

# The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Parochial Church Council Meeting held in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024,  
beginning at 7.30pm

## Present:

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

## Also in attendance:

Andrew Kingston (AK), Margaret Baker (MB), Jeremy Wright (JW), Melanie Brown (MAB)

1	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Welcome</b>		
2	<b>Apologies for Absence &amp; Any Other Business</b> Andy Grace (AG), Aeron Slade (AS), Christopher Sears (CS), Stephen Kerry (SK)		
3	<b>Correspondence:</b> Bishop Olivia – Common Cup, Bishop Olivia – Terry Winrow		
4	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> held on Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2024. The minutes were approved by the PCC with JW proposing & AF seconding, all in favour.		
5	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.</b> <b>Cutting back foliage</b> – MB – reported that this has now been completed <b>Sound System receivers</b> – MB – propped up on a couple of orange hymnbooks – to be resolved (in Vestry) Revd Gary suggested we may need a new microphone; the receivers need to be moved ( <b>Revd Gary</b> ).		
6	<b>Positive feedback since last PCC.</b> Revd Leanne fed back that she has felt welcomed. AK noted that attendance seems to have held up over the Summer. Revd Gary noted that we seem to have an increase in diversity, and more babies! Revd Gary also mentioned the increased numbers at morning and evening prayer and the fact that we had 16 on Tuesday for the midday Communion!. JW updated we have two new joiners in the choir. AK updated we have new servers; new rota needs to include them.		
7	<b>Common cup – Revd Gary</b> updated the PCC on the recent direction from Bishop Olivia. AK and JW suggested that it would be better to respond to the new Bishop. JW mentioned that communion of one type is full communion. <b>Revd Gary</b> feels that he may write to the new bishop.		
8	<b>Safeguarding</b> - Nothing reported. MB updated that St Georges have a lone working policy (Alex at the office sent it previously). Safeguarding updated on the website – DO has printed out for the PCC notice board.		
9	<b>H&amp;S - MB</b> noted that the heaters in the parish rooms are very dirty and dusty. She also noted that the drains seem to be full of leaves. <b>MB</b> reported there was a car accident in the carpark – driving out she hit the wall (around the tree), <b>Revd Gary</b> indicated that <b>MAB</b> cut the entrance tree back previously and <b>DO</b> has cut this back recently. <b>Revd Leanne</b> offered to ask David to cut the tree back further. <b>JW</b> updated that the tree at the west end, would appear to be dying. <b>DO</b> will discuss with Graham.		
10	<b>Greening Group – Revd Gary</b> updated that <b>SK</b> will be leading with a focus on application for an Eco Award (in line with actual activities happening on the ground). <b>JW</b> sought clarification as to why we feel the focus should be on Eco Awards rather than focussing on things that make a real difference. <b>Revd Leanne</b> asked whether Eco Awards provide additional funding. <b>DO</b> indicated that we could only get the Demonstrator Church funding because we have a Bronze Eco Award. <b>Revd Gary</b> responded that he has asked <b>SK</b> to champion the Greening Group.		

11	<p><b>Financials</b></p> <p>Financials have been sent out. Income has exceeded expenditure for the last couple of months. YTD we are though minus 11k. People are signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, any PCC member wanted to join please make KS aware. A flyer covering funding options has been produced for Revd Gary to finalise, and then we can review at the next PCC. KS to review financials with Revd Leanne to provide background and understanding. KS requested that the PCC review the reserves policy, how many months, do we need in reserves. Churches generally have reserves of 3 months, the PCC previously agreed 9 months. KS asked the PCC to review considering fundraising advice , the more money we reserve the less we have for projects. KS will be putting together a document and shared with the PCC in November to review.</p>	
12	<p><b>Deanery Update</b> – No update. Letter concerning Revd Terry, He will transition on to PTO (Permission to Officiate) as he has reached the age limit.</p>	
13	<p><b>Vicar Update</b> – Revd Gary updated we are starting to ramp up for Christmas. Also, a focus on increasing involvement with art projects next year. Revd Gary will shortly have been with us for 5 years and updated that a huge amount of work continues to increase the diversity with a key focus for how we can create a self-sustaining church. How can we get greater participation in church? Revd Gary is encouraged and lovely to have Revd Leanne join us. MB wanted to thank Revd William McDowell who recently officiated. Revd Leanne updated that she was not quite expecting so many people with adult mental health and homeless people dropping in. They were fed and Revd Gary suggested our role is to signpost. Revd Leanne suggested we should have some information for people to contact/signpost to. Revd Gary suggested that she had fitted in well and it was great to have her.</p>	
14	<p><b>Prayers of Love and Faith</b> - Revd Gary referenced the information sent out previously and gave the PCC a briefing. MB fed back that the introduction made sense, but the detail was less clear. Revd Gary updated the PCC that he hopes our church is welcoming to all. Also, that the prayers contained in the documentation. Revd Becky and Revd Gary would like us to be as welcoming to all and we believe in inclusion. MB updated that the link leads you to the next service (a Church Near You). JW suggested there is a lot to be said in slowly moving and bringing people along with the change.</p>	
15	<p><b>i-CAP - DO</b> update that he has been in touch with the builder. Delay is in the glass balustrade and as soon as it ready, he will install it. <b>MB</b> asked where we are with the porch, <b>AK</b> has contacted PB to see if we can proceed with the two quotes, however PB does have a third quote and will meet with <b>AK</b> next week to review. <b>MB</b> wondered if there is a possibility of accelerating the porch or put a chipboard panel to cover the gap. <b>AK</b> will investigate options. <b>AK</b> updated that we need to clarify exactly the dependencies on electrics and other services. Lead in time could be 6-8 weeks. <b>AK</b> will then update i-CAP (budget has been approved and since the meeting AS has secured an additional £10k funding (thanks to AS). <b>SB</b> updated that we need to progress asap, and <b>Revd Gary</b> extended thanks to <b>AK</b> for all his support.</p> <p><b>ASHP update</b> – <b>DO</b> updated that things are moving. We have engaged Ingleton Wood as project managers and getting three further quotes from companies who specifically work on historic buildings (5 quotes in total). The fundraising consultant has visited and will provide advice on fundraising. His company has been funded for 8 days consultancy (under Demonstrator Churches). The consultant will be providing a list of potential fundraising sources. <b>DO</b> updated that the boiler did fire up and started (it is working now).</p>	
16	<p><b>School connection</b> – <b>Revd Gary</b> updated that the St Johns school connection is doing well.</p>	
17	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> MB – Where flat roof meets the pitch roof – stain block is not sufficient – water coming through still.</p>	

**Closing prayer (meeting closed at 21:15)**

**Date & time of next meetings:**

14/11/24 (Thurs) Standing Committee Meeting - Zoom

28/11/24 (Thurs) Parochial Church Council Meeting - Church, Upper Room

Minutes of St Johns PCC Meeting 18/09/24 FINAL