

**Amesbury Parochial Church Council
PCC Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 26th October 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), Katie Newham (KN), and Andrew Robson (Hon. Secretary),
- (3) Apologies were received from Lisa Courtney (LC) (Hon.Treasurer), and John Swindlehurst (JS).
- (4) Declarations of Interest: none were declared.
- (5) **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 21st September;** these were agreed and signed as a correct record.

(6) **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 21st September**

References relate to the meeting of Wednesday 21st September.

Item (6.2) (Action: SM) Obtain quotations for remedial work to the 'shed'. We are awaiting a list of suitable contractors from the architect. (EM).

Item (6.4) (Action FrD) Arrange an inaugural meeting for the **Fit for the Future Working Group**. A first Doodle poll attempt was unsuccessful; this has been repeated and the inaugural meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st November at 7.00pm.

Item (6.6) (Action: FrD) A **faculty application** in relation to the roof works has been submitted.

Action: FrD to check that the changes to the flagpole were included in the application.

(10.3) **The Archdeacon's Visitation Report**, Update on actions completed; (deadline October 2022) All outstanding items have been addressed and have received the approval of the Archdeacon.

(10.4) A new **Church Maintenance Log Book** is now stored in the filing cabinet in the Vestry.

(10.5) The **Sound Engineer serviced the system** on September 6th and the settings have been adjusted by SM in the light of experience since the completion of the work.

A discussion on a proposal to replace the microphones will be included in the November meeting of the PCC.

Action: Standing Committee to include this item in the Agenda for the November PCC meeting.

(13.1.1) **Compilation of a Risk Assessment proforma** and the carrying out of a Risk Assessment.

Action: SM to discuss with AF the implementation of a regular Risk Assessment.

(13.1.2) **PAT Testing** in church; the PAT testing was carried out on Tuesday 20th September, and a copy of the report was submitted in connection with the Archdeacon's Visitation Report.

(13.1.6) **The roof alarm** has been repaired and a replacement part fitted.

(14.2) **A Parish Safer Recruitment Policy.** This was adopted on the basis that it is likely to be temporary until there is a model policy provided by the Diocese. A copy is in the possession of the Safeguarding Officer and a copy has been posted on the church notice board.

(15.6) **BRF 'New Daylight' Bible Study Notes.** AR sent off for a package of promotional material and sample books and this has been passed to AF.

(16.1) **Lightning protection for the church tower.**

Action: FrD and SM to liaise with EM, our architect, to establish what would be possible with the funds available and for guidance about whether it could be incorporated into the Bell Tower project financially as well as practically.

(16.2) The church shed (in the north churchyard) needs to be opened up and the contents sorted out.

Action: SM, also to arrange for a new padlock.

(16.3) **Emails from Emma Mullen, architect.** From now on these will be copied to PCC members for information.

Action: FrD, SM, AR.

(16.4) The **Silver Salisbury Project Group** visited Amesbury Abbey Church on Saturday 1st October between 10.0am and 12.0pm and there was also an enjoyable concert presented by the Amesbury Soul Singers.

(7) Finance

(7.1) Finance Report (LC)

(7.2) Notes from the Finance Committee Meeting of October 17th
The meeting was attended by (LC), (KN), and (FrD).

It was noted that the diocesan interest-free loan of £50,000 is yet to be repaid.

Please see table overleaf.

Amesbury PCC financial position 17.10.22.	£
CAF account	37324
Lloyds account	16021
Lloyds W/H account (to close)	6969
Lloyds fundraising account	44
TOTAL	60358
/ess December Parish Share payment (50% of this year's total due)	15609
Balance after Parish Share December payment	44709
Includes legacy of	31000
Regular Giving (Standing Orders) approx per month	2000
Regular outgoings per month approx	800
Not including ENERGY, currently per month	1349
Architect fees (additional)	
Gift Aid claims bi-annually, next one is pending.	
Annual deficit approx	11000

FrD outlined the key observations arising from the first meeting of the Finance Committee:

- (i) There are no obvious areas in which to reduce current expenditure.
- (ii) It is understood to be sound financial practice to retain a certain amount as a reserve, such as £12,000 or the equivalent of six months' expenditure. This reduces the current 'disposable' sum in the PCC bank accounts to £32,749.
- (iii) There is a need to boost income. The Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, Hannah Hardy, is to attend the next PCC meeting in November to advise.
- (iv) FrD reported that the QR codes are now in use to enable donations via the internet.
- (v) It was suggested that the QR code could also be included on the pew sheets and Christmas carol service booklets.
- (vi) There was a discussion about contactless pay points. It was agreed that further investigation should be done into this payment method, which is becoming increasingly significant as fewer people carry cash with which to make a donation to the church.

Action: AR to discuss further details with the Administrator at St. Osmund's RC Church in Salisbury.

- (vii) It is important to increase the number of fund-raising activities such as the forthcoming Christmas Fair.

(viii) The next meeting of the Finance Committee is on January 9th, 7.30pm at the Vicarage.

(7.3) **Energy costs.** These was a discussion about energy costs and how they could be reduced.

(7.4) **Parish Share:** The PCC has paid half of this year's share request, £31,219, split across the remaining two installment dates in October and December. This decision has been communicated to David Ferguson, the Deanery Treasurer.

(7.5) The **collections** at the Parish Eucharist were restarted on the first Sunday in October.

(7.6) **Wall safe for cash donations:** We are awaiting a visit from Avon Security to advise whether the wall **safe collection box** is repairable, or otherwise to advise the PCC on a suitable alternative.

Action: FrD

(8) **Fabric**

(8.1) **Emergency Lighting in the tower.** It has been drawn to our attention by the bellringing team that the absence of emergency lighting on the tower spiral stairway is a safety issue. It was agreed that the PCC should obtain estimates to install emergency lighting as a matter of urgency.

Action: FrD and SM.

(8.2) **Clock servicing.** This has been carried out and the invoice has been paid.

(8.3) **Lightning Protection.** There is presently no lightning protection on the church tower. It was agreed that this matter should be addressed if possible in conjunction with the forthcoming tower works.

Action: FrD and SM to liaise with Emma Mullen, the architect.

(9) **Fit for the Future Working Party**

(9.1) A date for an inaugural meeting has been set for Monday 21st November 2022 at 7.00pm.

(10) **Deanery Synod Report.**

A meeting was held on October 13th and AF attended and presented a report via email to PCC members; the official Synod Minutes were also forwarded to members of the PCC.

(11) **Health and Safety**

(11.1) Risk Assessment Task. The task is in hand.

Action: AF and SM.

(12) Safeguarding

(12.1) Safeguarding Report. There have been some matters to be addressed and these have been referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding team for advice.

(12.2) Please see above (12.1).

(12.3) **Lock change:** this work has been carried out to comply with the requirements of the insurance policy and on the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

(13) Outreach

(13.1) A very successful and enjoyable **Living History Coffee Morning** took place in church on Saturday 1st October and was followed by a concert by Amesbury Community Soul Singers.

(13.2) **Open Saturdays.** SM explained that this is a new initiative to encourage people to come into the church on a Saturday morning to take part in activities such as decorating the church for a festival, arranging flowers. These will be publicised in advance, including in the Sunday pew sheet.

(13.3) **Remembrance Concert** by the Durrington Wind Band on Saturday 12th November in church, with setting-up on Friday 11th in the afternoon. 25 extra chairs will be needed.

Action: FrD and SM and helpers to get the chairs from the store.

(13.4) Church **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 3rd December. Eight or nine tables of the available 11 or 12 have already been booked.

(13.5) **Harvest Festival donation to Salisbury Food Bank.** The harvest gifts were taken to the Trussell Trust food bank warehouse in Ashfield Road, Salisbury by AR.

(13.6) Liaison Meeting with representatives of the **Flower Arranging Group.** This meeting has taken place.

(13.7) Liaison Meeting with representatives of the **Friends' Committee.** This meeting is being arranged.

(13.8) Outcomes of the **PCC 'Awayday'** on Saturday 8th October.

There were brief updates about the Awayday projects: Communications (RD), Events (KN) and (SM), Fabric (SM), Discipleship (AF) and Worship (FrD).

(13.9) Proposed '**Staged Messiah**' in Church, performed by the Merry Opera Company. SM outlined the idea which received an encouraging response.

(14) Any Other Business .

(14.1) Michael Nottage asked for permission to engage a **piano tuner** to tune the church's grand piano. It was suggested that it might be more economical to change to a local piano tuner.

Action: AR to discuss this with Michael Nottage.

(14.2) SM reported that the Scout Leader is exploring the possibility of grants in connection with the refurbishment of the toilets at the Scout HQ.

(15) The meeting closed with **Prayer**.

AR October 2022.

Appendix: Notes from the Deanery Synod Meeting

Deanery Synod Mtg Thu 13 Oct 22

Chair: Rev'd Gale Hunt, rural dean

Lay Chair: Lady Sarah Gooch

Secretary: Mrs Margaret Knight

Financial report

David Ferguson

Parishes are advised to monitor their fuel bills constantly, using smart meters where possible, to avoid any nasty surprises when the bills arrive.

Parish Buying is recommended as a supplier for fuel – electricity and oil.

Parishes are reminded of the need to submit their 2021 reports and accounts, without which their charitable status may be withdrawn.

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

Bill Hiscocks (Stonehenge Deanery representative to the Sarum Archdeaconry)

The charity meets 2x pa and on each occasion gives grants of c£2-5k to 10-25 in response to requests from (any) church in Wiltshire. The grants are always 'additional funding' and not the sole funding and must not be more than 50% of the project costs.

Bill is now a trustee and so needs someone to take over his role as chair.

Sudanese visit

Jamie Melville(?)

A very successful visit from the Bishops in Sudan followed the Lambeth Conference.

Prayers are asked for Sudan, for those towns and villages that are flooded and suffering and for those Sudanese people who have been displaced to Kenya and face danger as a result.

7 Dec 22 Sudan lunch @ Chitterne Church Hall for Cress (Sarah is POC).

Lambeth Conferecne

Contrary to the gloomy headlines the conference was very popular and successful and it was considered that AB Welby had done an amazing job.

Vocations

Rev'd Phillip Bromily

Diocese has 8x Vocations advisers each with 2 or 3 potential candidates.

Everyone has a vocation – we simply need to find out God's will through a gentle process of exploration. *"Am I doing the right thing or is God calling me to do something else?"*

All dioceses have a commitment to help serving personnel find their ministry but Salisbury has a stronger call than most because of its large military population.

Taster sessions ongoing and a course in the New Year.

Conclusion

DONM 2 Mar 23 in the South Newton Village Hall

Especially important for treasurers and church wardens to listen to Diocesan Treasurer David talk about the expected mini budget.

(Bishop Steven has promised no Stipendiary posts will be cut in 2023; there were 5 cut in 21 and 5 in 22).

We have 2 tasks: find a successor for Bill and identify and encourage people to consider their vocation.

AF 10/22.