

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 18th April 2024 at the Vicarage, 7.30pm

Present: Debbie Dewes (Chair), Adina Grace, Matt Smith, Paul Barnes, Laura Brierley, Dale Ford, Chris Anota, Jo Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: none

1. DD welcomed everyone. We listened to a worship song, 'Yet not I but through Christ in me' and prayed.

2. Minutes from 1st February and 10th March 2024 were approved by all as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising – we will advertise the Alpha courses running at Pattern Church. MS to provide fliers. It's not feasible at the moment for us to run Alpha at St Sampson's, but anyone interested will be encouraged to attend a Pattern course. **Action - MS**

4. AOB – Christmas Tree Festival

5. 24hr Prayer Event

As part of the PCC's Just One Thing we discussed plans for a 24hr prayer event, like the two we have done previously, several years ago. Matt and Sarah Smith will co-ordinate and there are useful resources on the 24/7 Prayer website. Could be a Churches Together event and be advertised community wide. Also worth talking about it at Better Together joint PCCs. Provisional date – 10am Saturday July 13th to 10am Sunday 14th July, to finish with worship together at 10am St Sampson's morning service. MS to work on a plan. **Action - MS**

6. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 14,983

Restricted: £ 23,579 broken down as follows:

Organ fund:	£ 3,155
Fabric:	£ -20
Refurbishment:	£ 15,196 (plus £15,000 in loans to repay)
Children's Educational charity:	£ 3,909
Hymn books	£ 300
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£ 52
Altar Frontal	£ 1,000
Global Mission	£ -125
USPG	£ 1112

We are meeting all our financial obligations and maintain a balance of circa £5,000.

We received £500 rebate from SSE.

The fabric fund remains in the red but we are awaiting the VAT rebate on all the electrical work done last year. This amounts to £218 and has been approved.

The refurbishment fund is awaiting a VAT rebate on the retention fee for the nave roof. This amounts to £606 and has been approved.

Following the letter asking for financial support for the next stage of the refurbishment project an additional £4,050 has been donated and a loan offer for £6,000.

The Global Mission appeal raised £1,000. It has been equally split between Compassion UK and E3 Initiative. It is showing as a deficit at present as the money promised has not reached the account.

We have received the full National Church's grant towards the cost of the various reports required to proceed.

7. Fabric and Refurbishment

No progress on the replacement of the lead work on the drainpipes which the PCC gave permission for some time ago.

We have had an Energy Audit and are doing everything we can to reduce carbon emissions. There was a suggestion we might be eligible for Demonstrator site funding, but we do not qualify as we are not in the top/worst 600, based on the Energy Footprint Tool we complete every year.

We know future stone repairs will be necessary.

Wiltshire Historic Churches will be visiting in June.

We have roughly £15K in the refurbishment fund. The architect will indicate what they can do for that money and is happy to pause work when funds run out.

A notice will go out to the wider community in the next Chronicle, inviting donations for the refurbishment work.

8. Youth and Children

Laura, Jo, Matt and Dawn will continue to run children's activities twice a month until the end of the summer term. Dates for children's work to be advertised in the weekly news email.

Debbie and Jo will meet with NWMA Youth worker Jessy Price to discuss youth work in Cricklade and how to continue in the future. We continue to make a regular financial contribution to the NWMA Youth project. **Action - JV**

9. Eco Church (report circulated)

There may be a way to collect blister packs for recycling – Laura to ask Dawn to think about this further. The Eco Warriors collecting bin is still in church and is emptied by the school children.

Laura will continue to give updates/tips for sustainable living via the news email. Our 2024 action plan is in place and being followed. **Action - LB**

10. Global Mission

We are really pleased with the money raised so far and thankful to all for the donations. Laura will continue to co-ordinate updates/prayer points for the news email. We noted that global mission includes all the charity support that we do – Christian Aid, USPG, WaterAid and now E3 and Compassion UK have been added. Maybe a Global Mission Sunday during Lent each year...

11. Safeguarding

S Club risk assessment approved by all. To be reviewed annually.

12. School

St Sampson's is due its SIAMS inspection and foundation governors may be called to speak with inspectors. Jo ran another prayer space just before Easter – enjoyed by all in school. The Easter service went well.

13. Jenner Hall

Some repairs to the stonework are likely and it may be possible to use the church architect – the Jenner Hall will pay their share when the architect next does a site visit to church/Jenner Hall. Room 3 is now vacant, therefore a loss of income to the hall.

14. Deanery Synod

Suzi Tipper is now Deanery Lay Chair. Eco Church, the Athelstan Pilgrim Way and NWMA Youth were amongst the topics discussed at March's meeting. Jo to circulate the minutes to PCC members for information. **Action - JV**

15. Correspondence

Letter of resignation from bell ringers from Davina Giles.

16. Vicar's heads up

Our Archdeacon, Christopher Bryan, is taking a sabbatical in the summer. Debbie may do more work as Associate Area Dean during this time.

17. AOB

PCC gave its approval for another Christmas Tree Festival. It will be a fundraiser for the church refurbishment and will take place over the weekend of 30th Nov/1st Dec to coincide with the town lights switch on.

The PCC expressed its very grateful thanks to Graham Light for organising the wonderful Lent talks this year. They were appreciated by so many people and were vibrant and interesting.

Next meeting dates: Better Together joint PCCs, Saturday 11th May 2024, 9.30 Jenner Hall
St Sampson's PCC, Thursday 13th May 2024, 7.30 Vicarage