

# The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Meeting of the PCC held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 beginning at 7.30pm at St John's Church

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## Present:

**The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair**

**The Revd. Julie Howell - (H&S interim)**

**David Oats– Churchwarden**

**Alison Foulkes - Churchwarden**

**Kim Slade – Hon. Treasurer**

**Sam Brown – Hon. Secretary**

## Also in attendance:

Andy Grace (AG), Aeron Slade (AS), Margaret Baker (MB), Jeremy Wright (JPW), Jennifer Wright (JW)

1	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Welcome</b>		
2	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Melanie Brown (MAB), Stephen Kerry (SK), Jennie Marwick-Evans (JME), Andrew Kingston (AK), Ann Dixon (AD)		
3	<b>Correspondence</b> 1) JW and 2) SK – both covered in AOB		
4	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> PCC meeting held 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2022-were approved by unanimous vote by the PCC		
	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes</b> No actions to carry over		
6	<b>Appointing new Officer</b> H&S officer, Revd Gary updated that we have five weeks to find a replacement for Revd Julie. The individual needs to be on the electoral role. Revd Julie updated that the individual needs to report and appear at the PCC. Revd Gary requested we find somebody soon otherwise it will have to revert to the Churchwardens. Revd Julie suggested updating on what is required is important as reporting and information gathering is via PC. Revd Julie updated that the role requires logging risks and working with the Churchwardens.		
	<b>Action: - <u>All PCC</u> to consider candidates (who are on the electoral role) for the post of H&amp;S Officer</b>		
7	<b>Safeguarding Update</b> Revd Gary asked if any issues have been reported or any concerns raised? Not aware of any safeguarding issues. All PCC members now have Basic Safeguarding. Revd Gary requested that all updated are fed through SK. Revd Gary updated that we should have a protocol should a visitor to the church respond in a challenging way. DO updated / reminded that if a priest is not available, we should contact a number on the sheet if a member of the clergy is requested.		
8	<b>H&amp;S Update.</b> Revd Julie advised nothing reported. JPW will snip the shrubs to the left and right of the carpark entrance. DO has noted more people are parking where they should since the lines have been painted which is positive. DO has not fully completed the marking of the carpark area but felt that cleaning the slabs to make them non-slip was the priority, as was the line of sight around the tree at the carpark entrance. The footpath has been well used. DO expects the lines to be painted over the next few weeks. Quote for the lining by an external contractor was £1,380, so far today we have spent just over £200 on materials, so we		

	are making a substantial saving by doing it ourselves. DO updated that the chairs' nylon feet have been replaced with rubber ones as they were slipping, so now the chairs do not slip.		
	<b>Action: - DO – Application of the white lines by the end of August'22 -</b>		
9	<b>GDPR Update.</b> A good response to the request, Online form version is available also. Revd Gary advised now the database can be updated		
10	<b>Deanery Update</b> Deanery Synod meeting recently with updates on Finances and how churches are proceeding after lockdown. AS reported that St Johns are in a good place regarding the digital media offering. The TSA figures submitted through the Benefice, were accepted. DO updated that we had a similar attendance pattern to St Georges.		
11	<b>Financial Report</b> KS updated, thanks for DO and AG for ensuring the bills continued to get paid. Currently got £15k in the main account, end of May dividends paid so looking on track. Still getting room fees and cottage rent income. £4k in i-CAP. British Gas contract has been renewed, DO highlighted the best deal was arranged with British Gas on a 1-year fixed contract. Stewardship renewal date has been arranged. DO updated that the coffee morning raised approx. £200 for essential church running costs and will be doubled when it is paid in through the Good Exchange. PCC passed on thanks to MB for running the event.		
12	<b>Vicar's Report</b> West Berks bookings are increasing, and Revd Gary updated this is positive as we are providing parent / children contact. DO reinforced that it is great that we can offer at short notice an important service. Since the last PCC meeting, we are picking up more of the role of the church we want to be and interaction with social workers and drop ins to the church are increasing. Our presence in the community and at events such as Pride March had very positive feedback. Good interaction with the Mayor for Patronal Festival. We have had book reading and a poetry reading on Friday evenings which went well. The challenge is availability of volunteers to help. To become a volunteer is to participate in the church and open avenues for people. DO updated we are trying to attract the foodbank to the church. DO updated that the Newbury Foodbank is currently delivery only in Newbury and the food would potentially be stored in the cupboard outside the Parish Room. Revd Gary updated they are looking at one or maximum two days a week at St John's. MB observed that Revd Gary should be careful not to overuse his time and the space. DO updated we do want to offer a space to the community. Revd Gary updated it is always a challenge and a balance. JW reminded that it is a very good cause.		
13	<b>Progress Update at St. John's.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nave floor Repairs, no progress. DO will contact the DAC for a specialist contractor</li> <li>• Lady Chapel carpet, in progress</li> <li>• iCAP, the Patronal day went ahead, and it was a nice positive service. There was approx. £43 donated to iCAP. Revd Gary reported that JME will assist with the marketing of the fund raising.</li> <li>• Organ Project Update DO update, that the inspection has taken place and the report is being produced. The organ has been tuned at the same time and is much improved.</li> </ul>		
14	<b>Greening St John's</b> Revd Julie asked for feedback on the report, positively received. JW asked why solar panels were not considered. Revd Julie updated that the DAC are not keen on solar panels (and it's not aesthetically pleasing) and DO stated that the pump technology has overtaken the solar panel in terms of efficiency. JW updated that St Georges panels are south facing and not visible from the road and were done approx. 15 years ago. JW stated that pumps and pipes on ground source pumps take up a lot of room. DO updated that the air source pumps have an ideal location in the area between the back of the Parish Room and the back of the vestry, near to the boiler room where pipes would need to feed in. The next step is to check the underfloor pipes. This will be done when the nave floor repair is investigated. Revd Gary reinforced that the surveyor who wants the best options for the church stated that solar panels are not an option now and		

	would not get through the DAC. Revd Julie updated that if we implement any of the recommendations, we get a £300 grant from the Diocese. Electrician will assess with trial light bulbs in the church, to check if colour and power output is OK before implementing throughout the whole church. Revd Julie will set up a spreadsheet tracking the cost saving of the new bulbs.		
	<b>Action – DO getting a quote for the replacement bulbs</b>		
16	<b>Living in Love and Faith</b> Revd Gary is promoting a progressive and inclusive church, and attendance at this course is encouraged.		
	<b>Action: Revd Gary to table whether we officially register as being an Inclusive Church</b>		
17	<b>St John’s School Connection</b> Revd Gary updated all is going well. It has been a radical year with lots of governance meetings but a positive important link. JW asked if we have governors on both schools. Revd Gary updated there is now just one governing body. Revd Gary updated that the leavers service was less of a leavers service and more of a passage through to St Nicholas School. It maintains a good link through Key Stage 2 with St Nicholas School.		
18	<b>Community spaces / warm living</b> Trying to provide community warm spaces for the winter months. Revd Gary updated there will be a significant challenge this winter. Revd Gary updated he would like to offer the space. JW reinforced that this is a great idea and should be supported. DO updated that the church is heated to a comfortable level during the cold months (16C - 18C) and we don’t think the increased use will make an unacceptable difference to the running costs.		
19	<b>Benefice Expansion update – PCCs expected to review proposals in January 2023.</b>		
20	<b>Any Other Business –</b> JW reviewed the agenda and suggested we discuss material things (which is correct) but we need to think about how we reach out to the community. When we had the Social & Community group, we had lots of ideas. JW feels we are not tackling using the resource we have available in the congregation. Are we reinstating the S&C group? DO agreed that involving the congregation more would be a positive thing. JW updated there were lots of events in the past and DO advised that we need to resurrect the group. Revd Gary agreed suggesting it is called Social and Hospitality Group and try and increase volunteering and participating to help organise trips out. Revd Gary is happy for it to be re-launched in September. Revd Julie suggested launching the idea at the Stewardship Renewal service as giving time and skill is as important as financial giving. SK promoted installing a bike rack, a project that had been put on hold some time ago. DO updated we need to make a planning application and receive planning permission. JW suggested we may need a faculty. MB suggested we may get Green Funding?  Revd Julie updated that she has really enjoyed her time on the PCC and JW updated on our behalf that we had all loved having her here with us. Revd Gary passed on our thanks to Revd Julie for all her help and everything she has done for St Johns. Revd Gary updated that she has been a real asset to our church and the Benefice.		
	<b>Action – Bike Rack to be on Agenda for next PCC Meeting</b>		

**Closing Benediction, the meeting closed at 21:00**

**Dates of next meetings:**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 7pm, Standing / Finance Committee Meeting - Zoom

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm, Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room