

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Parochial Church Council Meeting held in-person and via Zoom on Thursday 25th July 2024, beginning at 7.30pm

Present:

The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair
David Oats (DO) – Churchwarden
Alison Foulkes (AF) – Churchwarden
Simon Brown (SB) – PCC Secretary
Kim Slade (KS) – Hon. Treasurer

Also in attendance:

Christopher Sears (CS), Andrew Kingston (AK), Margaret Baker (MB), Jeremy Wright (JW), Aeron Slade (AS),
Melanie Brown (MAB)

1	Opening Prayer & Welcome		
2	Apologies for Absence & Any Other Business Andy Grace (AG)		
3	Correspondence: OM – Various, AG – Common Cup		
4	Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 6 th June 2024. The minutes were approved by the PCC with AS proposing & CS seconding, all in favour.		
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes. Meeting to agree resolution to proceed as demonstrator church – DO to send out a meeting note covering what was agreed. Orange Hymn Books – MB asked whether we had enough orange hymn books - DO counted 80 Orange books (so the recommendation is to order 20). Revd Gary asked DO to check. SK suggested we may need to print more service books. AS volunteered to produce an inventory. Revd Gary confirmed example being baptisms. Choir Music – CS looking at purchasing more books of anthem music.		
6	Positive feedback since last PCC AS updated that there has been an increase in the number of baptisms and the special nature of recent baptism. The welcome lunch for Leanne was very successful (SK). Revd Gary affirmed it was a lovely event. AF updated we had 72 last Sunday. AK indicated this is similar to ST G. Good numbers at the soup lunch, coffee morning, CS updated that Geit Ho joining the choir. SK updated awaiting feedback from Newbury in Bloom. Andy and Linda are doing a fantastic job on the garden.		
7	Safeguarding update. No safeguarding issues. SK reminded that the Safeguarding Policy needs to be signed and uploaded. Revd Gary will re-issue the Safeguarding Policy for signing. Revd Gary updated the PCC that there is some concern as we are seeing more people visiting and we don't know the context, so we need to be respectful and welcoming and hospitable but guarded and be aware. MB confirmed there is normally two people around on the site. CS suggested that the link door remains open which does allow access. Revd Gary responded that he likes it open but if there is a risk we should consider it. SK also mentioned there is only one entry/exit. MB updated an occasion where she was locked in the church. There is a fire door in the parish room but not in the church. DO advised you can exit via the Lady Chapel. Revd Gary also leaves the Vestry Door open. JW suggested that when the hall is hired the link door could be locked. Revd Gary was keen to keep it open to enable access. Revd Gary to review with DO.		
8	H&S update. MB updated concern about visitors coming in the East End and having to come down the steps in the dark to access the lights. Revd Gary updated that with i-CAP this will be resolved. AS will provide a Food Hygiene checklist and advised that L2 can be completed online for £12. AS will send out the link and at the end you get a certificate. MB updated that she would cut back the shrubs at the entrance.		

9	<p>Greening declaration. Revd Gary updated he is still intending to undertake a policy review. SK planning a Greening relaunch in September and the plan is to follow the Eco Church award scheme, this may take 12 months to complete.</p>	
10	<p>Financials Financials have been sent out. Financials have been sent out (summary = For unrestricted (i.e. not iCAP, charity accounts, etc), we have had year to date IN = £42k, OUT = £55k, DEFICIT = £12,598, DRAW DOWNS = £5,000; £3k grant from Greenham Trust for Running Costs Received; Next expecting usual dividends end of August - £3.5k). We now have 4 people signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), a good start. In July, St John's received two legacies. The £500 legacy was intended for i-CAP (this has already been put through the Good Exchange so has received match funding). The £5k legacy was for use at the discretion of the vicar and PCC. The PCC decided at the meeting that the £5k legacy was to be split between iCAP (£1.5k) and Essential Running Costs (£3.5k), and put through the Good Exchange, to maximise/complete using all remaining Good Exchange matched funding in these two projects. KS clarified that this would mean the legacy will thus become £3k to i-CAP and £7k to church. (post PCC update - this has now been actioned). The PCC is very grateful to our benefactors. Revd Gary will record the generosity in the weekly newsletter.</p>	
12	<p>Deanery Update – SB updated from the deanery synod.</p>	
13	<p>Vicar Update – Revd Gary updated that we should be encouraged with the presence of Leanne, she is learning the way we work. Encouraging that the church is dynamic and progressing. Revd Gary had a development review, and he heard another church on a similar trajectory. The Demonstrator Church signing has kick started some interest.</p>	
14	<p>iCAP Project – Revd Gary articulated the feedback from OM to encourage more regular information on i-CAP. DO updated that the building is waiting for glass balustrade and etching to then fit. That concludes the first phase. The next phase is to order the porch and the baptistry lighting. DO updated that the ramp is not completely to plan, but the building control reviewed the ramp and said it was acceptable. (1:11 gradient) Revd Gary reminded us that it's the experience of the wheelchair users that is key. JW advised that building work is always a compromise as the plan progresses. DO updated that the faculty would require 3 quotes for the porch. AK indicated we need £25k. AS indicated there would be more church funding. The £25k in addition to the £35k available. PCC would provide a loan of up to £25k to enable completion of the i-CAP works with an aim to be completed before the winter. AK proposing MB seconding, all in favour. There will be an i-cap meeting to review.</p>	
15	<p>Boiler update – As demonstrator church DO advises that we should get more traction with quotes for the boiler work. SK updated that the boiler work should not be too intrusive and DO updated that there will be insulation and draught proofing and a door on the porch. Organ – CS updated that we need to get a clear indication of what needs to be done and then the faculty to approve. Revd Gary again offered to write a letter to get clarity, CS responded, not yet.</p>	
16	<p>School connection – Revd Gary updated that the St Johns school connection is doing well. CS suggested encouraging different ideas (not just the choir). AS suggested, we see more families coming into church. SK suggested we need to read what the families may want to do, and you cannot plan it. Revd Gary again suggested a working party to review what we could provide if we have more children.</p>	
17	<p>Any Other Business: MB – mentioned mortar falling, AS suggested Newbury College may be an option. DO has reviewed and there are several places that require attention, and the builders will review. KS suggested going through the Quinquennial with them. DO updated that for H&S it's mainly the pointing and when they are on site DO can review. Revd Gary – Benefice Celebration Sunday 29th September –a service at St Johns, big feast of food at St Georges and then an evening service at St Michaels. AS updated that Sea Cadets will provide and run the BBQ at St Georges. Also, a flower festival at St Michael (starting on the</p>	

Friday). Revd Gary – Common Cup, Revd Gary indicated we need a workable option. Could be one half common cup and one half intinction. SB suggested that for the 29 th September we should proceed with the common cup for the special service as a one off and then in parallel seek the best solution for our church, AK indicated that we need a longer-term solution. SB’s approach was agreed.		
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Closing prayer (meeting closed at 21:30)

Date & time of next meetings:

12/09/24 (Thurs) Standing Committee Meeting - Zoom

19/09/24 (Thurs) Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room