



**St George's Church Wash Common
PCC Meeting 23 January 2024 MINUTES**

The following documents were circulated before the meeting:

- PCC Draft Minutes for the meeting on 26th September 17th October for approval (item 3)
- Pastoral Reorganisation Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, Walbury Benefice and Door Notice (Item 6)
- Finance update end December 2023 (item 7)
- PCC Summary of Actions November 2023
- Parish Safeguarding Officer: Handover Summary, January 2024

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 145.
2.		<p>1. Apologies for absence: Chris Foster, Philip Read, John Bolan</p> <p>2. Attendees: Revd Becky Bevan, Emma Moffatt, Francis Clayton, Henrietta High, Jon Houghton, John Huckle, Kathryn Winrow, Linda Ling, 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 meeting on 23rd November 2023.</p> <p>PCC discussed the minutes further to the query raised by Philip Read (via email) and agreed an amendment to 4.2.</p> <p>Further to this, the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
4.		<p>Progress with agreed Vision Priorities:</p> <p>4.1 Children and Families Worker (KW): As previously agreed it was confirmed by KW that we will readvertise this spring and again in September if necessary. John Bolan wondered regarding the Children's Worker role if it might now be a larger role with the new benefice. BB and KW will further discuss this.</p> <p>4.2 Church renovation and maintenance priorities and planning (LL/JohnH/ RB), JohnH reported that as a consequence of storm flooding, the Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) has failed, and despite investigations by an engineer it remains out of action. Further investigations and repairs are needed. The plan is to claim for the associated costs against our insurance. BB thanked JohnH, RB and F&F for their work on this. RB noted that as SMS are starting to work more on GHSP they may be considered to take over the contractor role on this for St. George's.</p> <p>On the Lighting project, RB reported that plans are progressing for work to start on Monday 11th March, with a completion date of Friday 22nd. The Church will be out of action during this period and arrangements are in place for all activities and services to be held elsewhere. It was confirmed that the lighting units are made in this country and are not affected by the current global supply issues. PCC are reassured that actions are occurring as previously discussed, and works will go ahead to that schedule.</p> <p>PR's concerns about the lighting fundraising were read out. In response, LL confirmed that no mention was made of the Greenham matched funding before we were formally notified of this by Mike M (despite the project not appearing on the GCT website at this point). In</p>

		<p>response to PR's concern about the lighting project being pursued in a way that potentially detracts from the bigger renovation project, all accepted that this is a concern, but that we had no choice but to address the lighting given the speed at which the current bulbs are failing. The need for speed on this project was paramount. In response to PR's concern about the envelopes for donations, LL said envelopes for donations for the lighting project had been put out, which are separately noted to be for this project. There have been some donations to the bank account, and the process on these will be clarified. This will be referred to Simon Pook and he will make changes if necessary.</p> <p>KW raised thanks for the effort that has been put into communications and updates on the lighting project. All agreed.</p>
5.		<p>Pastoral Reorganisation final stage of formal process now underway (BB)</p> <p>Notices went up two weeks ago inviting anyone to comment on draft scheme by midnight on Monday 19th Feb 2024. The scheme is on the website, and the link is on the newsletter and announcements have been made in services.</p> <p>JonH noted that synergies between our three parishes will be vital as we move forwards to mitigate increased workload. BB agreed and confirmed that good foundations are being put in place, especially by the work John B and Glenn W have done with Enborne PCC. Also with termly meetings of benefice churchwardens.</p> <p>BB noted that we will need to organise a benefice service of celebration at which clergy (but not retired clergy) will be relicensed to the new benefice. Timing is uncertain, but May might be a good option before BB's sabbatical. RB noted, the measure is subject to Walbury Beacon Benefice also completing the process successfully and without challenge.</p> <p>BB noted that it is good news that the formal process now has an end in sight and PCC received this with positivity.</p>
6.		<p>Finance update, Standing Item (FC)</p> <p>FC discussed the December 2023 Finance update to the end of the year. There were no additional comments.</p> <p>FC provided further detail on the strategic planning to increase income (from the Centre, from planned giving, and from legacies). Simon Pook, PR and FC met recently to discuss giving, on thanking those who give, specific appeals and the main item being the church external renovation. F&F will need to identify a project team, and a fundraiser for the external renovation. There is a need to engage external charities for the church external renovation project.</p> <p>On Planned Giving, they discussed a letter of thanks for those who give and encouraging people to tick the box to agree to inflationary rise. There is a suggestion for a planned giving focus on 21st April (the Patronal Festival). The group will look at new materials to inform and encourage planned giving among the congregation. Sarah P noted that the PGS Sunday should be mentioned in the newsletter following the event, so that non-attendees might be notified. The need to engage new worshippers in all this was identified and discussed. TW noted that the pastoral team keeps a record of new people, and of those who haven't been seen for a while so that someone can contact them. He also highlighted the annual newcomers welcome event. BB noted how good our welcome team is at capturing contact details of new people meaning we have a good database. On legacies, Simon Pook has sourced a CofE leaflet on this, which will be amended for St George's use. LL noted that the APCM offers a good opportunity to highlight how generous giving enables the church to carry out its aims and mission.</p> <p>It was noted that the Church Quiz evening raised £2,275 for church funds.</p>

7.	Policy Review: Finance (FC). Due to time constrains, FC will review and circulate the policy with any suggested changes prior to the March PCC meeting (to be shared in advance with the Agenda).
8.	Churchwardens' Update (JH, LL). JohnH updated on the concertina doors in the North Meeting room, which have been fixed, but that a notice has been displayed to encourage care when opening. LL mentioned the continuing exploratory work into "Friends of St George's", and that at the Quiz night there was some interest expressed.
9.	Safeguarding Standing Item (KW handover). KW's handover summary circulated with the agenda was noted with thanks. PCC was reminded that AG will not be attending PCC on a routine basis but will supply a written safeguarding update with each agenda. JonH noted this is being handed over very efficiently and in a very good state, and that KW has overseen safeguarding during a time when the area had seen a huge amount of change and proliferation of work. KW has achieved a huge amount and we are in a good position. BB proposed that KW be thanked in the main service on 4 February for her 25 years in this role. All agreed.
10.	Health and Safety Standing Item (LL) Nothing new to mention, other than the Sacristy radiator isn't working and is very cold, and damp. EM mentioned injury caused by a section of the hall fridge freezer falling on her. RB confirmed that remedial action to the freezer has happened, and the section is now secure. BB commented that the incident was recorded in the accident book, and thankfully EM escaped without serious injury.
11.	Any Other Business: BB informed the meeting that we have been asked to consider a potential part-time curate (3 days per week for 5-6 years) from St Mary's Thatcham, who is currently in training and due to be ordained this summer. BB and Revd Gary have met with her, and all parties feel this would be a good training post for her. (She did a placement at St John's in the summer so is not unknown to the benefice.) For the process to continue, both PCCs need to be aware of, and approve, the likely cost which is expected to be around £6k per year and to be supportive of this person in training. The proposal is that in the first year (or until the curate passes a driving test) the curate will be mostly based at St John's and therefore most of this cost will initially be borne by St John's. The PCC confirmed its support of this curate joining the benefice for her training. The meeting closed at 9.15pm with the Grace.
12.	Date of Next Meeting: 19th March (Standing Committee 6th March) PCC Dates for the remainder of 2024 <u>Standing Committee:</u> 8 May, 3 July, 4 September, 6 November <u>PCC:</u> APCM 30 April, 21 May, 16 July, 10 September, 19 November

BB

19/3/2024