

**Parish of North Abingdon
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 24th Sept 2018 8pm**

Present: Phil Adams, Philip Bingham, Paul Brombley, Val Challis, Ron Clark, Andy Dent, Keith Dunnett, Sue Gibbins, David Hancock, Chris Hodgson, Emil Jeevaratnam, Roland Knight, Herman Matheson, Terry O'Neill, Sandra Pike, Claire Proudman, Lynn Ross, Pat Rowe, Tim Shipman, Martin Steel, Andy Voyce, Sandar Wade

Apologies: Jaz Bance, Phil Cooke, Kath Cooke, Andrew Dubock, Ian de Villiers, Sue Robbins, Anne Taylor, Nessa Watts.

1) Welcome and prayer from Philip

Philip opened the meeting with a reading from Eph 2:11-15. Christ died for us through which we have received salvation.

2) Apologies, minutes from last meeting and matters arising

It was noted that Simon Steer was no longer on PCC due to a change in licensing. Apologies noted.

Minutes of last PCC meeting (9 July) agreed by all after a minor typo correction. Proposed: Martin Steel; Seconded: David Hancock; all in favour.

Matters arising:

Safeguarding policy guidelines were still being worked through.

3) Mission

A ministry area: Older Persons Ministry Doreen Cooper, Maggie Snowball, Ros Steel

Ros: How do we help to grow and sustain the Church. Understand why we need to focus on young, as need to grow, but can't do at exclusion of elderly. Church is about diversity. There is a real need to offer love and respect which has been lost in our society. Reason for church to meet a need, loneliness, to be loved and respected. Also an understanding of death. We need to be culturally different. Can we find a way to help. Elderly people may well carry bitterness or feel it's too late to change, so what's the point of doing something new? Mission can therefore be hard, and so pastoral care important. Such value in bringing the age groups together.

Doreen: The earliest days of the meeting met at 51 Northcourt Road, hence 51 Fellowship, serving older people. Has now been renamed to Thursday fellowship. Main aim is to show and share God's love to all; attend, witness and encouragement to those who have faith. Some come through PrimeTime. Talks from Lay and clergy. Meet in hall, refreshments, remember Birthdays, some chorus's and keyboard + sound. Rota for bible reading and prayers. Lunches twice a term. Warners pray for them, support TearFund, NSPCC. Alternate weeks have prayer fellowship. Mainly 70/80's. Often illness and hospitals/care/bereavement and funerals to be attended. The group has a number of needs, in particular for younger members to come on board. Also require more regular drivers as many people have walkers and do not have their own transport. Also rearranging the furniture can be hard as tables and chairs heavy, so grateful to staff who help when free.

Maggie: PrimeTime began 13 years ago, specifically one week in the Summer holidays. Mainly church people at first. Maggie and Ian took over 2nd year in 2007, where they formed a committee to head-up the different activities. Aims: To provide for older and often lonely members of church, fellowship and enjoyment when other activities stop. Now offer activities all year. Loneliness biggest form of poverty. 270 attending prime time, one of biggest outreaches in Christ Church. Powerful path to non-church goers as now 1/3 outsiders. Walks every month, table tennis, bible study groups and just looking groups. Christmas and Easter specials and a week holiday in June and rambler break in Oct. Lots speakers in the Summer week, outings etc. Someone does thought for day (John Earwicker this year). This is vital, not just activities. People have come to faith, but to commit to Church tough. Urgently need more volunteers, but difficult as people working longer and often have grandparent duties. The overall leadership is a huge workload, so made a decision to put activity in 2019 on hold. Gives space to pray for future.

After taking a few questions Doreen, Maggie and Ros were thanked for their dedication, work and time this evening.

4) Leadership:

Vision Process

The sermons for the last 3 weeks have started this process by looking at: Why does Christ Church exist; Being Church: How? What?; The Church – in Christ. These have been followed up with questions and discussion in Life Groups. In particular there are 4 new life groups with extra 40 members. A vision email address has also been set-up to allow people to comment.

A vision process group has been put together of PCC members (see paper sent with agenda) who will be tasked, tasked to look at all the material to be ready for PCC away day in Nov.

PCC were asked if they felt the Vision Process Group, was OK, and to comment on how is it going with vision process. Anything to take on board?

Some of the comments were:

- Very positive, looking forward to detail.
- Positive, but need materials soon as possible as meet Monday.
- Need to remind people will be opportunities to contribute, even if missed.
- A lot in it but good to listen.
- Encouraging people to read passage and wait on Lord is important. Gifts of Holy Spirit should be encouraged.
- Exciting doing this as a Church. Notes help people to talk and be open.
- Very positive and accessible notes for leading very useful.
- Need to look how to serve community as well as mission.
- Amazed at how new group engaged and broad range.

Big challenge when we have to sift it all to feed back.

The Vision Process Group membership was approved.

Keith also said that more and more ministries have started over time, but we need leaders. Have we taken on too many ministries? Part of the process maybe to have a sense of overview - are we busier now than 10 years ago. Could 1-2 in time for the away day collate a summary of our ministries? It was suggested Pat Greenway who has been at Christ Church many years would be a good start. Christine and the annual reports would be source of good info. No one from PCC volunteered for this so Keith will approach Christine.

PCC then broke into small groups to pray

5) Governance

a) Parish Giving Scheme (Chris Hodgson)

Tim Shipman originally brought this to PCC in Nov and we tasked a group in Jan to consider this for Christ Church. Chris gave a presentation in which the scheme had been promoted by the Diocese of Oxford. Essentially it was a system for managing donations and gift-aid, but using direct debit rather than standing orders or cash. Good to grow giving with timing of vision. The Diocese has already adopted and in some places giving has increased by 30-50%. There is no charge to Christ Church, and it has a huge admin reduction, especially for gift aid which is paid monthly, hence improving cash flow. Can choose to increase giving annually by RPI and can be completely anonymous. Diocese been positive, 139 churches already using, so it is stable and long term

To launch the process we should have a champion to announce to congregations and to explain its benefits and implementation. There should be a permanent display in the foyer. Proposed timetable, was it being launched in March next year, but as a pilot PCC members to sign up in Nov.

A resolution was proposed: "We as the PCC of North Abingdon recommend the Parish Giving Scheme be adopted by Christ Church". Prop: David Hancock; Sec: Roland Knight; all OK

b) HR Group Report:

Chris Bryan can't be here, but Sue Gibbins member of HR Group

The group is working closely with the Diocese to update HR policies. In particular Christ Church HR Group is offering to be a "guinea pig" and to be a template church for new policies. Prop: Herman Matheson; Sec: Tim Shipman; all in favour.

c) Proposal for Standing Committee membership to include an Associate Vicar

Kath/Phil should be appointed to standing committee to improve communication between the PCC/ SC and Associate Vicars. Prop: Sue Gibbins; Sec: Sandra Pike; all in favour.

6) Buildings

Mattock Way:

Roland said the house was rented to good tenants until January 2019, but renewal process needed to be started soon to meet Diocesan Trustees' Meeting schedule. The quote for rent must be approved by Diocese trustees who meet in Nov. Proposed minimum rental is £1200. The tenants had initially asked for a 3 year contract, so we are now suggesting to renew the contract for 24 months with 6 month break clauses. The resolution (which was given in the papers before the meeting) is attached as an appendix. Prop: Andy Voyce; Sec: Paul Brombley; all in favour.

7) Wider church issues

a) Change in Parish Boundaries:

Keith said the boundary change was agreed with the other Parishes, so just a formality. Note this really commits us to working in the new estate. Prop: Paul Brombley; Sec: Claire Proudman; all in favour.

b) Deanery Proposal for Parish Share: Martin.

This is for consideration by the Deanery reps to agree this in the Deanery meeting. Prop: Sandar Wade; Sec: Terry O'Neil; all in favour.

8) AOB

Roland noted that the Charities Commission had closed their case.

Val closed in prayer.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 24th November, the whole day (vision process)



Andy Dent (Sec)



Philip Bingham (Chair)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS (POWERS) MEASURE 1956

Application to Diocesan Authority for consent

to the grant of a Tenancy of property

RESOLUTIONS:

At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of North Abingdon held on Monday 24th September 2018 at Northcourt Road, Abingdon

it was resolved as follows:

1. To agree to grant a tenancy of 33 Mattock Way at a minimum rent of £ 1,200.00 p.c.m. as recommended by Chancellors Ltd. (Advisor), **a copy of whose advice is attached** either to the current tenants for a further period of ...24 months...or the grant of a new tenancy for an initial period of 12 months and possible subsequent renewal of the tenancy to the same tenant(s), subject to the receipt of a rental valuation prior to renewal. A six month “break” clause, from either side, will be included in the tenancy agreement.
2. To seek the consent of the Diocesan Authority to the grant of tenancy
3. To formally appoint Chancellor’s Ltd of 14 High Street, Abingdon to act as Advisor to the PCC for this transaction.
4. To appoint Winckworth Sherwood solicitors, to act for the PCC for this transaction.
5. The PCC acknowledges that it has been informed of its liability to indemnify the Diocesan Authority against all legal and other costs incurred in this transaction under section 6(4)(c) of the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 and confirms that it will indemnify accordingly.

Certified as a true extract from the minutes of the Meeting

.....Chairman

...../...../.....Date

E-mail completed resolutions to: The Trusts Administrator trusts@oxford.anglican.org