

**Minutes of St. Mary's Whaddon, Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting
held at Turpins on Tuesday 2 July 2024 at 8pm.**

The PCC is a group of people who, with the Vicar, oversee the life of the church to ensure we are focused on what Jesus wants us to do. We aim to seek God's will, work well together, reflect our values and take action for the future.

Present: Rev. Helen Orr (HO) (Chair), David Grech (DG) (Vice Chairman), Karen Coningsby (KC), Jenny Grech (JG), Anne Warrack (AW), Kay Clarke (KCI), Helen Strudwick (HS), Anne Newberry (AN), Peter Haselden (PH), Claire Hales (CH)

Action

1. **Opening prayers**

2. **Apologies for absence** Erica Coomber (EC), Simon Morris (SM)

3. **Minutes for approval and signing**

The minutes for the PCC Meeting on 20 March 2024 were signed

4. **Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

The addition of toilet and kitchen facilities so that the church building can be of greater use to the community was discussed. HO has this in hand and is a project on her agenda.

5. **Correspondence**

6. **Safeguarding**

AN reported that she has safeguarding matters in hand.

KC has completed her leadership training and HS is in process of doing so.

AN asked if there are any safeguarding records held elsewhere in church. PCC has confirmed that there are not. She also asked if there were any church activities that involved children or vulnerable adults that haven't already been discussed. PCC confirmed that there were not.

AN asked that at the next meeting the Safeguarding Action Plan be reviewed. This was agreed.

7. **Finance**

JG spoke to the Treasurer's report. She pointed out that the invoice for the radiators is due to be paid which will use the majority of the Fabric Fund. There will be some VAT to be reclaimed in time from that expense.

The PCC were reminded that the Fabric Fund is supported through fund raising and donations.

The electricity contract was discussed – see report below for details.

The meeting voted to delegate the decision about the electricity supply to JG, proposed by DG and seconded by PH.

PH/JG

PH suggested that he and JG discuss this considering the deal found for the Village Hall contract.

8. **Church Fabric**

The drainpipes have been painted and radiators installed as previously discussed and agreed.

PH asked about electrical inspections. DG said this was to be completed following painting work.

9. **Synod meetings**

Deanery

AW raised the completion of the Deanery Planning Questionnaire (DPQ). The PCC agreed the following:

DG to ask Nick Jones to print 30 copies.

DG

The DPQ will be made available to the PCC, the congregation and all Parishioners.

DG will ask Nigel Strudwick to email with a copy of the DPQ via the Whaddon village email.

DG

PH will have copies of the DPQ at the village fete for parishioners to either fill out on the day or return by completion date.

PH

All copies of the DPQ should be returned to either members of the PCC or left at the church by the 21 July after the service.

AW also drew the PCC's attention to the [Open Christian Learning](#) a new online portal for learning resources for the Diocese of Ely. There are resources to support learning in evangelism, discipleship, mission, and ministry.

Diocesan

AW reported that the interviews for new Bishop of Ely will be taking place in July.

10. Any other business

a. Quinquennial Inspection

The report has been previously distributed to the PCC. DG reported that some work advised to be done has been completed – the drainpipe painting and repairs to the boiler house. He stated that there was some degree of encouragement when reading the report but there are works that need to be completed sooner rather than later. These are low level stonework repairs on the northside of the church and the buttress on the south side.

PCC asked DG to go ahead to get quotes for repairing the stonework. **DG**

PH proposed and KC seconded.

Also, the gutters require high level cleaning. PH to get a quote from Henry Burgess **PH**

b. Thy Kingdon Come

KCI raised the issue that the Whaddon congregation wasn't clearly invited to this event which was a shame as they had previously. It was agreed this was a miscommunication and in future should be promoted in Whaddon.

HO agreed to ask Mandy to invite the Whaddon congregation next year **HO**

c. Bassingbourn tea clash with village fete KCI

It was agreed that CH should liaise with Nick Jones at Bassingbourn so that any events outside of normal services should be shared so that clashes can be avoided. **CH**

d. Prayer Requests HS suggested that a way for parishioners to ask for prayers to be said be made available. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a box be placed in the church porch with prayer cards and general instructions. These requests can then be read in church.

KC was asked to see if SC would be able to make one for the church. **KC**

e. Reading Rota HS suggested that a rota for readers may encourage more to volunteer to read in services if they have some preparation time. PH suggested it also might encourage more to come along to church if they feel they can contribute in some way.

It was agreed that KC would email the village to ask for volunteers for a reading, flower and cleaning rota.

KC

Specifically for the reading rota HO will report to the Ministry team to email KC the readings and then whoever is leading the service will email KC the reading for that week's service. This will start from September.

DG

- f. Communion sheets – HS distributed the amended communion sheet. This was approved by the PCC. DG will order 50 copies to be printed.

11. **Review of services**

Forthcoming services

Harvest Sunday 6 October 2024 3pm

Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024 10.45am

Carol Service Sunday 15 December 2024 6pm

HO asked the PCC to agree to a couple from Bassingbourn possibly using St Mary's for their wedding next year. This was accepted. All qualifying terms would be met.

PH proposed a Pet Service be held at St Mary's. This was agreed to be held on Sunday 8 September 2024 at 3pm. HO to lead the service. There will be no morning service this day.

12. **Date of Next Meeting(s)**

Tuesday 10 September 2024 8pm Spring Cottage

Tuesday 12 November 2024 8pm Turpins

Tuesday 14 January 2025 8pm Spring Cottage

13. There being no further business HS closed the meeting with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report 02/07/2024

Bank balances at 25 Jun 2024

Barclays General Fund	8,169.45
Watson Fuels	-345.83
CCLA Fabric Fund (restricted)	3,351.30
CCLA Organ Fund (restricted)	3,867.08
CCLA Charity Account (restricted)	2,973.90
Total	£ 18,015.90

Receipts and Payments 01 Jan to 25 Jun 2024

General Fund:

Receipts	5,941.45
Payments	4,206.44
Receipts minus payments	£ 1,735.01

Fabric Fund:

Receipts	5,371.67
Payments	12,526.00
Receipts minus payments	(£ 7,154.33)

Receipts and payments since PCC meeting in March 2024

General fund:

Receipts: Collections at services £680, Standing orders £1,520, Gift aid tax reclaimed £440, Weddings and funerals £480, Whaddon Whit 270, Village fete £130

Payments: Ministry share £2,910, Utilities £270, Membership of Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust £50

Fabric fund:

Receipts: VAT reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme: £1,590 from work on the heating and £50 from organ repair work, Donations £3,000, Church history booklet £30

Expenditure: Repainting gutters and minor repairs £1,830, Installing radiators at back of nave £1,150 (this was a 25% deposit on work which has just been completed)

Charity account:

Outreach £60 (Whaddon Whit service booklets)

Electricity Contract

Our electricity contract is due for renewal. Ely Diocese put us in contact with Green Journey, and we have been arranging our contracts through them for several years. Their latest recommendation is Pozitive Energy, offering a standing charge of 59.2p/day and supply rate of 25.5p/unit. Currently we are with SSE, paying 44.9p/day and 30.9p/unit. SSE's new offer is slightly more expensive than Pozitive Energy, and they have been a nightmare to deal with due to unclear bills, high estimated readings then failure to collect their direct debit.

Our usage is very low, so the rising standing charge is more of an issue. I intend to swap to Pozitive Energy, and need to decide whether to opt for a 12- or 24-month fixed price contract.

Appointment of Auditor

Roger van Poortvliet has agreed to act as Independent Examiner for St Mary's again.

Jenny Grech