**Minutes of the PCC Meeting**

**Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at 7.30pm**

**in St Gregory’s Church, Dawlish**

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|  |  | **Action/Proposal** |
| 1 | **Meeting began 7.30pm**  **Opening Prayers led** by CL with reading from Proverbs.  **In attendance**: Rev L Cronin, L Halse, R Sulch, P Jones, N Twibill (secretary), C Lee, R Smith, A Leigh, A Fuller, A Pugh, I Bartlett, W Halse, C Slade, K & L Chambers, J Workman, M Moulds, C Chappell, T Hickson, M Andrews & A Thomas.  **Apologies**. G Brown & B Lewis  **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed and signed  **Matters Arising** None |  |
| 2 | **Parish Matters**   1. **Rectors Report - Rev L**   LC Thanked the LLM and PTO’s who worked to keep everything going during the vacancy;  the LLM, PTO and Wardens, did doing the vacancy. Enjoying rediscovering Devon. Also getting to know families through the occasional offices, forming relationships and then seeing them around the town at different events. Building relationships too with the local organisations.  Regularly meet with the LLM’s for us to discuss ministry and pastoral visiting and the rota. Also met with the Home group leaders and we have begun planning for September, including an additional home group in Holcombe. We have established a regular Mission Community Prayer gather across our 4 churches and plan to continue this each month.  We had our Benefice Café Church service in St Mary’s Hall, followed by a BBQ, which was very well attended.  Listed 4 events since last PCC and 9 upcoming.  LC will be involved with Foundations Course run by Diocese and will also be Chaplain/Tutor.   1. **Churchwardens Report – RS/LH**   Currently there are 3 major issues:   * Urgent repairs to our Tower corner Pinnacles within next 18 months * Repairs to Upper Narthex & all Nave windows and stonework in the next 2 or 3 years. * Ongoing & continual roof, gutter & drain maintenance.   The tower was inspected, we have now received a quote for the Tower work and will consult with West Access and the Diocese.  The church window repairs are less urgent and must wait until the tower work has been done.  In the interim we have had our lightning conductors tested and repaired, which ensures our electrical safety during thunderstorms.  Minor repairs to the church door lock and bolts have been carried out, as well as repairs to Nave Lighting. Planned that Upper Narthex Lighting will be repaired soon.  Essential to have the Church Diary of events and bookings up to date. A read-only version is available on the Church website.   1. **Treasurer’s report – PJ**   June Finance report circulated before the meeting.  Regular Transactions, including Charity donations.  Trustee Information and responsibilities sent out to previous PCC. All members now registered as trustees  Legacy Policy – No suggested changes this year. All agreed  Reserves Policy – Values updated and a note added regarding Fabric Reserves. All Agreed  PCC Financial Controls – These were extensively reviewed in July 2023 so no suggested changes for this year. All Agreed  DBS checks being processed with PJ now registered as one of checkers.  All bookings need to go through Wardens who will pass information to PJ to issue invoice. Wedding & funerals LC liaise with GR who administers Fees account.  We were reminded that outside organisations need to have Risk Assessment documents, safeguarding & public liability in place before the event at the church.   1. **St George’s Report - AT**   Drop ins each month still continue. Warmer place will continue each month as from Oct - Nov. Quiz and supper in village hall on sat 21st sept. Proceeds will go to children’s hospice SW and RNLI. Church attendance good and increasing. Our afternoon tea, open day on 22nd June with Sonia Wilson playing the harp in church, went very well and proceeds went to children’s hospice SW, RNLI and church funds. Enquiries are being made at present regarding candle stand to be put in St George’s.  Change of service time to 9.15am from September. (St Mary’s to change to 11.15am)  It was suggested that we have a Benefice Fund to help with costs incurred at Benefice events. We used to put the collection from Benefice service to one side but this sat unused during Covid so was divided amongst parishes. Since then, funds have increased so there is currently approximately £400 in the pot. Suggest all 4 parishes regularly contribute to pot but money was being collected at Benefice services and all were happy for this collection to go into this fund. PJ to write to Benefice treasurers to remind them money is available. | LH AP  RH JW  CS CC |
| 3 | **Safety and Security.**   1. **Safeguarding – TH**   Tess Hickson has taken over the role of Safeguarding Rep having completed all but one of the required courses. Thanks to WH for work in transition.  We were reminded that all PCC members have access to Dashboard to see DBS & Safeguarding status.  The Parish Dashboard still shows many need for safeguarding training to be completed by new PCC members and some renewals;  21.9.24 Basic Training & Foundation Training.  22.9.24 Basic Training after morning service. Both will be at St Greg’s.  Please can all PCC members need to complete training, do this before the next PCC meeting.   1. PCC review the Diocesan of Exeter Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy attached, and agree it being actioned, as requested by the Diocese. The document proposes all volunteers are made aware of the Policy. Agreed by all. 2. TH has added Little Gregs as the only church activity working with children. It was agreed that this was the case. 3. Contact details for Tess Hickson are through the church number by phone. We are currently creating an online form via the website that will go straight to TH, another way to raise SG concerns. 4. The Church website will be updated to list TH as safeguarding officer. 5. **Health & Safety – CS**   Nothing new to report.  It was requested that we keep coffee after service in the Upper Narthex as it avoids moving hot liquid and crockery down stairs. It was also felt that it was more comfortable to sit on chairs with tables than hard pews!  Discussion how chairs arranged and use of ‘coffee’ tables. It was felt it would be beneficial to use small tables (that Little Greg’s had) as this gave a more informal atmosphere. |  |
| 4 | **Mission.**   1. **Swap Shop - CS**   Swap shop continues to be very popular and last Tuesday, the last session till September, we had a ‘take as much as you like’ morning, over 30 adults came plus babies and we did reduce a lot of stock but also a lot more came in.  Most of the mums know one another so it is also a good opportunity for them to chat and support one another, it also provides a safe place to feed and change young babies before they continue their day. We have had two regular helpers from St Agatha’s who are happy to sort the donated clothes into sizes for the boxes and we have also had one of the mums offer to come and help us sort donations out as well.   1. **Men’s Breakfast – RS**   Our 8th breakfast meeting was held on 1st July 2024.  These meetings continue to be very popular and are successfully raising monies for local organisations & charities at the same time.  Recent contributions have been made to the organ fund and minor fabric repairs at St Gregs.  We will not meet on the 5th August because of the holiday season, but will re-start again on Monday 2nd September at 9am in the Upper Narthex.   1. **Mothers Union – PAL**   At our June meeting Cath Chappell spoke to us about the current baptism policy in the Benefice.  The July meeting was planning for Mary Sumner Day on Friday 9th August , a celebration of the founder of the Mothers' Union and the caravan which, for nearly 30 years, offered holidays in Dawlish Warren to needy families from many parts of the country.  On 10th September we will hold our annual Dedication Service in the Lady Chapel. Still one of the largest branches in the Diocese, 4 members have moved into care homes since the last PCC meeting and several more are housebound, so the number attending our monthly meetings is steadily decreasing.   1. **Pudding Club – LC**   Nothing new to report   1. “**A” Group (Lunch Club) –** |  |
| 5 | **External Reports**   1. **Deanery Synod Report – WH**   Deanery Synod met on 16/07/2024 at Kenn Parish church. The guest speaker was Sarah Charker, Creation Care Engagement Officer for the diocese. 2024 and is intended to give focus to our commitment to Carbon net zero by 2030 through three specific actions:   1. Create a simple land management plan (guidance from Caring for God’s Acre, very important to communicate with your community) 2. Work towards increasing levels of eco church – nationally recognised with five categories - Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global engagement, Lifestyle 3. Take part in an annual Churches Count in Nature (guidance from Caring for God’s Acre, involve children/local school, informs land management)   Diocese has formally agreed to declare a climate emergency, adopt targets to achieve net zero 2030 and align with the National Routemap..  The presentation was followed by group discussion:   1. Eco church registration. 2. How to use our environment action and mission to engage with/influence the community 3. Any simple steps to reduce our church’s carbon footprint.   Feedback from discussion included   * engagement with Teignbridge (closed churchyards) – Kenton we’re very happy! * difficulties faced by small rural churches with small congregations, small communities and struggling to pay parish share * value of small steps (e.g. shop local). Every little bit helps. * importance of good communication within church and with the community   Elected Clergy Reps to Diocesan Synod are Revd Ruth Frampton and Revd Linda Cronin  Elected Lay Reps for another three years term are Dr. Jane Richards and Claire Johns  Archdeacon Andrew will be the guest speaker at the next deanery synod meeting on 24th October at Christow. He has asked churches to send him questions. These need to be with Revd Ruth Frampton by 15th August.   1. **CTDD – Rev L**   Next meeting 3.8.24 will be looking at Carnival & Praise Service, need musicians!   1. **ROC – Rev L**   Mark Jones sabbatical until Sept, FR Mark Skelton – Newquay, Methodist minister leaving in August, Only LC left!   1. **DCMC Forum** – No meeting |  |
| 6. | **Projects**   1. Eco church KC   Nothing new to report.  We are waiting for Sermon series in September based ‘On Holy Ground’ to be released. This is a Homegroup series for use across 3 Benefice Churches – which will run to the end of October. Fits in with ‘Creationtide’. |  |
| 7. | **Future Events**  Carnival Praise 11.8.24 on the Lawn 4.15-5pm. LC to bless Carnival 2pm.  Devon Historic Churches Day 14.9.24 Bric a Brack stall  Music Workshop 14.9.24  Agree to use of the Church for Lucy Bell’s Play 7.9.24  Harvest Festival & Baptism of 2 children 15.9.24  Civic Service 3pm 15.9.24  Supper & Barn Dance 28.9.24  Benefice Service Starcross 29.9.24  Organ Recital 4pm 29.9.24 with a cream tea.  Benefice Prayer Gathering (monthly – Thursday 8th Aug pm St Paul’s, 6th Sept am St Mary’s) |  |
| 8. | **Items for consideration / AOB**  Discussion about money allocated to organ fund appears on PCC accounts. PCC would cover any shortfall in this fund when essential repair to the organ was needed, as it has done in the past.  Repair to organ pedals for £1500. All agreed  Suggested that money donated for Organ Fund is documented in the accounts to show what has been donated to a nominated a fund within the PCC accounts.  Proposed to Reinstate the fund. All agreed.  Payment of Verger fees – Historic waiver of fees which has been put into Church funds. Question raised as whether or not PCC would have to declare payments to HMRC. As this payment is made through the Fees Account, Verger payments will not come through the PCC account. PJ will check this.  More vergers needed; CL suggest training for those volunteers.  Sacristan training for Wednesday and Sunday service HB to organise in Autumn, present & potential volunteers.  AF approved as Sacristan. All agreed.  Portrait of the King available from Diocese to be ordered for St Gregory’s. | CS AF  JW RS  CL CC |
| 9. | **Items for future discussion** |  |
| 10. | Lead prayers at next meeting CC JW IB |  |
| 11. | Meeting closed with the Grace.  Meeting closed at 9.08pm |  |

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dawlish Charity No. 113318

Dates of future meetings;

**Standing Comm. PCC**

3.9.24 25.9.24 (Lady Chapel)

6.11.24 19.11.24

7.1.25 23.1.25 (7.45pm)

11.3.25 25.3.25

**APCM**

11.5.25 - 11.45am followed by Bring & Share lunch