

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Parochial Church Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 10th June 2025, beginning at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

Andrew Kingston (AK), Aeron Slade (AS) Melanie Brown (MAB), Chris Sears (CS), (SK) Stephen Kerry, Ann Thomas (AT), Laura Grivil (LG)

1	Opening Prayer & Welcome . Welcome to Ann and Laura			
2	Apologies for Absence & Any Other Business – Jeremy Wright (JW), Margaret Baker (MB)			
3	Correspondence: DO Door quotes Revd Gary Dates Jenny Griffiths Compost			
4	Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 27 th March 2025. The minutes were approved by the PCC with proposing Aeron and Andrew all happy with the minutes.			
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes. (Voting on Inclusive Church) Revd Gary wanted everyone to consider their roles on the PCC and consider role (Revd Gary particular keen on a Greening role). Revd Gary confirmed that all users of the new emails were using them. Revd Gary asked how the APCM went and all agreed it was successful. There was a discussion regarding changing the times of services on the APCM Sunday. MAB pointed out that a sign-up sheet would be helpful and will be introduced next year. SK recommended having a single service would bring both congregations together and perhaps avoid a service that has a baptism. Revd Gary was loath to change the times of the services, so the suggestion is to just hold the 10am service.			
6	Positive feedback since last PCC. Rev Gary introduced Laura Grivil and Ann Thomas, joining the PCC for a 3-year term and he explained that the PCC is the governing body for the church, the PCC is steering and guiding the church. Aeron Slade proposing and Andrew Kingston seconder, both were elected to the PCC. The new Pentecost installation was beautiful. Feedback was also it was uplifting as was the Tree of life (Stephen, Melanie and Tanya Trafford). Easter was phenomenal. Portraits, soup lunch. DO pointed out the door work is a great project and it's so nice working with a professional delivering a great job. i-CAP project now delivered well. Rev Leanne commented there are new faces and it's great to see new faces. Revd Gary mentioned that 45 people attended the 6am Easter service. Revd Gary updated that some people just like to be part of the community and feel attached to the church. Revd Gary believes his instinct is this is the role of this church Trying to offer a sense of the sacred which is accessible. Revd Leane updated that more than 60 people attended St Michaels Forest Church. AF added that that number included people who do not come to services in church. SB suggested we all have a responsibility to say welcome and smile. Ann Thomas mentioned her experience where she was guided into coffee and welcomed. Having a few people to spot new people and acknowledge their coming to our church would be good. Entering a strange place can feel quite intimidating. LG felt like this was coming home, it was not intimidating because she felt welcome. She says keep that up and the phrase 'if you are new you are especially welcome'. SK stated that the Pentecost service was amazing with colourful robes, ribbons, the candle being taken outside. The service is a relaxed way of delivering the service and everyone is encouraged to take part. If we can approach occasions in that enjoyable way. Revd Leanne mentioned the great feedback online and the embodiment of the Holy Spirit.			

7	Vicars and curates report. Thanks to everyone for being gracious concerning having to cancel the away morning. Revd Gary updated that he really needs to delegate more. Trying to balance life and work and delegation is important to spread the load a little.			
8	Safeguarding. SK because of the APCM there was a disclosure which is ongoing. SK introduced the church roles and suggested what safeguarding training should be undertaken. SK will forward the link for distribution (April 2025). Revd Gary reminded that there is a level of safeguarding that is required. All training is online. AF asked for the links to be distributed. Revd Leanne updated that we should forward copy of the certificate to SK and AT reminded that everybody needs to know their dates. SB asked is it that we must do the training on the sheet or select which ones. Revd Gary reminded us that we have to do the training.			
9	H&S No report			
10	Greening Group – Revd Gary updated we are focusing on Bronze Award. Revd Gary invited anyone who wants to be involved. Revd Leanne updated that she and MAB will do practical things like bird feeders. Suggestion also for some seating outside the church. DO suggested that some people sit on the low wall. SB agreed that it would be nice to have some seating. AS suggested putting out some waterproof cushions AF suggested a couple of large logs Revd Leanne will progress logs. SB will look for a suitable bench. Revd Gary asked the PCC whether everyone was updated regarding compost. SK recommended 10 bags.			
11	Inclusive Church – Revd Gary proposed that we become part of the Inclusive Church Network. Churches that want to say publicly that they are inclusive. Proposal went out and asked for feedback. Feedback was that this may polarise our community. Revd Gary was happy to leave things as they are. AT suggested that it may be a tick box exercise. Revd Gary reminded us that we as a benefice are signed up to ‘Prayers of Love and Faith’ . LG fed back that our services are inclusive, and we should not want to push away people. CS suggested don’t change something that works. AS felt if we confirmed membership, he might feel part of a movement which would concern him. Revd Gary will reflect and confirm we are an inclusive church. Revd Leanne reminded what is written on the website and LG fed back this is where she felt safe.			
12	Financials KS updated the PCC on finances. The detail was provided in advance to the PCC. KS updated the PCC on the methodology behind restricted and unrestricted funds (mainly for the benefit of new members). KS provided an overview of investments and the property which we rent out. £3.5k paid through investments (every quarter) . The i-CAP project is drawing to a close, so funds are drawing down. PCC still to payback the PCC £3-£4k (have already paid back half of the £8k loan). New printer paid for. Paid for the ASHP consultants out of the Demonstrator Church funding. The Good Exchange essential running costs £11.5k raised. KS updated that they provide Match Funding and given us a £5k grant as well. AS asked £5.6k left in the i-CAP account. KS updated that today an invoice for doors was paid. AS asked us to honour the original promise that i-CAP should pay for everything as a tribute to TM. DO updated that the electrical cupboard refurb and the colouring of the handrails is still to come, and additional lighting.			
13	Deanery Update – There has not been a Deanery Meeting. Deanery chapter did attend St Johns. Paul Cowan (the new Associate Archdeacon from August) will be covering our area.			

14	i-cap – Bishop Mary coming 20 th July to bless the i-CAP project. The mechanism for the door needs to be looked at. Revd Gary LT asked is it heat related. AK updated they don't know but we need them to investigate. Revd Gary thanked AK for his managing the i-CAP project. ASHP – DO updated that a faculty has been opened and is awaiting some documents and he has contacted SSEN to look at the electrical supply. Revd Gary updated that we have a boiler that leaks water. Our goal is to replace with a ASHP which is the right step forward. DO managed to get us on Demonstrator Church which provides funding and a project manager. Revd Gary suggested we set up a committee for the ASHP. AK reminded that the fund raising will need to be a focus and SB reminded that the complex project will need a level of oversight. KS stated that we may want to look at in smaller chunks (say £50k chunks) the PCC may be able provide a 'chunk'. Potentially £50k from Kath Gibbs and £50k from demonstrator.		
15	Organ CS updated that two years ago the PCC agreed to finance organ work over several years. Emergency work (© £5k used) then the organ advisor who flagged up some issues and suggested a second quote. Split between mechanical, and the tonal improvements. The original quote of £32k new quote £21k. Tonal £33k, now £11k. The suggested provider is good. MAB asked whether the quotes were like for like. CS confirmed they are comparable quotes. AT asked how old our organ is. CS replied that it has been with us 50 years but was in a previous church before then. CS updated that electrical part is 50 years old. SB asked whether the quotes came in within the funding agreed by the PCC. CS asked us to vote on moving supplier, The PCC voted unanimously.		
16	Fabric – DO requested which doors to be the next focus. Revd Gary asked for the Tower Doors to be done. DO updated that we are focussing on external doors. SK suggested Parish Room and Tower Door. Three doors on the west side. KS updated £2,600 (Parish and Tower). DO suggested we might want to move it into the next financial year. SK suggested we should retain the craftsman by proceeding now. KS confirmed for him to proceed.		
17	Children families in Church – Always open to ideas as to how we encourage children and participation in church. AS suggested, we provide good provision up to age 5. We don't offer anything above that. Nobody above 4 that come regularly. AS suggested the 'Crazy Panda' on You Tube/ Revd Leanne confirmed we are updating the corner. AS suggested, we maybe think about a children committee. AT was part of a previous church looking at some tweaks to help children to be more engaged. SK suggested we need to have a plan ready to invoke. Revd Leanne confirmed we needed a team to run it. Revd Gary suggested we should build enough connections and don't panic but when people come in with young children there is something to hold them and something that works. AT suggested we do a brainstorming. Revd Leanne attending a youth seminar (with baseball cap and skateboard).		
18	St Johns School – Going through a transition. new Head of School, Lauren King. A future PCC meeting will be held at the school. Revd Gary recommending we have a PCC meeting in St Johns. Lots of interactions with families and children. AS offered to organise the first one. Revd Gary updated we are as a church trying to go out rather than come in!		
19	AOB – SK requested we put the annual report into a folder and leave at the back of church for visitors to see. Revd Leanne will order a folder. SB will issue a confirmation that the PCC is happening.		

Closing prayer (meeting closed at 21:30)