

Present – Revd Hugh Ellis (HE), Revd Jackie Lock (JLk), Revd Gareth Morley (GM), Derek Lancaster (DL), Jennifer Cartledge (Churchwarden) (JC), Lis Burns (Churchwarden) (LB), Robyn Connelly (RC), Edgar Samuel (ES), David Knights (DK), Meg Vockins (MV), John Lord (Treasurer) (JLd), Sheila Doig (SD), Dawn Segrue (DS), Ray Levy (RL), Philip Hynard (PCC Secretary / Minutes) (PH)

Note. The minutes have, in some instances, been re-ordered to gather items together under the headings set out in the original agenda or to improve clarity.

1. Welcome from Chairperson.

HE welcomed everyone.

The opening prayers were led by JLk.

2. Apologies / Did not attend

Lauren Harvey (LH), Nick Cousins (NC), Michelle Neudecker (MN), Barry Titchen (BT), Lynda Moorcroft (LM), Thistle Martin (TM).

3. Lent

There was an extensive discussion about a proposal to have a 'Lent Book' that could be read by members of the congregation and form the basis of a discussion, in a similar form to a book club, but from a Christian perspective. Whilst it was suggested that the book should have a moral theme, it was acknowledged that the book may be a secular text.

Various suggestions of titles were made including 'Chocolat' by Joanne Harris and the 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' by Rachel Joyce.

DL observed an alternative to one of the above suggestions may be to consider using 'Embracing Justice', The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2022 by The Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley.

The discussions on this topic resulted in the following comments, which also linked to wider Lenten themes and other Lenten activities.

To an extent, and based on similar initiatives in the past, the title of the book or reading material is less important than the quality of discussion that it generates, therefore the selection of a title with appeal is important, so as to generate interest and engagement amongst members of the congregation.

It was observed that any discussion groups arising from the 'Book Club' would be run in parallel with All Saints Plus.

GM proposed offering a discussion concerning how people engage with prayer, which it would be delivered through two, two hour long events, one in-person event and one on-line.

It was noted that in previous years there has been some confusion as to the nature of some Lenten activities and, above all, it was important that they should be scheduled to take place at different times and through different media, such that it provides members of the congregation that wish to be involved are offered the widest opportunity to do so.

It was agreed that this topic would be discussed and developed at the forthcoming SLT Strategy Meeting

Action: HE to add to agenda for SLT Strategy meeting.

Deanery Environmental Officer

HE referred to a letter that had been circulated in advance of the meeting, from Mike Hill (Environmental Advocate for the Deanery), who has invited at least one person from each church within the Deanery to be a contact for environmental matters.

HE agreed to invite expressions of interest from amongst the congregation, unless anyone could recommend obvious candidates.

ES suggested Paul Meek and will contact him. Janet Pearson was also suggested and HE will discuss it with her. It was also suggested that some of the older children may be suitable and interested in taking this role, or supporting, it and RC was requested to consider whether there were any suitable.

It was also suggested that this role could be raised at the Lenten group events, to gauge whether there was anyone within these group who was interested in taking on this role.

PH was requested to ensure that the subject of environmental issues should be included on the agenda for each future PCC meeting.

Actions:

ES to contact Paul Meek to determine if he would be interested in taking on this role.

RC to determine if any older children would be interested or suitable for taking on this role.

HE to raise the topic with Janet Pearson and publicise it if no other candidates could be identified.

PH to ensure that the topic is included within future PCC agendas.

4. Discipleship Training Centre

HE referred to a letter that had been circulated in advance of the meeting concerning requests from Charlotte Lawson, the new Discipleship Training Centre Leader, inviting applications from candidates aged 18-24 to join the DTC this year.

The PCC was invited to consider whether there were any potential candidates amongst members of the congregation. HE underlined that there was no assumption that candidates would ultimately go into ministry, although it may prove helpful to anyone who was considering this.

Charlotte Lawson is to be invited to attend the May PCC as there was some uncertainty about this role and what the objective are for anyone joining it.

The PCC was also invited to consider whether there were any projects that individuals within the DTC would be able to undertake if ASHW was to offer them a position within the Parish.

A note of concern was also expressed that as it is understood that the role would be an unpaid internship, whether the PCC was comfortable with the ethics of asking someone to fulfil this role on an unpaid basis.

It was agreed that this subject should be discussed at the forthcoming SLT Strategy meeting.

Actions:

HE to add to agenda for SLT Strategy meeting.

HE to determine whether Charlotte Lawson would be available to attend the next PCC and, if so;

PH to ensure that the topic is included on the PCC agenda.

5. Deanery Synod Report

Whilst there was no formal report on the Deanery Synod, HE commended the book 'Living in Love and Faith' ('LL&F'), concerning Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage to the PCC and urged members to engage with it and provide feedback.

DK suggested that we should offer an LL&F course, which normally runs over five weeks and it was agreed that this proposal would be discussed at the next SLT Strategy meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 16th February. It was also mooted that this could be offered in parallel to the other Lenten events.

One of the outcomes of such a course would be for All Saints to provide coherent feedback, as a group, resulting from discussion facilitated through the book and accompanying video, so reading the entire book is not though necessary. It was noted that the feedback is to be received by 30th April 2022.

DK was requested to set up a 'Taster' session, in order to determine the level of interest, possibly after the Sunday service with the possibility of lunch for the participants.

Action: Subject to the outcome of the SLT Strategy Meeting, DK to arrange an LL&F 'Taster' session.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the PCC meetings held on the 24TH November 2021, that had been published in advance, were approved, without amendment and were signed by HE at the end of the meeting.

7. Matters arising

Churchyard Project Cost - GM reported that the current estimated cost of delivering the Churchyard Project is approximately £250,000. GM also reported that:

- Discussions are continuing with Buckinghamshire, the Town Committee and sub-committee concerning possible support.
- As the life of the project will extend beyond the end of GM's curacy, consideration needs to be given as to who would assume responsibility for the project after his departure.

Deanery Plan – PH reported that he understood there was no additional information than had been circulated previously.

Tech Support – Whilst a volunteer has come forward to provide Tech Support, there is a continuing requirement, as well as a requirement for additional Zoom hosts.

8. Team reports

There were no specific comments or questions raised on the following reports, which had been published in advance:

- Stewardship & Finance
- Building & Fabric
- Children Youth and Families
- Communications

However, they gave rise to the following observations:

- **Stewardship & Finance**
 - JLD noted that whilst the budget and cash positions to 31st December 2022 were still draft, the current position is a £17,084 deficit for the year. DL went on to observe that:
 - There had been no increases in relation to regular giving
 - There is an urgent need for fundraising initiatives and a strategy to address the deficit
 - There will be an increasing requirement for funds for fabric and project work.
 - JLD went on to propose that we need to integrate fundraising with our mission and engagement and specifically how we attract new members of our congregation.
 - SD posed a question as to whether there is a missed opportunity of engaging with visitors at the end of services and questioned how we may be able to do this more effectively.
 - RL questioned whether the Queen's Platinum Jubilee may provide a solid platform to raise our profile and attract new sources of funding?
- **Communications**
 - LB drew the PCCs attention to the new website and specifically the need for some additional, high quality images, some of which it was acknowledged may need to be 'staged'.

- **Worship and Liturgy**

- DL provided a verbal report concerning the Director of Music and specifically around Liam's forthcoming departure and the way in which we may wish to 'shape' this role in the future. A draft document has been prepared upon which feedback has already been received from Liam and Philip and it is now being considered by the members of the Choir. When these have all been received and consolidated it will be circulated to the wider PCC for consideration.

There were no reports on Mission & Evangelism or Pastoral matters, and no comments or questions were raised in relation to these.

9. Team Rector's Report

There were no comments or questions on the Team Rector's Report that had been published in advance.

10. Churchwardens' Report

JC presented a report, which had been published in advance, focused on two key topics:

- A proposal for expenditure on a series of fabric related projects, totalling £18,710, was approved unanimously, including the proposed source of (existing) funding.
- An update on the activities team including:
 - the increase in Steve Linger's hours to cover additional responsibilities and his agreement to provide one month's notice when he leaves to go travelling, which was initially a week and his contract will roll forward on a monthly basis.
 - Steve is using his previous hospitality management experience and reflecting on lessons learned while collaborating with schools over the Christmas period to develop policies for events and is also writing up Standard Operating Procedures for the café.
 - A review of the team roles and responsibilities and reconsidering whether the role should be one or two positions in the future with the second position to provide cover in the event of absence and more flexibility for covering evening/weekend events.
 - Consideration of moving away from the term "activities" and instead split the work into Hospitality/Operations and Facilities with two equal positions instead of a team leader and assistant.
 - The intention to defer recruitment until we decide how to move forward with the sound and light project etc. whilst ensuring that roles are finalised prior to Steve's departure.

All of which was noted, without comment

11. Oakley Hall Management Committee

There were no comments or questions on the report that had been published in advance.

12. Safeguarding

JLk presented a verbal report on Safeguarding and made the following remarks:

- A meeting took place on the 13th January, which included a regular review of safeguarding issues and an update of the DBS records.
- The next safeguarding review will take place on 10th February.
- The completion of the Diocesan 'Dashboard' is being pursued.

13. Arrangements / Timetable for Preparations for APCM

The date for the Parish Meeting, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the associated Parochial Church Council meetings was unanimously agreed as 8th May 2022.

14. Any other unplanned business

Wildflower Seeds – There was unanimous support for a proposal put forward by HE concerning the Wycombe Environment Group's (WEG's) plans to prepare envelopes of wildflower seeds for anyone who wishes to plant them and the provisional invitation for some of these envelopes to be made available for collection from the church.

It was noted that there are also some sunflower seeds from a previous initiative not associated with WEG which will also be made available in a similar vein.

Estelle Williams - HE announced that with great regret he received notification from Estelle Williams of her intention to resign from the PCC for personal reasons. HE went on to report that a letter of acceptance has been sent to Estelle, conveying the gratitude of the Church for her many and varied contributions.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – It was announced that the Lord Lieutenant has made plans to hold a County Wide Platinum Jubilee Service at 15:00 on Sunday 29th May 2022 to be held here at All Saints Church. LB (with others from All Saints) will be attending this service. It was also announced that the Women's Cultural Group will be preparing a display to commemorate the event.

Tree Planting - A suggestion that the Church should consider taking advantage of a tree planting scheme that is currently being promoted, which is linked to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Whilst there was general acceptance that this could be pursued, GM cautioned that the location of new trees should take account of the landscaping plans that form part of the Churchyard Project.

Evensong – A meeting is planned to take place between HE, Patricia and Robert Newton and the Churchwardens to discuss the time of the evening service.

On a related note, DS asked whether any feedback had been obtained from the evening congregation as to their preference for times for the evening services, which it was agreed would be pursued.


15. Meeting Ends

HE closed the meeting with prayers and the Grace.

The meeting ended at 20:57

Future meeting dates:

- SLT Standing Committee - Wednesday 4th May 2022
- **APCM - Sunday 8th May 2022**
- PCC - Wednesday 18th May 2022
- *SLT Strategy - Wednesday 1st June 2022*
- SLT Standing Committee - Wednesday 6th July 2022
- PCC - Wednesday 20th July 2022
- SLT Standing Committee - Wednesday 7th September 2022
- *SLT Strategy - Wednesday 14th September 2022*
- PCC - Wednesday 21st September 2022
- SLT Standing Committee - Wednesday 9th November 2022
- PCC - Wednesday 23rd November 2022


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