2025

KL had researched the 12 proposed recipients of regular outward giving and questioned the lack of clarity about the use of funds by Choices Pregnancy Crisis. TS to research further .

GH proposed list for 2025(with update on Choiceces pregnancy Crisis), seconded by JK: 1 abstained, all others in favour

11. Dates for next meeting: 13 March (nb change), APCM Sat 10 May

GH closed in prayer 8.45 pm.