

Amesbury Parish Church Parochial Church Council

PCC Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 22nd June 2022.

- (1) Fr. Darren opened the meeting with prayer.
- (2) **Those present at the meeting:** Fr. Darren A'Court (FrD), Sophie Moody (SM) (*Churchwarden*), Ruth Davies (RD), Alex Fryatt (AF), Julie Lewis (JL), Katie Newham (KN), Andrew Robson (*Hon. Secretary*), John Swindlehurst (JW).
- (3) **Apologies** were received from Lisa Courtney (LC)(Treasurer)
- (4) **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
- (5) **Approval of the Minutes of Monday 21st March 2022;** these were signed as a correct record.
- (6) **Matters Arising**

Item (5.1.9) **The funds from the sale of the Wyndham Hall.** The money is to be reinvested following the PCC's decision and has been confirmed with Elizabeth Wallace at the Diocesan Office.

Item (5.1.11) Research into the purchase of a suitable **Condolence Book** is ongoing. Action (SM).

Item (6.3.1) **200 Club.** Further conversations have taken place with Gerry Southwell; the idea is to be set aside for the time being.

Item (7.2) The church's **Safeguarding Policy** was adopted at the APCM on May 25th.

Item (7.3) A request for some **new sidespersons** has been published in the pew sheet.

Fabric

(7) **Repairs to the tower roof and associated works;** the architect has invited firms to tender for this work and site visits are being arranged.

Finance

(8.1) There was no Treasurer's Report today.

(8.2) **Share Count (Fair Share).** The number in the return to the diocese is 59. It was agreed that the parish should remain in category C.

(8.3) **The Survey (Fairer Shares);** the survey and associated documents have been sent to PCC members by email. A response to the diocese needs to be agreed at the next PCC meeting on July 20th.

(8.4) **Future funding of the post of Director of Music.** The pay range for an organist and choir director in a parish church in a small town is between £4278pa to £7416pa, depending on qualifications. SM proposed that we should begin the process of seeking a new professional Director of Music. This was agreed.

It was further agreed that the Treasurer's advice should be sought on the matter of what pay rate the church is in a position to afford.

Action: SM to approach LC for her advice.

(8.5) **Lloyds Bank card**; it was agreed that Ruth Davies (RD) be the holder of the second bank payment authorisation card. Action (SM).

Outreach

(9) **A forthcoming PCC 'Awayday'**. Fr. Darren spoke of the idea of a PCC 'Awayday' based in church to give time to reflect on the 'vision' for the *Fit for the Future Project*. The day would run from 10am to 4pm approximately. Members of the PCC are asked to send Sophie (SM) a list of Saturdays in July, September and October that they definitely cannot attend such an event because of prior commitments.

Action: all members of the PCC.

Fit for the Future

(10.1) **The Working Group**; it was agreed that at this stage the group should be made up of Fr. Darren, Sophie Moody, (*Churchwarden*), John Swindlehurst (*community focus*), Ruth Davies (*IT and other professional skills*), Rita Goldthorpe (*consultant for fund-raising and grant applications*), Andy Stewart (*consultant for project management and building skills*). Alex Fryatt was keen that the PCC should avail itself of his communication skills and expertise arising from his MA in project management and he was welcomed onto the working group. The first task of the group will be to collate a consultee list and think about the means of consultation. Once the consultation is implemented then the feedback will need examination and discussion before the PCC presents its revised proposals for the development.

(10.2) **Update from the Architect** in response to recent PCC submission. Copies of the email from Emma Mullen, the architect, were emailed to PCC members on July 4th. These include revisions based on the PCC's submission of its priorities arising from the focused meetings on this subject in the autumn of 2021 and this spring. In relation particularly to the (building) development (*phase 2*) Emma asks the PCC to more specifically define the purpose to enable her to more accurately draw up a scheme for consideration and has kindly offered to meet again with the PCC (**on Wednesday 20th July**) to assist with this process.

Health and Safety

(11.1) **Covid Safety Measures**. It was agreed that we should retain the use of the sanitiser and indicate to everyone that they are welcome to wear masks if they wish to do so.

(11.2) **The distribution of Holy Communion**. Fr. Darren spoke about the restoration of the shared chalice following its prohibition as a result of the Covid pandemic. Those who wish to do so are invited to receive in both kinds or to continue their current practice. It was pointed out that intinction, dipping the consecrated host, the bread or wafer, into the wine, remains forbidden.

(11.3) **Health & Safety Policy**. This is based on the diocesan policy. It was agreed to adopt this policy and a copy is posted on the church notice board.

(12) **Safeguarding**. There was nothing to report.

Any Other Business

(13.1) **Supporting our services and social events**. Fr. Darren spoke of the regular worship, the special services such as that for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the various social events such as the programme of Saturday coffee mornings and the 'sociable strollers' walks and lunches. It is important to be mindful that membership of the PCC implies the taking on of a leadership role in the parish, particularly in leading by example; PCC members are urged to be 'sentinels for the Church'.

(13.2) **Dates of forthcoming meetings:** the following schedule was agreed:

2022-23	Standing Committee	PCC Meeting	Focus
July	12th (Tue)	20th	
September	7th	21st	
October	5th	19th	
November	2nd	16th	
January	4th	18th	
February	1st	15th	Review of policies
March	1st	15th	Financial review
April	5th	APCM tbc, a Sunday (?)	
(May 2023)	tbc	tbc	Review of testing regimes, ie electrical

(13.3) **Teaching Leaflets.** These are intended to reinforce the teaching of the church in Amesbury’s long-established inclusive Liberal Catholic tradition, which maintains the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. The leaflets will hopefully prompt reflection, a wider shared vocabulary, and a deeper understanding of the Faith. The first leaflet is entitled *Praying the Eucharist* and is available from the table inside the main door of the church.

(13.4) **One Licence renewal (live streaming).** This costs £70.00 annually and is especially useful for weddings. It was agreed to renew our subscription when it becomes due.

Action: FrD to inform Michael Nottage, the Acting Director of Music.

(13.5) **Candles:** Should we replace oil burners with wax candles? The PCC was advised of the toxic nature of the oil used for the altar candles. There is a concern that the existing oil-filled candles may have been given in memory of loved ones and this matter would need to be addressed if the PCC agreed to replace these items with wax candles. After a discussion it was agreed that the change should be made and that in future the church will buy wax candles.

Action: SM.

(13.5.1) It was further agreed that an announcement about the change should be included in the Sunday pew sheet, and that anyone affected by this change, specifically because of the original gift dedications, should inform the churchwarden (SM).

Action: FrD.

Any Other Business

(14.1) SM updated the PCC about **the potential data breach** that has been reported to the church’s solicitors. The advice received is that the potential breach should be reported but it is not essential to do so. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the business concerned indicating that this matter is not the responsibility of the PCC.

Action: SM, AR, in consultation with FrD.

(14.2) **The Living History Project.** RD spoke of a possible event in October in connection with this project in liaison with other community projects, including the community choir. It would be helpful if a meeting could be set up with Fr. Darren to discuss the various ideas.

Action: RD.

(14.3) **Tables (and hot coffee) at coffee time.** JS advised the PCC that some members of the congregation are keen that there should be some tables available at coffee time after the Sunday morning Eucharist. SM commented that the current arrangement without tables and with chairs set against the wall was intended to encourage mingling and chatting. It has been argued that the provision of large tables to sit around results in a very static situation whereby many sit with the same group each week, an arrangement that has the potential to be excluding for newcomers. The issue, it was suggested, is nevertheless a practical one: there are those amongst us who struggle to hold a cup of hot coffee and move about, stand up or sit down. For that reason, some tables would be most helpful and would make such parishioners feel not only more comfortable, but safer, and the risk of spilling a hot drink would be reduced. It was agreed that we should buy some suitable small tables for coffee cups.

Action: SM will research small tables to buy for this purpose.

(15) Fr. Darren closed the meeting with **prayer**.

(16) The next meeting of the PCC is on **Wednesday 20th July**, in church at 7.30pm.

Please let me know of any AOB items you may have for the next PCC meeting by next Monday afternoon, July 11th.

AR
July 2022.