

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 28th November 2016 at 8pm

Present: Rev'd P Bradley, A Grace, P Fray, S Smith, A Ramage, J Valpy, D Rowley (observing)  
Apologies: R Saunders, E Walker, M Smith, N Dye, K Bell, S Danby

PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a Bible reading (John 1: 43-51) and reflection.

1. Minutes from 19.9.16 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

Mission Committee meeting postponed until New Year.

Diocese have expressed their thanks for our 2017 Pledge. JV to put in church newsletter. **Action - JV**

3. Chair's Report (previously circulated)

PCC shared brief reflections on PB's report, including considering whether events held in church (eg. concerts) should be opened/welcomed by a member of the clergy/ministry team, possibly with a prayer. Discussion to continue within context of expectations of the vicar.

4. Expectations of the Vicar

PB expressed some thoughts around the changing role of a priest/minister then asked PCC to discuss and record what they thought he should be spending his time doing. What expectations do we as a PCC have of Phil?

Thoughts were recorded on post-its and will be typed up and circulated for further discussion at January's meeting.

5. Finance

Report previously circulated.

Current account stands at £27,946. £6,000 will come out of this to pay for rest of 2016 pledge.

£125 donation has been made to discretionary fund.

The new ramp has not yet been paid for.

It is disappointing that the grant application for the roof was unsuccessful, but PB expressed thanks to AG for her work on this. The architects have suggested that we re-apply after the quinquennial inspection next year. Berry's roofing have carried out some patch repairs to the roof, with one leak still to fix.

AG proposed and PF seconded that D Arnold becomes the named architect on all documentation (previously M Bartosch, but AG always deals with D Arnold). Agreed unanimously.

The PCC agreed to begin 2017 with a focus on fundraising with a target figure of £200,000. Members of the congregation have already put forward fundraising ideas and a fundraising group is forming. Notice to go into February's Chronicle to reach the wider community. **Action PB/AG**

The cross on the tower has been repaired and is now lit up, but is likely to only last this year. Longer term options to be considered.

Lighting in the nave is gradually reaching the end of its life and is best to replace whole lot rather than one at a time. There are also tower up-lighters not working and the tower is not shown off well at the moment. PF will follow-up quotes from John Butcher and will look at hiring cherry picker plus driver rather than expensive scaffolding. **Action - PF**

6. Leadership Team

No meeting since last PCC. The feedback on church vision will be discussed at the team's next meeting.

#### 7. Deanery Synod

No update

#### 8. Church Teams (update previously circulated)

Some aspects of the website are difficult to navigate - currently being looked at.

A new welcome leaflet is in process. All agreed that Comms Team should set up Facebook page, but with an awareness that it would need to be monitored. SS to purchase perspex containers to hold leaflets at the back of church. **Action - SS**

PB to liaise with Sarah Smith on website issues. **Action - PB**

#### 9. Choir (update previously circulated)

It is hoped that at least one of the additional members of the choir for the Carol Service will become permanent in 2017.

#### 10. Youth and Children's (update previously circulated)

Some Sundays see up to 20 children across the 2 S Club groups and 5 or 6 in Vibe. PB meeting SWYM in New Year to discuss finding a youth worker for Autumn 2017. In the meantime he is approaching a friend with extensive youth work experience to see if he wants to come and get involved.

#### 11. Safeguarding

Sharon Smith completing DBS checks. AG and SS are meeting to go through safeguarding audit. Battery recycling container has also been emptied and moved to a safer place in church, away from children's reach.

#### 12. Upper Thames Group Council (minutes previously circulated)

Ashton Keynes have a Youth Cafe which is going well.

#### 13. Jenner Hall

No meeting since last PCC.

#### 14. Events

Outdoor Harvest service was enjoyed by all, in spite of weather! New Alpha course beginning 11th January 2017. Volunteers needed to provide meals. PB encouraged all to do more together socially.

Churches Together will not be represented at the Christmas Lights switch on this coming Saturday - usually sheep or donkey and leaflets to give out - not enough people available to run it this year. Some details of Christmas services were wrong in the Dec Chronicle. List of services to be displayed on church notice board asap, also on website and posters around town. **Action - PB/JV**

#### 15. Correspondence

Diocese are to produce materials for a 2017 Lent course.

#### 16. Date of next meeting

Monday 23rd January 2017

Venue to be confirmed