



**ST MATTHEW'S
& THE MINSTER**
CHELTENHAM

PCC Minutes

Saturday 14th January 9.30am, held at St Matthew's

Present: Richard Coombs (Rector), David Evans (Churchwarden), Clare Salisbury (Churchwarden), Adrian Bowcher (Treasurer), Rachel Hargreave (Minutes Secretary), Diane Bruckland, Claire Chesworth, Rupert Cox, Stefan Davies, Anna Gorick, Nerys Joyce, Graham Nicholls, Oli Parker, Natalie Storey, Sarah Tilson, Tony Whitbread, David Warren,

Prayer, Welcome and Chairman's remarks. Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. Opening devotions on Psalm 15, reflecting on the desire to be more like Jesus because we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Apologies. Sarah Dixon, Clare Dyson, Liz Horder, Andy Horton, Julia Sawers, Dan Wright,

Minutes from 21st November 2022 were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising: Tyndale Refurbishment: refurbishment is complete and looks magnificent. The project has come in well under budget. Richard will write to donors to this project personally to ask for their agreement that the excess funds go towards the youth budget, those preferring a refund may have one if they do not agree. PCC were happy with this arrangement. Huge thanks to Tim and to Cheltenham House. Welcome Directory for Prison Leavers: ongoing.

Staffing

- a) Cornhill Student. On further investigation, with regret it would not be viable for a Kenyan Pastor to travel to London for two full days a week training, plus working in Cheltenham. Standing Committee will consider supporting a Cornhill student. Waneyeki and Mary are in the process of handing over the leadership of St Julian's so Mission Partners Working Group to review once new team on board with view to support.

Oli Smith will soon take his place at Wycliffe Hall and Simon ordained to Holy Trinity Tewkesbury, therefore there will be a gap in leadership for the 6.30. Oli and Stefan to consider where the needs are and revert. They'll possibly include support for the students at 6.30 and young dads.

- b) Jayne has announced her intention to retire in the summer, in order to give the PCC good opportunity to review the post and recruit a successor. Jayne took on children's ministry leadership in 1995 voluntarily, it became a paid position for her in 2004. There will be a proper acknowledgement in due course. Clare Salisbury will lead a review and welcomes thoughts, it was noted that this will also file into the Strategy plan. Announcement to church members at the next services. PCC took this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible length of service and expressed their thanks.

Proposal from the Chair: PCC to agree to review process headed by Clare Salisbury.

Vote: unanimous.

Five-Year Strategic Vision:

David Evans to host meeting following the PCC.

Proposal from the Chair: to adopt the Vision Statement document as previously circulated from which to drive the strategy.

Vote: unanimous.

Safeguarding. Julia forwarded report in her absence. PCC asked to ensure they have completed their training as soon as possible. PCC members completion of training is preventing completion of Level 2 on the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

The children's team are working on safe ways for children to be collected from crèche and sparklers from the 10.00. Although it is known and agreed, only parents or nominated people will collect their children, there was an incident last week when a well-meaning person collected another child along with their own. Parents had to be reminded via email from crèche coordinator, Karen Cox to not collect other people's children. As with many things, we have to reiterate messages before they "land". However it is a positive that this was spotted, considered and action was taken.

Termly safeguarding meetings for children and youth are booked for this term.

Thanks were extended to the whole safeguarding team. There is a constant stream of concerns where the team are really helpful in advising whether to just record the incidents or to take forward. A comment follows that indicates there could be a need for training in how to serve/support neurodiverse adults.

Standing Items:

- a. **Standing and Finance Committee** no matters
- b. **Treasurer's Report** Adrian presented to the meeting. The church gas bills are now under the Dean Close 'basket' with Regent Gas. This provides the church with a better rate during these incredibly high charges, but the church still has autonomy to leave this 'basket' if wished. Gas bills has been reduced by 2/3 as result. Electricity bills are still in fixed term contract for another three months. Upon ability to leave this arrangement, Totale will be our next provider, again via the Dean Close 'basket' for a better tracked rate.
2022 Audit is on going. Large deficit with the boilers on the operating budget for 2022. Utility costs have hit hard. Diocese sending £4767 support to off set the large utility bills for 2022.
HMRC has approved the rebate of the VAT on the St Matthew's boiler project, i.e. 20% VAT on the project equates to £8k approx.
Charlotte working on Gift Aid forms for new givers.
- c. **Building and Fabric Committee** Minutes yet to be uploaded. No issues to report.
- d. **Deanery Synod.** Nothing to report – Minutes sent out by David Evans.
Civic Matters. Civic Town Carol Service was very well attended despite the icy cold weather, though saw about half the numbers of previous (non-covid) years. Books on the Queen's faith and service were given to all guests of Merriment and both carol services, and were well received, the last remaining ones given to guests on Christmas Day.
It was noted that Minster Merriment in December was a great success in the Minster Churchyard. The new paved circle between the Minster and MX Building proved to be a great space for people to visit and mingle. It has opened up possibilities for future church led activities.

Any Other Business:

- a) **Heritage Watch.** The first Heritage Watch of the county will be launched in May. Partnered by many organisations in the town. Similar to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, aims to foster engagement of the care of the Churchyard. The police have organised signage to deter graffiti and interpretation board to explain the importance of the Minster. Partner organisations asked to contribute to the installation and upkeep of the notices. Standing Committee to consider level of financial contribution.

Meeting closed in prayer at 10.30am

Next meeting: Monday 20th March, 7.45pm at St Matthew's.