

Parish of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting on Friday 26th May 2023 2pm-4.45 at the Vicarage

Present: Joanna Abbecassis(Chair) , Clive Adamson, Tony Bruun, Liz Forbes, Chris Hodge, Sarah Jackson, Zabé Jones, Mavis Lindstrum, Julia Steward, Peter Yarker

		Action
1.	Apologies for absence - None	
2.	Minutes of meetings held on 22 March and 23 April 2023 Agreed and signed	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>a) The Quinquennial report has been received and future will be forwarded to the person to takes on responsibility for the fabric.</p> <p>b) The town council has given us £1000 for the maintenance of the churchyard. The new gardener is a great asset. He has agreed not to cut back shrubs in the churchyard when needed for floral displays (Easter and Harvest particularly). He'd offered to remove moss from the flat gravestones. Agreed, emphasising the need to take care not to damage the stonework. PY to pass on our wishes.</p>	PY
4.	<p>PCC as trustees; and mission, purposes and values</p> <p>No questions were raised about the 'PCC as trustees' leaflet. The question on p2 of the leaflet was highlighted as being a useful further discussion point. Purposes as a PCC were as outlined in the leaflet as 'duties' but went further: to communicate the mission to the congregation and through the benefice; to connect with the deanery and the diocese as well as the wider community.</p> <p>What do we see as our vision? To spread the love of God among the community – in its widest sense.</p> <p>How to do that? Both individually in our daily lives and corporately. The PCC sets the strategy which underpins the mission and we have a responsibility constantly to review our actions to ensure they are effective. Any individual who considers improvements could be made in a particular area should bring to a future meeting. It was felt a discussion leading to consensus about values was unnecessary, beyond those highlighted in the leaflet (accountability, transparency, integrity) and the fruits of the spirit. We were encouraged to consider 'the fruits of the spirit' and how the early Christian church grew. How are those manifest in our church community today? Sarah will say more about this in her sermon on Sunday.</p> <p>Our assets include our wonderful building and the people who consider themselves members of the church community.</p>	PY

	<p>A brief discussion about accountability led to a decision that we would publish a summary of discussions at PCC meetings in the Parish News, and the full minutes (once approved) on the website.</p> <p>Peter will write the summary, to be approved by the standing committee</p>	
5.	<p>Ministry and governance - proposed leadership structure and oversight</p> <p>It was agreed that the proposed structure was a sensible way forward, acknowledging that it needed to be flexible and open to amendment. Wide-ranging discussion ensued, in which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no expectation that the person responsible for each area undertakes all the jobs identified. The role is one of team leadership and accountability to and for the PCC • Few people are willing to step forward; ageing congregation. • Challenges are also opportunities <p>Finally the following names were attached to areas of responsibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. And the strategic aspects of 2: Clive 2. The day-to-day aspects: TBC 3. Julia 4. Chris and Mavis, with input from Sarah 5. Tony: Street market, parish news, communication; remaining aspects will be handled by Peter. <p>In addition to this being part of the summary article for the magazine, it was seen as important to highlight this way of working as soon as possible at a Sunday service. There would be a specific event in the Autumn at which individual team leaders could meet with anyone interested in their area of responsibility.</p>	
6.	<p>Churchwardens Team and Fabric Report</p> <p>A successful farewell to Graham and Elaine was the main item. Weeds by the sacristy (now almost certainly dealt with) and peeling paint on the south door. The 8.00am Sunday congregation has accepted with sadness and understanding the need to change to monthly services, at least for the time being. The monthly Wednesday morning communion was also highlighted.</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The format was explained carefully and the deficit highlighted. Discussion followed concerning how we could address the deficit, including whether we could reinstate Sunday collections. It was agreed we need a strategic approach and we would need to come back to this. The September meeting was felt to be an ideal time. Meanwhile it was decided to add a notice near the contactless giving station highlighting the weekly cost of running the church</p>	<p>JS to add to Sept agenda</p> <p>CA</p>

8.	Worship and Music The Maundy Thursday service was poorly attended and unlikely to be repeated next year.	
9.	Mission and the Community No new volunteers had come forward as hosts for lettings; there were now three people prepared to do this. Street market preparations were ongoing. £300 in fees had been collected so far; 7 stalls inside the church and 11 outside. Hymns and Pimms event scheduled for Saturday 16 September at 5.00pm and a proposal put forward for cake and organ event, to be combined with an organ recital. Details still to be decided. A date was needed for a choir social to try out the Beetle Drive before setting a date for a bigger event. Zabé would receive the church diary in future	ZJ JA
10.	Health and Safety Issue with pillar being knocked down outside the north door. Joanna had a narrow escape. Responsibility for overall H&S needed to be added to the governance document.	JA
11.	Deanery Synod meeting Zabé unable to attend. Julia would be there	
12.	Safeguarding Roni Ross, our safeguarding officer, will be invited to a future meeting. All new members of the PCC should do the online safeguarding training. Joanna would send links to Julia for onward transmission.	JA/JS
	Meeting closed at 4.45. Dates of future meetings July 26 (Wednesday, at 1.15); Fridays at 2.00pm: September 22; November 17; January 12; March 15	