

## Parochial Church Council Meeting

Thursday 24th July, Church Room.

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Present:**-Graham Hamilton, Dawn Hamilton, Greg Wilgar-Jones, Annie Cook, Mark Alexander, Sally Simmons, Susie Beauchamp, Roy White, Peter Chesterman, Karen Chesterman, Jack Knightly, Simon Merritt, Roy Pitchford, Steve Matheson, Mathew Percy, Katie Law.  
**Apologies:**- Shirley Codner, Michael Codner, Andrew Barnes.
3. **Declaration of conflict of interests** - none.
4. **Minutes of PCC Meeting. 22/5.** No corrections. Proposed: JK. All in favour. Standing Committee Meeting - no questions.
5. **Matters Arising:** None
6. **Vicar's report.**

Tony Sammons funeral and memorial service anticipated 12th Aug. Because he was a long-standing member of the church there is no charge for some elements. However a volunteer group is needed to do refreshments, names to Graham or Shirley.

VJ Day. 25 Aug. Act of Memorial at 12 noon by the War Memorial. David Robinson (Licensed lay minister) to conduct; not expecting large nos.

Use of the church rooms:Ballet classes in Church room now clash with the Wise Guys(11-14yrs) youth group on Monday evenings so have been given notice for Mondays. So they they can continue to hold ballet classes on Thursdays the PCC meetings will be moved to Wednesday evenings in future.Tuesdays will now be used by Explosion club (5-11yrs) from 5.30-7.15pm, New Century Singers 7.15pm onwards.

General Synod.GH distributed a summary of the recent General Synod meeting prepared by Rev. Michael Hayden. Synod discussion was dominated by finances, with 2/3 dioceses reported to be in deficit; resulting in selling vicarages and reducing numbers of ministers. Following debate it was agreed that Church Commissioners continue to distribute funds via grants but with certain restrictions to ensure the money goes to parishes in greatest need.Clergy stipends to increase and pensions restored to previous levels from 2011.*Issues in Human Sexuality* has been removed from the vocations process and replaced with ordinands being required to abide by the *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy*.The PLF process has not progressed. The lead bishop on the working group resigned so no proposals were tabled at Synod. Some dioceses have held discussions on the topic and GH showed us word clouds to demonstrate the strength of feeling amongst those involved: most common word appeared to be 'divisive'. We at PPT have lost two families because of this issue and the Bishop of Exeter strongly supports the introduction of PLF. For detail of further Synod discussions see Graham's handout.

GH urged us to take a moment to step back and review the past 5 yrs since lockdown. In our church much is now improving with an expanded congregation and the only leftover from Covid days is the use of small cups in communion, of which the Bishop of Plymouth is aware and accepts. Currently we have more youth attending our youth groups and church than any other local church.

GH has had a recent health-scan following treatment for lymphoma and happily the results are clear, though not surprisingly he still gets more tired than before (and should still be

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taking things at a slower pace!). In terms of future planning GH is allowed to retire at 68 which gives the church 5 years to consider what might happen next.

### 7. Safeguarding

**We were reminded that all issues discussed under this heading are confidential and should not be raised outside this meeting.** Two issues were raised, for information only, with no names mentioned.

Nationally the Safeguarding Handbook has been replaced with a Safeguarding e-manual, a national redress scheme for survivors has been put in place and independent scrutiny will be established. Locally GH is temporary Parish Safeguarding Officer until a replacement has been selected. GH commented that although safeguarding issues had taken up much of his time in recent weeks he was left with an increased respect for the diocesan safeguarding team.

### 8. Health + Safety Update.

One faint with minor injuries during a service.  
One issue of bellringers ringing without a stay.

### 9. LLF + Alliance Proposal

The PLF are not for "weddings".

Alliance want parishes to decide what to do as protest against LLF. GH feels we have already done what they have suggested:

- alternative spiritual oversight
- reroute diocesan funds through Ephesian Fund

It is also suggested the PCC write a "stiff letter" to Bishop in November. GH will forward to PCC members the Alliance pack to consider. Nothing for us to decide at this stage.

### 10. Treasurers Report (see separate)

Income improved, in large part due to gift aid and also the recent heating project. Anticipating an extra £5K + £10K match for the heating. Now can definitely afford the first phase of the heating project with surplus going towards the second phase. Good position to be in, expect budget surplus by year end.

### 11. Fabric

Quinquennial repairs to windows in church completed.

Tower and bells issue:

KL had provided a summary of the two tower surveys (see attached). In short the tower is being damaged by the rusting steel girders that support the bell frame and are embedded in the walls of the tower. The issue before the PCC was not one of costs or deciding which quotation to progress but more about what the minimum requirement is, that is what work HAS to be done and funded by the church (removal of bells and clock and repair of tower walls) and the time scale necessary and then whether additional work is wanted to reinstate the bells. It was agreed (by all) this needs a working group to consider the whole project, apply for necessary faculty and then ultimately to initiate fundraising. It was noted that Mike Wigney, current tower captain, is enthusiastic and knowledgeable in this field and that another

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parishioner is both a structural engineer and a bellringer so might also be useful on this group. People interested in joining the working group to speak with GH.

Ringing Hatch : papers prepared by Michael Codner.

Project to consider providing access for MW to ringing chamber using hatch, winch and bosuns chair. It does not need a formal faculty process. Questions were raised on noise, training, annual service costs, safety rules and designated responsibility. SM asked what alternatives had been considered that might incur similar costs, such as a stairlift. It was noted that MC with others has considered and rejected options of stairlift and ringing from the ground floor, and that any solution entailed working at height and therefore carried risk. Some PCC members were unhappy with the level of risk and who would own that risk. The necessity of the project was questioned as to whether it was imperative for MW to access ringing or perhaps should be agreed that some things are not achievable. It was acknowledged that MC has put in a lot of work and research on the project but felt that there were more questions to be answered before making a decision. This was deferred to next PCC meeting which will need additional information on risk, whether insurers approve and will cover and detail on the questions raised above.

### 12. Youth work

Explosion Club (5- 11) Currently run by Rosie at Baptist Church. To move to PPT church rooms from September.

Wise Guys (11-14) Shirley, Michael + helpers, Jess, Eli, Naomi and Aaron. Monday evenings in the church rooms.

Lodges (14-18) Currently alternate Sunday evenings. Proposal to move to Saturday evenings monthly, to alternate with Rora and Baptist church. Needs more helpers.

Working group to discuss new youth worker needs: so far have exchanged emails and have physical meeting planned for September with the aim of bringing a proposal to PCC at November meeting. If approved could advertise in November to recruit for next Spring.

### 13. Outreach

Working group is JK, AC, GWJ. We have a window of opportunity with what looks like a quiet revival occurring nationwide. In July [five churches baptised 92 people on Bournemouth beach](#). Our primary function is proclaiming Gospel!

Prayer Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement, described as Justin Welby's greatest legacy. It invites people to pray, from Ascension to Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus. In light of this next year the Ascension service will be held at PPT, not Hennock.

National Week of Prayer 6 - 14 September. Discussed options for marking this week: prayer themes, 24 hour prayer vigil, fasting, doorstep prayers. Ideas to Graham asap.

Friday 3rd October: James Cary "God, the Bible and Everything". Tickets cost £7.50, available from Camilla or on EventBrite. Following this GH would like to run The Bible Course. This will be used for the 14-18 group but GH wishes to introduce it to the wider congregation. Possibilities discussed were Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons or evenings, or in small groups. GH invited prayerful feedback.

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Bibles: Should we be handing them out? We noted mixed reactions to when Baptist church did this and considered whether we could improve on the idea. If we buy 40 Bibles for this purpose they could cost just £2 each. We were urged to consider local providers if we go down this route.

Evangelism Conference: Wednesday 15 October @ St. Leonards, Exeter.

14. **Church Diary**. July-December events noted. 2026 plan drafted.

15. **Next PCC meeting**: Wednesday 24th September 2025

16. **Closing prayers**: The meeting ended at 21.40.