

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 7th October 2013

Present: Rob HB (in the chair), Shirley, Adina, Paul, Katy, Rob C, Matt, Jo, Rosemarie, Tim, Pam, Clare

Apologies: Nick

Opening prayers

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 5th August 2013 and matters not arising elsewhere.

Item 15d: Rob H-B thanked Pam for arranging the refreshments for the Buckingham churches' visit on 21st September. John Hickman gave a lively historical presentation to the visitors. The group enjoyed the afternoon very much and have sent a letter of thanks.

Item 2a: Adina reported that the notice board for the children's corner still needed actioning.

Item 2c: Jo stated that the Directory was in hand and there had been some thought whether to make it a St Sampson's or Upper Thames Group Directory. It had been decided that it would be a St Sampson's Directory only.

Item 15b: Adina said that she was working with the Town Council on faculty for the repair work to the tombs in the churchyard.

Item 3: Adina reported that there had been no further incident in the church since the schools went back.

Item 4: Shirley informed the meeting that it had been agreed that when Messy Church was held at the school, St Sampson's would be responsible for the insurance and when it was held at the United Church then it would be responsible for the insurance.

Item 9: Adina stated that faculty for the AV screen is still awaited. **Action: Adina**

Item 6: Rob H-B thanked Adina for completing the vacancy recruitment paperwork. Rob H-B reported that the Renaissance Choir concert on 6th October was excellent.

The PCC accepted the minutes.

2. Parish Office

Paul informed the meeting of the actions being taken to find a new Parish Office. A number of places had been looked at both in Cricklade and Ashton Keynes, nothing had been found to date. As the date for moving out is approaching it was felt that an interim arrangement was needed with a longer term option to be sought. With this in mind Paul, Adina and Rob H-B had visited Latton Village Hall where they were made to feel very welcome. This needed to be investigated further. As a contingency Sue Clover could work from home and meetings and groups could be held in the Jenner Hall. There would be a need to find storage for the office furniture etc. if this was put into place. Adina was requested to ask the Archdeacon if there was any possibility we could still use the Parish Office until a suitable alternative was found. **Action: Adina and Paul**

3. Vacancy Process

Adina reported that the advert went out on the 20th and 27th September with a closing date of 8th October. Short listing would be the 10th October and interviews 25th October. There would be an opportunity for the candidates to look around on the afternoon of October 24th. A light supper would take place in the Jenner Hall at 7.00 pm 24 October to enable the candidates to meet the PCCs. Jo was co-ordinating catering and drivers on behalf of the Group Council. **Action: All**

4. Porch Update

Nick had sent his apologies but after discussion with Paul they both felt that Contemporary Glazing be approached to draw up the plans and specification. The meeting agreed with their proposal. Paul had spoken to the architects – Bartosch and Stokes who had previously done some work on the eco matters within the church that would be sent to Paul. He had not received it to date. Paul was requested to contact the architects again. **Action: Paul**

5. Parish Pledge

The Diocese is asking parishes to increase their pledges by 2.5%. For us this would be an increase of £901.00 It was initially suggested that until we knew the likely cost of any new parish office, that we could not agree to this. However, after some discussion it was agreed that we should pay the increase. **Agreed unanimously. Action: Clare**

Clare was requested to compile a detailed budget for 2014 so the PCC could identify monies that would be available for the parish office and to monitor the financial situation. **Action: Clare**

6. Group Council Update

Jo reported that the Group Council had met in September when they had discussed the recruitment process and preview day.

She wanted to bring two items to this meeting for consideration.

A) Funeral Fees across the Group

The proposal was that an additional £50.00 be charged during the winter months to cover the cost of church heating to start with immediate effect. It would be left to the discretion of the Funeral Directors to discuss this with the families. A process would need to be agreed so that church wardens could switch the heating on. **Agreed unanimously**

Verger Fees

Currently within the Deanery, Upper Thames Group pays the lowest fees to its vergers. It was proposed that verger fees be increased from £35.00 to £40.00, to start in the New Year for weddings. **Agreed unanimously**

B) Support for Uganda

The Group Council had discussed how the group might support the Kigezi Diocese and the village of Rwancerere now that our link had been renewed. Shirley is exploring ways of getting goods or money to Rwancerere. Several suggestions were made as to what we could contribute and it was agreed that a concrete floor for the school would be our focus. Harvest collections were going to the water projects in Kigezi.

Next Group Council meeting will be in November

7. Website update

Matt stated that the website was up and running. Peter Tuck had agreed to update the Ashton Keynes section and Sarah would maintain the St Sampson's pages. Matt requested that the item be removed from future agendas.

8. Voice for Life Support to Children

Rosemarie stated that Sarah Townsend would like to run a Voice for Life course within the Junior School. The course would be for 10 children for a term and may result in more children wanting to join the church choir. The idea had been well received by the school. Rosemarie asked that the PCC agree to fund the workbooks for the course - each book costs £10.00. **Agreed unanimously**

9. Christian Aid Week 2014

Adina and Shirley had met with representatives from Purton and Katrine Musgrave for Christian Aid to explore the feasibility of an abseil from the church tower. The event would be 11th May 2014 the start of Christian Aid week and would be supported by other attractions such as a bouncy castle and teddy parachuting together with refreshments. There was another meeting 17th October with the company who provide the day to consider whether the tower was suitable. It would cost £1,000 to organise the day and participants would need to agree to raise at least £60. **Action: Adina/Shirley**

10. Leadership Team Update

Katy reported on the two key focus areas that the Leadership Team are looking at - Pastoral Groups Welcoming and supporting families with children. When we have the complete package on the pastoral programme we will bring it to the next PCC meeting. To improve how we welcome people in church Douglas Holt has offered to provide training for those who carry out the welcoming. Adina has received the dates. It is proposed that there are badges for welcomers, so that people coming know that they have an official capacity, and also to have a welcome leaflet to help capture contact details of new people, so they can become part of a Pastoral Group.

In considering welcoming and supporting families with children the team recognised the need to consider both adults and children older than those suited to Messy Church, and understood that this is recognised as the most important area across many churches – hard work rather than any single easy answer – the spiritual battle for hearts of our young, gathering feedback from those actively involved and those ‘on the edge’ at St Sampson’s. The team have considered possible interventions. The team will formulate more solid suggestions for discussion with PCC, in the New Year.

11. Deanery Synod Report

Pam reported that she had circulated the note of the meeting and that the main agenda item had been Shirley describing her visit to Uganda.

12. Teams

As there was little time to do this item justice it was held over to the next meeting with the proposal that it be the first item on the agenda. **Action: Shirley**

13. PCC Secretary

Rob H-B informed the meeting that Elspeth Walker had agreed to attend the next PCC meeting and if she feels suited to the role, would agree to be the secretary.

14. Correspondence

None

15. Any Other Business

- a) Paul reminded the PCC of the quiz on 12th October
- b) Shirley had received a letter from the Diocese requesting clarification as to whether she will remain an Ex officio foundation school governor at St Sampson’s Junior School until the next incumbent is in post.
- c) Jo reminded the meeting that she leads S Club with Sue Craig and Annabel Wallis. After many years, Sue has decided to give up S Club at Christmas. Katy suggested that the PCC mark the work Sue has done over the years. Shirley will write and thank Sue. **Action: Shirley**

The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd December at 8.00 pm - venue to be confirmed

The meeting ended with the Grace