

St Mary's Church, Hitcham
Draft PCC Agenda

7.15pm for 7.30pm start on Monday 8 July 2024

PCC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

GUESTS: Carol Chris, David, Henriette, Marie, Christine, Jo, Susan, and Ray

Chaired by Rev Chris

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	Welcome + introduction Rev Chris + prayer. (15 mins)	Welcome introduction given by Reverend Chris. Colossians 3:1. Embrace forgiveness, rid ourselves of our vices and concentrate on qualities such as passion, kindness, and humility. We are striving for a `perfect` community. All people working together as one. No separate type, Jew, or Gentile. We may all come from diverse backgrounds, but we have one God in common. All of it is for God, he is at the center, and we work for him. Chris said he chose to become our vicar because he believes in studying the Bible, the power of the word and the power of the spirit bringing us to life. The fact that we are also an inclusive church was a huge pull. Inclusive in the sense of all, sexuality, religion, ability, neurodiversity etc.	
2.	Apologies (5 mins)	Simon and Sonia	
3.	Minutes 25.4.24 (5 mins)	Susan expressed that she did not propose changes to the parish share amounts section 7 of the financial report at the last PCC meeting. Sonia had proposed this. Re-proposed by David with Chris B seconding as Sonia absent today. All PCC members agreed.	
4	Safeguarding and pastoral concerns (10 mins)	All the members of the PCC are aware which safeguarding courses they need to attend online and when updates are required, accessed through the Diocese of Oxford website. Please send the completed certificates to Carol. Looking better than 2 weeks ago but please complete ASAP if you need to. Carol has also updated the safe-guarding policy which all the PCC members agreed on. The policy was signed off by Rev Chris, Chris and Carol. A copy of the policy was posted on the board along with a copy of the Parish Safeguarding manual. Carol has updated the safeguarding posters for the notice board and around the church. Safeguarding questions raised by Susan were received too late to be included in the meeting and so carried forward to next meeting. Pastoral concerns are confidential. They were discussed and have been actioned.	

<p>5. PCC roles and responsibilities (10 mins)</p>		<p>Rev Chris said we had some role/responsibility vacancies that need to be filled on the PCC. The secretary for one. Please consider, and this will be discussed in a later meeting. Debbie, thank you for doing such an amazing job until now you have been appreciated.</p> <p>Approve permission to administer chalice + lead sick communion. Chalice: Chris Berry, David Ross-Hamilton, Sonia Hart, Marie Hill, Keith Thomas, Jo Trobridge, Margaret Woodley. This was proposed by Carol and seconded by Henriette. Sick Communion: Sonia Hart.</p> <p>A treasurer role is needed. Training is provided for this. Again, to be discussed at a later meeting.</p> <p>As we are all part of the PCC as we are all trustees of the charity. Please read the relevant document. Simon and Henriette are aware they need to sign a declaration to be on the PCC. (Henriette completed at the end of the meeting. A copy was emailed to Simon by CLB.</p>	
<p>6. Finance Report and Mission Giving 2023 (10 mins)</p>		<p>Chris B circulated January - June 2024 Financial update. More collections are due which have not been added. Collections and other giving will increase from £5,499 to £7,787. Diocese and deanary share figure does not include Outstanding Fees paid - £2,804. We now have a deficit of £10,028 over the first six months of 2024. End of year Budget being a. Deficit of £23,354. We currently have assets of £43,400 in Barclays Bank and £11,600 invested. Well done for saving £1,850 on heating, power, and lighting in the first six months of this year compared to the last.</p> <p>Chris suggested a Finance Group meeting in September 2024. Harsh will have all the figures by then. Susan questioned why these were not available now with everything being computerised. Chris B will enquire.</p> <p>2023 Mission Giving was then discussed which amounts to 10% of our income minus our charitable donations each year. The PCC members agreed to give Lighthouse Burnham £2,000 which is re-launching this year and being held in our Parish. PCC also agreed to give £600 each to Slough Refugee Support, Padstones Burnham, Thames Valley Hospice, Christian Connections in Schools, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service, Burnham Care and Share and also £550 to The Stroke Association UK. Agreement to this giving proposed initially by Chris B and seconded by Ray.</p>	

7.	Fundraising (5 mins)	<p>Susan could do with another person helping with fundraising. Again, to be discussed later. Thank you, Josie, for what you have done for the church fundraising to date. The latter is now stepping down. Susan has been on a course recently regarding fundraising. She has also put our name down to access £1,000 through a drawer system from the Benefact trust.</p> <p>Susan has identified 3 architectural companies to come and draw plans for the proposed disabled toilet. Again, on hold until funds discussed.</p>	
8.	Young church + Youth Worker bid (5 mins)	<p>Young church and Youth Worker Bid discussed. The Church of England is investing £6 million to get young people more involved in the church. We are part of the Jubilee group, which is four local churches and are bidding for a youth worker shared between us - in collaboration with the Deanery and organised by the Diocese. The youth workers would be employed by the Diocese not the Parishes and be involved in all the churches and schools in their catchment areas. A positive outcome already has been working with the other three churches in the Jubilee group.</p> <p>Chris B said only one child is coming to BFG now. We need to attract more families with young children to the church to grow. Lighthouse may kickstart something. Children's group Xplorers being held at church twice a month.</p>	
9.	Worship (5 mins)	<p>Paula, who plays the piano at church in both services, will be leaving in September 2024. Thank you, Paula, for all your hard work. Not to be discussed outside the PCC until August 2024. Rev Chris has some ideas about moving forward. Plans to give Paula a card and gift in September and a nice send-off. Rev Chris has ideas for where the church is going forward and in worship. Ideas will be disclosed later.</p>	
10	PCC Away Day Sat 5 October (5 mins)	<p>PCC away day proposed for Saturday 5th Oct 2024. Rev Chris stated the first part of the day will concentrate on refreshments then the second what we need to focus on. Rev Chris will share reflections on where he hopes the church will move forward and in what direction. This will be a time to spend together in spiritual reflection. The proposed duration will be 10am to 4pm to be held at Stubbings, Burchett`s Green.</p>	

11.	Deanery Synod (5 mins)	Marie covered this agenda item. The recent Deanery Synod meeting included a presentation by the charity Open Door Witney. This charity supports the church in many ways but historically helping the persecuted and supplying bibles. There was also a presentation by Wayne Dixon who works for Christian Connections in Schools. Beth Gomm had also joined the meeting to introduce herself as she was to be supporting him in this growing role.	
12.	Inclusive Church (5 mins)	Discussed by Rev Chris and Chris B. Chris B said we can message Inclusive Church if we need any guidance. They have offered to provide a speaker for a Sunday service if we wish. Chris has also signed up to receive their monthly emails. He will print these off for display on our noticeboard and via the email notices. Rev Chris says having the Inclusive Church logo on our church website sends a powerful message.	
13.	Any other business (5 mins)	<p>Agree dates for first PCC meetings for remainder of 2024. Proposed dates are the 9th of September, 5th October (PCC Away Day), 21st October, 2nd December, 9th January 2025 and 10th March 2025.</p> <p>Sonia in her absence today had sent a message asking how can we get more people involved in the 5th Sunday of the month services. She also wants us to consider how to get more worshippers through the doors. Still early days for Rev Chris. Rev Chris said he will present his thoughts and ideas later in the year, at the Oct 21st PCC meeting. He has many ideas. Sonia is also concerned that the prayer book is not working. Names are staying on it and not being revised. It was agreed that Rachel will take over the management of this. Initials of those who have put the names on the list will not be detailed for confidentiality reasons. Another system will be devised. Rachel will update monthly.</p> <p>PCC members mentioned running another Alpha course this year. Rev Chris said next year is more likely as we have a lot to focus on. Also, there was a suggestion for a stand at next year's Burnham Park gathering. Carol mentioned a £500 gift for all things wildlife for the church from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust to pay for feeders, bird boxes etc. These will be delivered and fitted.</p>	
14.	Next meeting date (5 mins)	9 th September 2024.	
15.	Prayer and end (5 mins)	Rev Chris.	