

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 beginning at 7.30pm at St John's Church

Present:

The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair

David Oats– Churchwarden

Alison Foulkes – Churchwarden

Sam Brown – Hon. Secretary

Also in attendance:

Mel Brown (MAB), Andrew Kingston (AK), Aeron Slade (AS), Kim Slade (KS), Christopher Sears (CS), Stephen Kerry (SK)

1	Opening Prayer & Welcome		
2	Apologies for absence Andy Grace (AG), Margaret Baker (MB), Jeremy Wright (JPW) Absent Jennie Marwick-Evans (JME)		
3	Correspondence Quotation for bicycle rack.		
4	Minutes of the previous meeting The previous PCC meeting minutes held 30 th March 2023 were discussed. Acceptance was proposed by SK and seconded by AK, unanimous approval from the PCC.		
5	Matters Arising from previous minutes. No actions to carry over		
6	Safeguarding Update SK updated that following the APCM we would all note if there was a safeguarding issue, we should report it and ask if anyone has any concerns about anyone in our community. Revd Gary provided an update and clarified the process he follows when a concern is identified. SK asked about the change of leadership in the Babies and Toddlers Group, and Revd Gary asked SK to send an email to remind him to ask the new leader, Dawn, as a prompt to check with her. SB asked whether there were any other groups we need to be aware of? AS updated that if there is someone on site who is not DBS checked, or on a parish walk, provided there is somebody else there who is (or a parent of the child) that is OK. SK will issue a reminder to the PCC and others. CS updated that he renews his DBS annually. Revd Gary updated that SK has taken responsibility for Safeguarding for St Michael's (thanks given)		
7	H&S Update No update, assuming nothing raised.		
8	Deanery Update SK updated that the next meeting is on 16 th June.		

9	<p>Vicar's Report</p> <p>Revd Gary updated the PCC that it was lovely to have a 'full on' Easter and a lovely couple of months, since the last PCC meeting, with the launch of 'With Passion' and the immersive sessions. The artworks enhanced our worship. Easter was glorious, and Revd Gary thanked the choir, and all involved with the music. Drawing the chairs into the circular format for the Taize service was lovely. The last three weeks have been focusing on the Open Studios and it has been great to see so many visitors come to church to look at the art and to see so many new faces coming into the church. We have held six full on children's workshops which went well. SK asked if there will be a follow up? Revd Gary updated that ideas are being considered for Christmas. CS suggested that maybe members of the congregation could be involved. Revd Gary said that any ideas would be welcome; Revd Gary thanked the PCC for their support and encouraging thoughts</p>	
10	<p>Financials</p> <p>Headline figures are for year to date: Deficit - £12,000 (forecast £10,000) Organ updates - £20,000 allocated Boiler update - £40,000 Allocated iCAP monies – everything match funded from 17th September, whilst this has been claimed on the website it has not been paid to us yet (will come to us after 30th June) First draw-down to cover Deficit reduction and heating Feasibility study from Kath Gibbs Legacy applied for - £5k. Revd Gary thanked KS for all her efforts.</p>	
11	<p>Bike racks</p> <p>SK updated that, DO met with the contractors and we have a quote for the installation, and he asked DO whether that seems a reasonable quote. DO suggested it's a similar project, to the car park work and that the figure seemed reasonable. DO invited three companies to quote, but only one company responded positively, so we only received one quote. AK suggested we may get the VAT back under the listed buildings scheme. AS proposed that we accept the quote and SK seconded, all PCC voted in favour. AS asked how many bike spaces, SK replied, up to 6 cycles can be accommodated.</p>	
12	<p>Room Hire</p> <p>DO updated that room hire remains very busy and we are seen as a favoured location by several local agencies, which is a positive.</p>	
13	<p>Internet</p> <p>Revd Gary updated that the internet provision is patchy. SK updated that the routers are domestic and may not be suitable for the environment. DO updated that many using the room hire, require Wi-Fi. KS updated that the Sum-up payment solution requires internet access also. Revd Gary updated that internet coming into our router is sufficient but it's the extenders that we think are the issue. Revd Gary will have a conversation with KS.</p>	
14	<p>Childrens inclusion in worship</p> <p>Revd Gary updated the PCC that he plans to have a creative session for those with ideas and work out what we can do to support families with children in church. Revd Gary updated it's an area not working well at present. CS agreed that its very difficult to encourage children into church. MAB updated on how children could be involved to decorate the church at festive seasons and how it becomes a real draw for the community (the spirit of doing it and then finding the artwork). CS updated that presumably we send</p>	

	out patronal invitations. MAB updated that Candlemass seemed to be very well attended. CS suggested that current low Sunday attendance may be due to seasonality.		
15	<p>Re-introducing the common cup.</p> <p>Revd Gary updated we started following the guidelines of covid and the way we have been doing this has been effective, but the advice is to revert to drinking from a common cup. We are the only church in the deanery now not using the common cup. This is not a PCC decision, the decision is already made by the Bishops of the Diocese and CofE, the question is how we re-introduce this sensitively and how we manage expectations and when do we do this. SB offered several concerns including that by reverting we are not learning lessons from the pandemic and potentially excluding those, included today, who for very valid reasons will not share a chalice, with the exemption being those who know they have an illness (which potentially means you could transmit illness if you don't know you are ill). AF also confirmed she would not be receiving the common cup. Revd Gary updated that if you just want to receive just the bread, then that is fine. SK suggested Revd Gary would need to re-educate the congregation on the approach towards a common cup, we should not rush into this, and it feels counter-intuitive, and we should explain the alternative. CS updated that in the Roman church the priest gives the host but enables people to walk past the common cup if they so wish. MAB updated that some churches don't offer wine at all. MAB asked why it was deemed not a common cup (intinction), when it is, so what is the problem? AF felt that intinction is sharing, and it is an inclusive option. SB offered to circulated background documents and Revd Gary will seek clarity over what options are available to us.</p>		
16	<p>Open studios</p> <p>Revd Gary was asked to give the opening speech for the main exhibition at The Base, Greenham Greenham Common, and as a vicar in the church it was wonderful to be involved.</p>		
17	<p>St Johns School</p> <p>Relationship going well and is very positive.</p>		
18	<p>Sides-people</p> <p>Revd Gary will send a list around to the PCC, so we can all re-affirm the sides-people.</p>		
19	<p>Any Other Business.</p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>		

Closing Benediction, the meeting closed at 21:20

Dates of next meetings:

- 13/07/23 (Thurs) Standing Committee Meeting - Zoom
- 27/07/23 (Thurs) Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room
- 07/09/23 (Thurs) Standing Committee Meeting - Zoom
- 14/09/23 (Thurs) Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room