

# The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Meeting of the PCC held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 beginning at 7.30pm at St John's Church

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## Present:

**The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair**  
**David Oats– Churchwarden**  
**Alison Foulkes – Churchwarden**  
**Sam Brown – Hon. Secretary**

## Also in attendance:

**Melanie Brown (MAB), Andy Grace (AG), Andrew Kingston (AK), Stephen Kerry (SK),**

1	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Welcome</b>		
2	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Jennie Marwick-Evans (JME), Aeron Slade (AS), Kim Slade (KS), Margaret Baker (MB), Jennifer Wright (JW) Jeremy Wright (JPW)		
3	<b>Correspondence</b> Replacement Lighting (█), Vicars Report (Revd Gary)		
4	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> The previous PCC meeting minutes held 2nd February 2023. Acceptance was proposed by SK and seconded by AG, unanimous approval from the PCC.		
5	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes.</b> No actions to carry over		
6	<b>Safeguarding Update</b> SK updated that he has a 60 min slot at the away morning. No safeguarding issues have been reported. AG updated that the safeguarding course is very varied. Revd Gary updated that having Safeguarding as a regular PCC item is recommended and as such, we are following the guidelines by having a standard slot at each PCC meeting on Safeguarding.		
7	<b>H&amp;S Update</b> Revd Gary fixed the tap, no other H&S issues reported		
9	<b>Deanery Update</b> SK updated from the recent meeting (minutes issued prior to the meeting). Cost of living. 5 churches across the deanery are supporting the cost-of-living crisis. Revd Gary updated we get about 18 attendees at the soup lunch. June Sunday attendance figures are required. <b>Action: DO to source June Sunday attendance figures for the Diocese</b>		
10	<b>Vicar's Report</b> Revd Gary referred to his report issued in advance of the PCC meeting.		

11	<p><b>Financials</b></p> <p>The 2022 accounts are being prepared. We have had the first draft back from the accountants. They will be shared ahead of the special meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April to approve ahead of the APCM.</p> <p>Headline figures are:</p> <p>Income (exc iCAP) - £92,000</p> <p>Outgoings - £99,000</p> <p>Deficit - £7,000</p> <p>Drawdowns - £7,000</p> <p>iCAP raised - £18,000.</p> <p>Investment total (restricted and unrestricted) at year end - £667,000 (This is a decrease of £72,000 from last year).</p> <p>Further information is contained in the covering email issued to the PCC in advance of the meeting</p>	
12	<p><b>Lighting Feedback –</b> ■</p> <p>Concerns over the main lighting with a letter from ■. DO updated lighting is a work in progress. Too much light loss in the loft so the plan is to modify the fitting to generate more downward light giving better light distribution. The bulbs are positioned horizontally not vertically so plan is to have the bulb lower to the diamond and install better reflection. A lighting engineer will be attending soon, and ■ will be invited to meet him. Revd Gary will respond in writing back to ■.</p>	
13	<p><b>Fabric repairs and projects</b></p> <p><b>Boiler and floor repairs</b></p> <p>DO updated that the boiler will be switched on tomorrow. The underfloor pipe is still leaking in three places, a conservation architect suggests that moisture has come in through the back door and released chemicals which has corroded the pipework. MAB asked about the door, DO updated the door needs an improved weather strip. All three pipes have been repaired, switch on tomorrow, the architect thought the pipes are in good condition generally. Recommendation is to persevere with the underfloor heating. DAC have provided the names of consultants to do a survey of the church and look at church and recommend a boiler solution. Lots of advice in the Quinquennial Report and in general the architect was happy with the building. Several things to look at but nothing urgent. Quinquennial is a 5-year inspection from a architect. SK vote of thanks for DO for all the work he does on the boiler. Floor cracks - Architect agrees with the structural engineer. The cracks, have appeared, due to the way the concrete foundation sections, were laid when built, not enough flex in the joint when the building moves, nothing to worry about and it's not going up pillars.</p> <p><b>Organ</b></p> <p>AG updated that we have not started yet. The engineers are very busy but will finalise the details of the first tranche of works. CS update is the plan to start sometime after Easter. £60 from cake sale gratefully received! AF was thanked for her efforts in managing the cake sales.</p> <p><b>iCAP (St John's Accessible Porch Project) Funding</b></p> <p>AK updated that the project has been split in 3 and he is awaiting an updated from the architect for quotes for the first batch of work. AK liaising with PB for advice. The electrics need to be moved for the ramp to be installed. I-Cap – SK updated that we should think about a new name for the project as evidence suggests that the name may be more memorable if changed to something like 'Access for all' DO agreed. AG suggested we need to publicise potentially with a board outside the church. DO reminded that we need to push more fund raising. Give everyone who leaves the church a flyer, AG suggested a leaflet drop. AF said that hopefully, things will snowball when the work starts.</p>	

14	<p><b>Bike racks</b></p> <p>SK updated we have DAC approval, flagstones being sought and then we begin the work. Total costs around £600 + our labour. Revd Gary suggested somebody to install (CP). DO asked SK whether he should now process the two invoices for planning (these have been paid for by SK). MAB asked how they are secured to the ground? SK advised bars in first and the flagstones fit around them.</p>		
15	<p><b>Management of the memorial garden</b></p> <p>Discussion about improving the management of the garden to ensure that relatives visiting can leave flowers appropriately. DO updated on the new plant holders that will be introduced to enable relatives to leave fresh flowers sensitive to other visitors memorial plaques.</p>		
16	<p><b>Art project</b></p> <p>On walls around the church and an evening Sunday night with the artists. Diocese writing an article for their website. Revd Gary on Radio Berkshire. Newbury Spring Festival (Open Studio) workshops for people who want to explore.</p>		
17	<p><b>Prayers of love and faith</b> – Revd Gary provided an update; a draft version is online. The PCC may well need to address a question soon which may result in a positive change of approach.</p>		
18	<p><b>St Johns School</b></p> <p>Revd Gary illustrated that the school link is strong and working well. 180 children in yesterday and a good time was had by all (including the slug!)</p>		
19	<p><b>Soup lunch</b> – AF updated generally we get up to 18 people to the Friday lunch, SK updated it's one big square sociable table. Revd Gary updated that what has been lovely is as a result of willing volunteers. We have also had volunteers for flower arranging. Revd Gary thanked AF on her work for the soup lunch.</p>		
20	<p><b>Forest church</b> – around 40 attendees joined the recent forest church which continued to strengthen our bond with St Michael's and All Angels Church, Enborne.</p>		
21	<p><b>Any Other Business.</b></p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>		

**Closing Benediction, the meeting closed at 21:11**

**Dates of next meetings:**

19/04/23 (Wednesday) Zoom PCC meeting to approve Financial Report prior to APCM

04/05/23 (Thursday) APCM.

23/05/23 (Tuesday) Standing Committee Meeting - Zoom

06/06/23 (Thursday) Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room