

**Amesbury Parochial Church Council
PCC Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 23rd November 2022.**

- (1) Fr. Darren opened the meeting with **prayer**.
- (2) Those **present at the meeting**: Fr. Darren A'Court (FrD), Sophie Moody (SM) (Churchwarden), Katie Newham (KN), and Andrew Robson (Hon. Secretary). Anna Hardy, of Salisbury Diocese, attended part of the meeting to give a presentation.
- (3) **Apologies** were received from Lisa Courtney (LC) (Hon.Treasurer), Ruth Davies (RD), and Alex Fryatt. (AF).
- (3.1) **Retirement from the PCC**: Alex Fryatt, and Julie Lewis have retired from the PCC. We thank them both for their contribution to the PCC and the life of the church.
- (3.2) **Declarations of Interest**: there were none declared.
- (4) Anna Hardy (of Salisbury Diocese) (*finances and stewardship*)

There was a presentation by Anna Hardy of Salisbury Diocese, about **elective giving**, and a discussion followed.

The object of the presentation was to help us make giving easier because fewer people now carry cash; this has been having a detrimental impact on parish giving, especially casual giving from visitors, and those attending baptisms, weddings, and funerals in recent years.

It was explained that the current situation is that we have an old-fashioned wall safe for donations; the votive candle stand also has a slot for donations; we have set up a QR code for electronic donations; there are the customary Sunday collections, and standing orders. We are not presently part of the Parish Giving Scheme.

It was recommended that our parish joins the **Parish Giving Scheme** (PGS). It is possible for people to sign up for it online and the system can be set up within ten days of initiating involvement. Collection costs are covered by the Diocese. A leaflet explaining the scheme is available. Anna offered to help devise a parish giving leaflet for our Amesbury parish.

Anna showed the meeting an example of the devices that can be installed in church to facilitate card donations, and explained how the system works. For more details see CollectIn.com A device can be bought for £270; an internet connection is needed; it has a SIM card; the data costs are c£50 per annum. Anna informed us that there have been many parishes that have recouped the cost of the device in a few months.

(5) **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 26th October**; these were agreed and signed as a correct record. Please see Matters Arising (below).

(6) **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 26th October**
References relate to the meeting of Wednesday 26th October.

(Item 6.6) Carried forward to the December Extraordinary PCC meeting.

Action: Standing Committee.

(Item 7.2) Donation system enquiry. This has been superseded by the system outlined above.

(Item 7.6) Wall safe for cash donations. This has been repaired and is back in use.

(Item 8.1) Emergency lighting in the tower and stairway.

Action: SM to make enquiries and report back to the PCC.

(Item 8.3) Lightning Protection for the church tower. Carried forward to the December meeting.

(Item 10.5) The Sound System. It was agreed that the radio microphones should be replaced at an estimated cost of c£200.

Action: FrD.

(Item 11.1) The Risk Assessment has been carried out.

Action: Standing Committee to review its recommendations.

(Item 13.1.1) The Risk Assessment has been done, by AF, and a copy sent to SM. We thank AF for this work.

Additional/corrected information:

(Item 16.4) Silver Salisbury visited Amesbury Parish Church on Saturday 1st October 2022 between 10.00am and 2.00pm to recount their stories for the Amesbury Living History Project coordinated by RD. The Amesbury Community Soul Singers presented an enjoyable concert to coincide with the Silver Salisbury visit and to commemorate Older People's Day 2022.

(Item 13.1) A very successful and enjoyable Living History Coffee Morning took place in church on Saturday 1st October in conjunction with the Silver Salisbury visit. The event was followed by a concert by the Amesbury Community Soul Singers to commemorate Older People's Day 2022.

(Item 13.3) Remembrance Concert. An alternative source of chairs was secured.

(Item 14.1) Piano tuning. It was agreed that this should be done.

Action: AR to inform Michael Nottage that he should go ahead and book the tuning.

(Item 16.2) Padlock for the church shed. This has been purchased.

(7) Health and Safety

(7.1) A child fell in church during a recent Baptism service. The accident was recorded in the Accident Book.

(8) Safeguarding

There were no new matters to report.

(8.1) RD is working on the records of church members who have undertaken Church of England Safeguarding training.

(9) Outreach

Following the PCC Awayday in October, members who had agreed to take on particular aspects to follow up have continued their work. It was agreed that there is a need to draw all the ideas together into one simple mission action plan as soon as possible, detailing two or three points for each aspect. There was a discussion about whether or not the parish requires a 'vision statement' and it was concluded that such a text would be likely to narrow the idea of the longstanding ecclesiastical parish, a fundamental feature of church life in localities for many centuries.

(10) **Any Other Business**

(10.1) **Tower Roof Project.** The PCC has received the document detailing the architect's fees for the work on the Tower Roof Project.

(10.2) The **Architect's Fees** for the Tower Roof Project. It was agreed that the PCC should pay the architect's fees as submitted from the St. Ann's Gate Architects, being £16,500 plus VAT.

(10.3) A possible **extraordinary meeting** in December; it was decided that the PCC should meet on Monday evening 12th December, in church, 7.15 (coffee) for 7.30 start. This will include a visit from Emma Mullen, architect, to update the PCC on developments for the Tower Roof Project.

(10.4) **Meetings in January 2023:**

Standing Committee (4th), Finance Committee (9th), PCC meeting (18th).

(10.5) **Gift Aid envelopes.** A new stock has been ordered.

(10.6) It was agreed that Andrew Robson should be **co-opted** as a member of the PCC, pending the elections at the next APCM.

(11) **Date of next scheduled monthly meeting:** Wednesday 18th January 2023, 7.15 for coffee, 7.30pm start.

(12) The meeting closed with **prayer.**

Items of AOB for the January meeting should be submitted by **Wednesday 11th January** at 6.00pm.

AR November 2022.