

St Paul, Chippenham with Langley Burrell, PCC and DCC Meeting

Monday 14th November 2022

Attendance: Jane Bailey, Becky O' Brien, Julia Childerhouse, Nick Childerhouse, Ness Cooper, Steve Couzens, Jacqui Dymel, John Dymel, Si Dunn, Jane Humphries, Becky Meilton, Howard Morland, Karin Needham, Ron Pool, Hazel Sheldon, Julie Swales, Phil Townsend, Adam Trigg,

Apologies Faith Ward.

The meeting opened in Prayer.

Si chaired the meeting and began with these words 'As we begin I would like to remind myself, and remind us of all that there is an expectancy that:

- We are here because we want to be.
- We choose to be in fellowship with each other.
- We will listen as well as express our own thoughts and views and that we seek to see the good in each other first and to build each other up.
- We will use kind words, expressed in gracious ways.
- We are free to disagree.
- When we disagree though we do so with grace not judgment.
- We seek unity, but where difference remains we stand united

In all these we each have choices to make in how we act.'

Future meetings

Si felt that these joint meetings of PCC and DCC's were not working for either church which most people agreed. So from now on we will go back to having separate meetings for both Churches who are busy with their own items etc. So for St Pauls the next DCC meeting will be on Monday 12th December at 7:30pm in the small hall. There will be a few PCC meetings throughout the year.

Langley Burrell DCC The application for a grant for the accessible toilet has now gone in (29th Oct) and a decision about this will be taken by the Langley Burrell Parish Council on 21st November, this is a chance for the Church and community to work together. **Church roof leak** – there is a leak from the roof between the nave and tower and the guttering has been checked and cleared. Howard has spoken to Emma from B2 architects. They are unable to claim on insurance. A quote has been received from Ellis's of £750 plus VAT to check the roof and guttering and to carry out any small remedial jobs that need doing and the Church can afford this. This was passed by the Langley Burrell DCC. Organist- Hazel will update the Langley Burrell DCC at their next meeting about this. Parish Share. From January 2022 the church has been paying £582 a month towards Parish Share but this has become unsustainable, so they are now paying £273 a month. **2023 Parish Share** There is a 9% uplift in giving, for the 2023 Parish Share total the Church can give £300 a month if increase in giving continues. This amount will be reconsidered over the year, this was passed by the DCC and onto PCC who also passed this. **Cheque signatory change-** "Howard Morland asked the meeting to endorse the removal of three signatories from the St Peter's NatWest business account, namely -

Veronica Kilmister, Colleen Gardiner, and Carole Bubb; also, the addition as a signatory of Hazel Sheldon. This was passed unanimously. HM to notify the bank so that the amendments can be actioned."

Reports

Clergy Report This had already been circulated and there were no questions.

Churchwardens Report Langley Burrell wardens report – St Peters There was no St Peters Langley Burrell Churchwardens report **St Pauls** - This had already been circulated, one item was discussed which was the ganging (putting together of the chairs) a new fire inspection had been carried out because of the new Church interior and it is best practice to have the chairs ganged together. If not then we have to have a good reason about why this has not been done. Would cost about £350 to have them put together as not including chairs with arms, we have to show mitigating circumstances as why we are not doing this. Becky O brien offered to write some personalised evacuation plans for disabled people as can have people allocated to help evacuate them. This is only for events of 50+ people. This item will be brought back to December 12th DCC, thanks was given to Jacqui for sorting all this out, a small group could be put together to look into this item.

Finance Langley Burrell this report had already been circulated, Finance is surviving and as of 14th Nov there is £15,000 in the current account. The Parish Giving scheme is working well but there are only a few people signed up to it so far. There is a concern that giving relies on a few people who do their best to keep the Church going. The Church has a long-term electricity contract which is good news, thanks was extended to Howard for his thorough report. **St Pauls** – A finance report had been circulated, Ron and Joy were still sorting through the accounts. It was felt that we should keep to our Parish Share total from 2022 of £78,930 which the DCC agreed, this was passed onto PCC who also agreed this. **Action Point** Ron to write to Diocese and let them know this decision. Vanessa Waddell has been helping with the accounts and is a real asset. She has been sitting alongside Joy and looking through various accounts etc. and it is hoped she will be able to take on some of the bookkeeping role, Rob is happy to stand aside if needed. The accrual for 2021 have now been passed. A report back from the independent examiner for the 2021 accounts has been received and now needs signing so it can be returned to the firm's senior partner who will sign them off, they can then be uploaded to the Charity Commission website! Grateful thanks were extended to Ron and Joy for doing this. Ron reported that we need to have an asset re-evaluation of our Church property by the end of 2022 (should have been done 2021) some one was needed to sort this item, Steve Cozens offered to do this. **Action Point** Steve to contact Diocese about this. Jobs still to do include sorting out LB finances as this had not been done, paying the Diocese for weddings and funeral as well as paying in house people who covered these e.g. verger, organist etc. Half of last years Christmas collections went to RISE (approximately £125) this had been paid into the church accounts instead of passing it direct onto rise. Stephen Cozens offered to pay them in cash to resolve the matter. Thanks was recorded. Some discussions took place about the £70,000 designated DCC/PCC fund set aside if required to complete the planned building work for the HOPE re-ordering project. There is approximately £66,000 that was not used on that building work. No decision was made on what to do about the residue, with some recognition that the HOPE project may want permission to further use some of this cash. The tithe for last year had been overpaid by £600, it was proposed by Ron that we use the tithe allocation of £7,731, this was seconded by Julia Childerhouse and passed by the DCC onto PCC who also passed this item. The accounts are now up to May 2022. There is £34,000 in the Current Account and £30,000 in the deposit account. An extra £5,000 has been returned from Gift Aid Claim. At present our incoming per month is £6,483 and our outgoing is £10,254 this was from January to August 2022, this figure will go up due to increase energy costs. 2

other expenses to come out are £1930 rest of this year's Parish Share and £2,500 Fees to Diocese. The accounts are looking better than first thought however people are giving less, there are less people giving and we have also lost some people who were givers too. We are still in a precarious position, but we are better off than first thought. The diocesan Sum up machine will be arriving on Nov 15th and can then be set up in Church.

When we meet as a DCC on December 12th the issues to be discussed will be finance, Hope and Chairs.

Youth Report – This had already been circulated, Becky added that she was hoping to organise a summer camp and when the budget came through would add this in. At present we are intentionally talking about youth and children's work at St Pauls and PCC/DCC member were asked to talk about this with the wider Church membership.

Safeguarding – a report had been sent round from Julie Swales our Safeguarding Officer, she was looking into taking a course with the Diocese and asked for £25 towards the cost with her paying the other half. The meeting felt that we should pay all the cost, so it was proposed by Julia Childerhouse that £50 course fee be paid by the Church this was seconded by Phil Townsend and passed in favour.

Health and Safety – There were no issues for St Peter's Langley Burrell. 3 accidents had occurred at St Pauls which had been logged and Churchwardens informed.

Deanery Synod This report had already been circulated; Julia Childerhouse was now the lay chair of the Deanery Synod. Information on Transforming Church should be available soon and will be sent to PCC secretaries for distribution. If we feel that there is something within the wider church that needs to be changed then we can propose this, and it will be taken up by Deanery and then Diocesan Synod etc.

Eco Church – This report had already been circulated and was received by the meeting. Re: planting of trees you don't need a faculty or have to pay for this. **Action Point** Steve Cozens to sort.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity – No report

Living in Love and Faith – No report

PCC meeting the minutes for this had been circulated were received and passed.

There were no matters arising.

Church Administrator At present Debbie Harvey is off sick until the end of November, if a person is off sick you cannot badger them etc. Debbie has been off sick since the middle of September and the Diocesan guidelines re: sick pay is first month pay, second month half pay, third month no pay the PCC unanimously agreed that we follow these guidelines which means that if Debbie is off sick from December he will receive no pay. Faith Ward is her line manager and is in contact with Debbie and will be informing her of this once she returns from COP. Thanks was extended to Ness Cooper and Julie Swales for picking up the office stuff at the present time.

Christmas Season – There is no flexibility on the grid for anything other than has already been planned. St Nics are having a carol service at 6:30pm on Sunday 18th December and will arrange all this themselves.

AOB None

The PCC meeting then finished.

St Pauls DCC Meeting. The minutes for the last DCC meeting had already been circulated and were passed.

- 1) Jane reported that she had been in contact with Fiona Witchard, and we were now no longer registered as a food business as at the present time we do not need to be. If this changes and we increase activities that involve food then we will reapply to register.
- 2) Michael Meilton is our new CMS rep, and he has organised for one of our mission partners Katyia Rocks who is in the UK next year to visit us in Feb 2023.
- 3) Hall rents- a small group had met to review hall rents in light of the increased energy costs etc. These figures had been circulated they would cover the period Jan to April 2023 when another review would take place and new rates set to come into effect from May 1st, 2023. This was agreed by the meeting.
- 4) 4) Website. All feedback concerning the new website had now received back. A spreadsheet had been put together as a proposal outlining the most appropriate "page owners." Names are preferred to collective groups like Ministries Team for example so this can help Kerry Robins who is sorting out the new website. The meeting agreed this. **Action Point** Jane to take forwards.

HOPE a second toilet and adjusts to the servery area in Church were the next 2 projects that needed to be carried out. It was estimated that the cost for this would be around £3,000. It was proposed by Jane Bailey that we start moving forwards with these 2 projects, this was seconded by Becky O'Brien and passed in favour. Cornerstone had given £3,000 towards the Hope project and these projects would be funded by this. Jane was in the process of putting together a HOPE budget in time for our next meeting. 2 events had recently taken place West End has faith and a community lunch both of these had gone really well; it was hoped the community lunch would take place every 3 months. As these were training events Jane will produce a write up about how these had gone etc.

Next meeting 12 th December 2023. In preparation for this we will mainly be focussing on Finance, Hope and chairs.

Si then finished the meeting saying to members:-

We must accept that there has been miscommunication, non-communication, negative communication and presumptions and assumptions between us when it comes to matters of the HOPE centre. And the devil is happily using them.

We should understand that there are hurt people amongst us especially around the West End Has Faith event and that there is some work to do with apologising and relationship healing.

The beauty of successful reordering and the opportunities God has given that go with it is being overshadowed by spiritual warfare that is causing division. This must not be allowed to take root.

We accept guidelines/protocols were not in place and played a part.

Our next meeting on 12th Dec will be in the small hall and is largely focused on the reordering project called HOPE, the HOPE Centre and particularly regarding events such as West End has Faith.

· Commit yourself and each other and the subject matter to prayer in preparation.

- Please come expecting to share your opinion in love and grace
- Please come to listen to others' opinions in love and grace
- We represent the wider church community so speak to people in the meantime and gain their thoughts and feelings. It is our responsibility to bring these views into this space, even when they are different to our own. I have spoken to a lot of folks on this issue, a number of whom have surprised me with their responses. I expect you to do the same listening and talking.
- The goal is never to persuade the other to your viewpoint, but to share, listen, and seek the Spirits work amongst us.
- Remaining open to the Spirit and open to each other, requires humility, grace and working for the common good.
- In this space we are free to share. But we must listen to each other as well as voice our own thoughts. And when we leave this space, the decision we come up with collectively is the one we all share.
- There are always differences in opinions, and that is OK.
- We must always seek unity.
- Although we must always seek unity. Where differences remain, and they will, we should remain united. It is possible to not have unity but remain united. It is a choice.
- The truth holder is always God, not me, and not you.

As we meet to discuss on 12th, we will begin with the numb of the issues which seems to be:

"What constitutes mission and outreach, and how is it funded?"