

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 12th September 2024 at the Vicarage, 7.30pm

Present: Debbie Dewes (Chair), Adina Grace, Rob Crow, Matt Smith, Laura Brierley, Jo Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: Paul Barnes, Chris Anota, Dale Ford

1. DD welcomed everyone and began with Isaiah 43:18-21 and a reflection on looking forward to discern the new things God is doing.

2. Minutes from 11th July 2024 were [approved by all as a true record of the meeting.](#)

3. Matters Arising

The Town Council expect to approve the purchase of new bins for the churchyard at their next Leisure and Community Cttee. They will buy them, we will organise emptying them.

4. Email votes since last meeting

Emma Mullen is the project architect for the church refurbishment. She is leaving St Ann's Gate and setting up her own architect practice, ELM Architects. The PCC wish to continue with Emma Mullen and have therefore approved transferring the refurbishment project to ELM Architects. We will also appoint Emma Mullen as our inspecting architect, in due course, for the church quinquennial inspection. [Approved via email on 10/8/24](#)

5. Notification of AOB

None

6. Finance (report circulated)

Main Account £17,626

Restricted Account £32,979 broken down as follows:

Fabric Fund	£ 1,065
Children's Charity	£ 2,465
Organ	£ 3,155
USPG	£ 523
Refurbishment	£24,453 (Loans to repay £15,000)
Hymn Books	£ 300
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£ 52
Altar Frontal	£ 1,000

We are meeting all our financial obligations and have a surplus. SSE contract expired in August and we now have a contract with Octopus Energy

The Kavali evening raised £456. The 100 squares raised £500 and the fete raised £1,232 after expenses.

The Diocese have sent out our Parish Share request for 2025. This is up by around 25% as a Benefice and approx. 1/3 increase for just St Sampson's (according to our percentage share of the 4 parishes). Debbie will meet with all four treasurers to discuss and has asked the Diocese why the increase.

We will pay £600 to cover the cost of Christmas trees for the festival in December, but this is likely to be repaid when sponsorship comes in – Reanne is seeking sponsorship at the moment.

7. Renewal of insurance

Both Trinitas and Ecclesiastical (current insurers) have provided insurance quotes for our buildings cover for the following year. Lots of churches now use Trinitas and the Archdeacon and Area Dean advised considering a switch. Trinitas' quote is considerably cheaper and their cover is broadly the same and sufficient for our needs. [DD proposed changing our insurance to Trinitas, all in favour.](#)

8. Fabric and Refurbishment (report circulated)

Digging the trial pits in church is currently delayed and we are still waiting for the faculty to be granted. We have applied to Wiltshire Historic Churches for a grant towards the north aisle roof and box gutters exploration. We are awaiting a site visit in preparation for the Trust's November meeting.

We intend to approach Kit Connell the diocesan Environment & Sustainability Outreach Officer for a £10,000 Decarbonisation Grant to fund Ingleton Wood, mechanical engineers' report on progressing the recommendations in the Energy Foot Print report.

Our thanks to the Refurbishment Committee for their continued fundraising efforts – these events help everyone to feel involved.

9. Youth and Children

Children's work will continue twice a month, either in church or the Jenner Hall.

NWMA youth have a social coming up this Saturday. Discerning the way forward to NWMA youth is on the agenda for Deanery Synod later this month. Debbie will attend.

10. Eco Church

Laura continues to raise profile of Fairtrade through refreshments at church. A church walk is planned for 22nd September. LB and AG will meet to discuss the buildings audit section and then our application will be ready to submit for Eco Silver Award.

The compost bin is in use. LB to offer ideas for a communal Christmas cards this year.

11. Global Mission

In our continued support for Compassion UK and E3 charities we agreed that the collections from the 3 main Christmas services will be shared between these charities. We plan to have a Lent focus once again, with updates from both charities, and a gift day on Palm Sunday.

12. Safeguarding

Various things to discuss at joint PPCs morning next month.

13. School

St Sampson's School was judged as living up to its distinctive Christian ethos during the recent SIAMS inspection. Debbie expressed our congratulations to the school community at the end of year service in church. JV to pass on a card from the PCC at the next school governors' meeting.

Action - JV

14. Jenner Hall

New curtains have been fitted. Bookings are steady - no arrears. Stonework repairs to commence next quarter. We welcome new Trustees

15. Deanery Synod (report circulated)

The next meeting is 24th September. Debbie will attend. Both NWMA and Eco Church to come up at that meeting.

16. Services between now and Christmas will be circulated on the new dates list.

17. Just One Thing

We talked through each of the six areas for development and hope to have a few homegroup style meeting during Lent.

The library area in church is being used more.

18. Correspondence

JV has written to David Arnold of Arnold Bartosch Architects to express our thanks.

19. Vicar's heads up

Nothing for this meeting

20. AOB

The 24/7 Prayer event was appreciated by many and the resources enjoyed. All the prayer slots were filled. Lots of positive feedback.

Next meeting dates: _Saturday 12th October 2024 Better Together 9.30am

Thursday 21st November 2024 St Sampson's PCC 7.30pm