



**St George's Church Wash Common
PCC Meeting 21 November 2023 MINUTES**

The following documents were circulated before the meeting:

- PCC Draft Minutes for the meeting on 26th September 17th October for approval (item 3)
- Finance update end October 2023 and Budget Presentation for 2024 (item 7)
- PCC Summary of Actions November 2023
- Prayer Ministry on Sundays Policy
- St George's Policy Review Schedule

St George's Vision Statement

At St George's Church we are called by God and inspired by Jesus to encourage and equip one another to grow in faith and love, serving the community of Wash Common, reaching out to all people, especially those in need, and being good and faithful stewards of our gifts and the world's resources.

1.		Opening prayer with a reflection on Psalm 27
2.		<p>1. Apologies for absence: None</p> <p>2. Attendees: Revd Becky Bevan, Chris Foster, Emma Moffatt, Francis Clayton, Henrietta High, Jon Houghton, John Huckle, Kathryn Winrow, Linda Ling, Philip Read, Rita Ball, Robin Clugston, Ronnie Herd, Sarah Pook, Terry Winrow.</p> <p>3. Any Conflicts of Interest? None mentioned.</p>
3.		<p>Minutes of the previous meetings on 26th September and 17th October Extraordinary PCC Meeting.</p> <p>Agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
4.		<p>Progress with agreed Vision Priorities:</p> <p>4.1 Children and Families Worker (KW): St George's advertised for the Children and Families worker role. There were a couple of vague enquiries but no substantive interest. There are a number of similar positions currently being advertised on the Oxford Diocese website, so we will go back out to advertise again in the new year.</p> <p>4.2 Church renovation and maintenance priorities and planning (LL/RB) Lighting project: Since the last meeting, the F&F team have found 6 additional potential suppliers, of which two showed interest and as of the deadline, one further quote was received. The additional quotation received was £24k above the CES quote. LL thanked Bruce for his work in following through and seeing suppliers. F&F recommends proceeding with CES quote as soon as possible, which will entail going to congregation to ask for donations, and other fundraising. The total cost from CES will be over £30k plus VAT (which should be 5%, as a charitable and environmental project). KW queried if we will put in a development fund bid to the Diocese as an application deadline is approaching in January. Other source of possible funding is Greenham Common Trust which Mike M will pursue, with judicious use of retained giving, an appeal to the church congregation and use of reserves as needed.</p> <p>LL confirmed that a full faculty is not needed and can be done under 'List B' as it is a replacement system. Also confirmed that the work would need to be undertaken before Holy week next year to limit the impact on church services.</p> <p>Agreed: after discussion, the PCC unanimously agreed to move ahead with this work through CES with the caveat that the quote be scrutinised to ensure there are no hidden</p>

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		<p>costs and that contingencies are allowed for. PR commented that the congregation should be made aware of full amount needed.</p> <p>Action points: quote to be scrutinised and if all ok CES commissioned; List B faculty to be applied for; congregation informed about the project and the total sum we need to raise.</p> <p>Facilities additional update: RB added that work on the copings will be done as soon as possible, and they are waiting for a decent weather slot.</p>
5.		<p>Charitable Giving (BB/JonH) Notification of distribution of previously agreed funds of £4,180 to be donated to other charities for 2023. Given that funds urgently need to be dispersed, Standing Committee acted on behalf of the PCC to send £3135 to Newbury Christians Against Poverty (funded solely by local churches) and £1045 to Christian Aid's emergency appeal for aid to Gaza.</p> <p>There has also been a conversation between FC and PR regarding the calculations for Charitable Giving percentages, taking regular giving, FIT and GSHP. The best way forward is to acknowledge that we need to be generous in what we give away. For the time being PR suggests we move with FC's interpretation. If there is an urgent call during the year, we should have the ability to come to the PCC with that. FC noted that we have eventually found out where the CAP donation is to be sent. BB noted that a new manager for the Newbury branch has just been appointed. BB thanked FC, PR and JonH for their careful work on this area of our giving.</p>
6.		<p>Update on St Michael's Enborne (BB) There is still no decision on the pastoral reorganisation. KW remarked that the accompanying notes that came to the last Bishop's council suggested there had been a decision but BB confirmed that as yet we haven't even had the orange notices. In discussion with Associate Archdeacon Liz Jackson, BB highlighted that it is agreed that we should act as if we already are one benefice. This is now reflected on the website and a new logo for the benefice. Legally however, St Michael's is still part of the Walbury Beacon Benefice so, for example, we can't submit the parish returns, or change the Church Near You web page. But in the meantime, things are going well. Alex Brown has made a good start in sorting out some of their paperwork and archives relating to the churchyard. John Bolan is churchwarden along with Julian Dickins. Glenn W gave generously of his time to sort out the parish finances so that they can be managed by a freelance bookkeeper Fiona Jones. PR queried who their treasurer is – BB replied that in effect at PCC it is John Bolan, but that Fiona does the accounting and produces the reports. Forest church has flourished with c. 50 people at the outdoor services. BB has a very good relationship with Enborne school.</p>
7.		<p>Finance update, Standing Item (FC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October Finance Update. FC noted that Wings and Wellies paid overdue invoices in October, and confirmed to RC's query that they don't pay by Standing Order. 2. Budget for 2024. FC presented the proposed budget for 2024, which includes a projected aspirational lift in planned giving and income from events to offset rising costs and avoid a negative budget. It was noted that Enborne PCC has agreed to pay for two hours a week of the Benefice Administrator's time (replacing what they have been used to paying to Walbury Beacon Benefice). The Children and Families Worker (from September) and Lighting (£36k) will be the major projects for next year. CF queried if Going Greener Group could have a small budget, and PCC agreed as this is one of our priority areas. Following FC's presentation of the proposed budget, PCC agreed to accept this with the caveat that there needs to be an intentional increase in income, with a clear plan in place. BB thanked FC for his hard work on the budget preparation. 3. Strategic planning to increase income (from the Centre, from planned giving, and from legacies). BB noted successes from the Welcomers and wardens on Sundays to build connections with newcomers and visitors and get contact details. It was noted that we are overdue to promote stewardship and planned giving with the congregation. This is

		<p>now a priority. KW commented that clear graphics for the congregation showing how income is generated and dispersed would be helpful.</p> <p>Income for the Centre was more than budgeted, including an SSE rebate. The budget for next year, includes an additional £7k from additional events. BB noted that if the centre is always booked out, we won't have the use of this resource for the church (e.g. for new events organised by a new Children and Families Worker) and PCC agreed that we need a better understanding of this community resource. RB noted that in the last couple of months, casual lettings are starting to pick up and the hall remains competitive with other self-catering venues.</p> <p>TW has recently reviewed utilisation of the centre: overall on an average week it has 54% occupancy, so there are spaces but they are fairly limited. The LMR is 24% utilised, and there is some scope for increasing utilisation of this. FC requests that we review capability and to utilise as much as we can consistent with our objectives.</p> <p>TW had also explored why the income generated from the feed-in tariff has reduced so much over the past few years. It was confirmed in the meeting that the panels need cleaning and that this could potentially increase output by 25-30%. PCC agreed that getting quotes for cleaning the panels is a priority. John Huckle confirmed he is already on to this.</p> <p>RH remarked that there hasn't been a discussion on legacies, which PCC agreed would be helpful. BB added that good materials are available from the Diocese to encourage congregations to think about legacies.</p> <p>Contactless Giving – it was noted that our device needs to be upgraded and more routinely available for all events and services.</p> <p>Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date to be set for renewal of giving/stewardship/legacies awareness with congregation and electoral roll. FC/Simon Pook • Undertake a strategic review of how to increase income from hirers and St G's use of the hall and annex for mission and outreach. FC/AB and Standing Committee • Solar Panels – quotes for cleaning. F&F Group • Upgrade our contactless giving. JohnH.
8.		<p>Policy Review Schedule (SP/HH) Alex Brown and Mary-Ann F previously did a lot of work gathering policies, and SP and HH have reviewed to group them so that similar policies are reviewed at the PCC together on a regularised cycle. BB noted that policies are being uploaded to the website by Alex Brown and this will help review going forward. PCC agreed the proposed schedule.</p>
9.		<p>Churchwardens' Update (JH, LL)</p> <p>JH has been speaking to contractors to organise cleaning of solar panels, aiming for early in the New Year.</p> <p>There is currently an issue with the Ground Source Heat Pump – this is being addressed and the contractor is booked to visit. F&F have discussed looking for an alternative maintenance company depending on not being locked into the Nichols contract.</p> <p>LL and JH have started looking at creating a 'Friends of St Georges', to reach out to people who wish to be more involved in supporting St George's without necessarily wanting to be part of the worshipping life of the church. LL is hoping to bring a plan to PCC in January. BB thanked churchwardens for all of their work.</p>
10.		<p>Safeguarding Standing Item (BB for KW) There was an announcement on Sunday to congregation of Alison Gill taking on the Safeguarding Officer role as previously agreed by the PCC.</p>
11.		<p>Health and Safety Standing Item (LL) Nothing to mention.</p>
12.		<p>Any Other Business: None</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.05pm with the Grace.</p>

13.		<p>PCC Christmas Party Saturday 16th December at 7pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting: 23rd January (Standing Committee 10th January)</p> <p>PCC Dates for 2024</p> <p><u>Standing Committee</u> 6 March, 8 May, 3 July, 4 September, 6 November</p> <p><u>PCC</u> 19 March, APCM 30 April, 21 May, 16 July, 10 September, 19 November</p>
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