



# ST MATTHEW'S & THE MINSTER

## CHELTENHAM

### **PCC Minutes**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 7.45pm, 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, Clare Dyson, Anna Gorick, Liz Horder, Andy Horton, Nerys Joyce, Graham Nicholls, Oli Parker, Julia Sawers, Natalie Storey, Sarah Tilson, Tony Whitbread, David Warren, Dan Wright

**Prayer, Welcome and Chairman's remarks.** Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. Opening devotions on Psalm 126, reflecting on the Alpha Day the previous Saturday; coming out of 'exile' into the Kingdom of heaven.

**Apologies.** Sarah Dixon, Chris Hermes

**Minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022** were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Matters arising:** Tyndale Refurbishment: It had been minuted that the Youth would be using the Wesley Room for their group on Sunday mornings, however, thanks to Tim Burrell, the ground floor at Cheltenham House is being used until refurbishment is complete. Huge thanks to Tim and to Cheltenham House. Welcome Directory for Prison Leavers: Safeguarding Officers are liaising with the safeguarding team at the Diocese before taking this forward.

### **Adult Discipleship**

Stefan updated that as a priority had been given to starting new Small Groups for the new 6.30 service goes, this matter is still to be held over.

### **Five-Year Strategic Vision:**

David Evans presented a quick update referring to the paper uploaded. Asked PCC to form groups to discuss the Vision of where we want the church to be in 5 years time. There was time to discuss before feeding back.

- No mention of our place in the town, Evangelise in the Parish.
- Community. People drawn in by community and belonging
- Want to be diverse group of Christians but quite middle class – are we a place where 'broken' people can come
- Want people to be growing in faith in the church
- 'devolved', 'enabling' better word, or 'involved'
- 'generous', 'welcoming' better word
- 'enable', 'encourage'
- Make more outward facing to Christians and non Christians.
- More Bible teaching to be mentioned in the vision
- Growing, seemed to be focusing on the numbers rather than deeper discipleship and commitment. Mention evangelism under Growth.

David will bring a paper to PCC before Christmas with a view to sharing with the church family soon after. David remains happy to hear any feedback. PCC extended their thanks to David for this commitment to this project.

**Safeguarding.** Julia presented briefly, that we needed to reapprove the Children's Safeguarding Policy so we're back in sync again. Amendment still to be uploaded, however, that leaders and helpers do not change children's nappies, a parent/carer will be fetched to do this.

**Proposal** from the Chair: to accept the Children's Safeguarding Policy as presented

**Vote:** 19 for, 2 abstention

**Proposal** from the Chair: to accept the Adults Safeguarding Policy as presented.

**Vote:** 20 for, 1 abstention

Questions invited, Julia explained that whilst not all parishes use the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, we do and it shows that we are half way level 2 of the 3 levels. Though there is more training for people to complete there is no time limit.

### **Minster Churchyard Development**

Clare Dyson updated that work officially finished two weeks ago, though there are matters for the architect/council/grounds team to deal with, footpath drainage, dealing with the grass area (grass seed recently scattered has been consumed by wildlife) and hooking up the power for lighting etc. Heritage Watch scheme is coming into being as joint venture with police, council, Civic Society, Historic England and us. Signage is being worked on to go up in the Minster Churchyard. It's really encouraging that so many parties are working together to improve the area and protect the Minster, however, it can take a while for projects to get to fruition.

The new noticeboard at Well Walk is not the one agreed, so the council are investigating to get the right one installed. Merriment will take place along a different side of the Minster this year due to there being no grass. The bollard installed at Well Walk is not the one previously agreed PCC agreed for Bill Harvey to pursue the issue of the wrong bollard at Well Walk; and also for payment to be withheld should an invoice for this bollard be issued (following Adam Klups advice).

PCC agreed that the whole area is looking so much improved and thanks to Bill Harvey, David Evans and Clare Dyson for their dedication on this project.

### **Christians Against Poverty - CAP**

Paper by Andy Sawers uploaded. CAP are our Christmas Appeal cause this year. Andy asking for approval to set up regular CAP Money Course to pilot in the church family, this would cost £200 for materials. Then the vision would be to roll out for other people in the parish to attend.

Life Skills Course would be for people to learn how to manage life, for those who either don't know are struggling with mental illness, don't have the means to make or cook food.

Thirdly, CAP Cheltenham would need Befrienders – someone who can walk along side clients going through the CAP process.

PCC were unanimous in supporting these three CAP ventures through St Matt's and the Minster.

### **Eco Church**

Andy Sawers prepared a paper, previously uploaded, working on five main areas of becoming an Eco-church. Various updates in the Friday Focus will explain what is happening as the Eco Group work through the points. PCC were really supportive and also suggested that it should become integral to our strategy.

### **Mission Partners Working Group**

PCC asked to consider points in the paper circulated. Natalie absented the meeting whilst a vote took place.

**Proposal** to adopt the recommendation for Natalie Storey and St Julian's College replacing Waneyaki and Mary to join our Mission Partners, and gifting our theological students £1k from the Missions Budget rather than General funds for each year of training, as set out in the paper.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

Natalie returned to the meeting. It was briefly mentioned that there should be more communications to the congregation on our mission partners.

### **Staffing – Ministry Trainee**

Richard presented that due to Oli handing on responsibilities to Stefan, there will not be another Ministry Assistant next year when Oli finishes. However, whilst in Kenya, Nicola and Richard were approached and asked to consider taking on a student from Cornhill to come to the UK for a year, as set out in the paper circulated. There was discussion on the practicalities on doing this with the PCC being supportive of the notion.

### **Standing Items:**

- a. **Standing and Finance Committee** no matters
- b. **Treasurer's Report** Adrian presented the accounts earlier circulated. Currently 10 months through the year. Giving continues to be good and strong, nicely ahead of budget though operating shortfall of £15k. However, now fully paid this years Parish Share and there is a Gift Aid claim to be submitted, so next months figures will reflect this.

Adrian presented the 2023 Budget. Expecting giving to be similar to 2022 levels. Mission Giving set to be 10% of unrestricted giving. Utility bills remain difficult to predict due to market volatility, however, Adrian has linked the price to the Dean Close Foundation rates on gas, therefore not expecting exorbitant bills. Electricity usage is relatively low but would have to wait until March when contract is up in order to link to DCF rates. Staff are doing what they can to reduce energy usage when on site. Adrian continues to keep a close eye on the markets. Russell has met with all staff/budget holders to set budgets for 2023. Adrian noted that if there are any large expenditures to be made then Reserves would be used.

**Proposal** to accept the Budget for 2023 as presented.

**Vote:** 20 for with one abstention

- c. **Building and Fabric Committee** Minutes uploaded prior to meeting.  
Youth Project. Has come in under budget and due to complete at the end of November. Richard will report back to the church and ask the church to consider what to do with the excess funds, suggesting put to youth activities. PCC extended huge thanks to Henry Williams for all his efforts in bringing this project to fruition. Richard to follow this up personally.
- d. **Deanery Synod.** Nothing to report – Minutes to be set out by David Evans.  
**Civic Matters.** Nothing to report

### **Any Other Business:**

- a) **Bicycles problem,** there have been a few bicycles reported stolen from the racks at the side of St Matthew's on St George's Place. Suggestion of being able to park bikes internally considered.
- b) **Welcome Sign.** Project to upgrade outside signage ongoing.
- c) **APCM:** APCMs can now be held up to the end of May each year. Therefore, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 will be the next APCM with joint service and shared lunch.

**Meeting closed** in prayer at 21:53

**Next meeting:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7.45pm at St Matthew's.

### **Addendum:**

PCC asked by email to vote on the proposal that the PCC appoint Byrd and Link as Independent Inspector for our accounts for the year ended 31.12.22. 17 votes for, 3 no responses.