

Parish of Deddington with Clifton and Hempton

Minutes of the PCC meeting held on **Thursday, 23rd January 2025**
Ground floor Meeting Room, Deddington Arms

Present: Rev. Nick Fielden (Chair), David Clements, Caroline Condon, Jane Green, Jane Maharry (also acting as Secretary), Heather Nason, Stan Nelson, Angela Faint, Olivia Fenion

In attendance: For items 1- 4: Helen Hall (Fairtrade) For items 1-5: Andrew Crawley (Hempton)

Item	Notes	Action
1	<p>Apologies None</p>	
2	<p>Opening prayer Nick opened the meeting in prayer</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting – 21st November 2024 and action log</p> <p>The minutes for the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.</p> <p>Action log/Matters arising</p> <p>See separate action log for items. Key updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela agreeing to kitchen oversight role once she steps away from PCC • IT Meeting with Nick, Olivia and David R to be arranged for late February • A new company had been approached for quotes to gulley repairs • A meeting with the Diocese regarding a new potential heating system will take place on 7th February 	
4	<p>Fair Trade</p> <p>Helen Hall provided an overview of her paper and desire to set up a Fair-Trade stall.</p> <p>Deddington is working towards its gold Eco church award, and this would be a positive step towards that aim. Helen has secured a craft market table for February and, subject to take up, hopes to run the stall each month at the market. A business account has been set up for online/cashless payments.</p> <p>Helen has spent some time researching different stock providers. She is going with True Origin, based in Scotland. Their range is more limited than Traidcraft but she will start with a small number of products to see how they work and what customers are most interested in purchasing. She will have help with the stall from husband Geoff,</p>	

	<p>Fiona G, Bryony F and Vicki F.</p> <p>A £400 loan is requested from PCC to enable Helen to make the first order. Payment back to PCC would likely be slow as she will only be able to pay us back via any bulk order discounts, however, it would be the intention to repay in full. All PCC members supported this request and Iain confirmed that funds are available.</p> <p>There was some considerable discussion regarding the storage of stock which Helen would prefer to be in church. This is likely to be either in the kitchen or on the glass side of the Living Room in a secured unit.</p>	<p>Caroline/Helen to agree stock storage location</p>
	<p>Hempton Church</p> <p>Andrew reported that the Christmas Fair raised £1,100. This was a tremendous result given the limited space in just the hall. The October Pumpkin trail was also successful. The Carol Service was well attended and enjoyable. Nick reported that around 8 parishioners are regularly attending services.</p> <p>The application for the church to go on the Historic England (HE) 'at risk' register has been submitted but no feedback has yet been received. It is thought that the next step will be an inspection from HE.</p> <p>The planned for project meeting was cancelled due to illness but will now take place via Zoom on 28th January. The bat survey still needs to be undertaken and the timing of such and any potential bat relocation will dictate the programme of building works.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Living Faith</p> <p><u>Review of church services</u></p> <p>Nick has undertaken a review of the existing offer at Deddington Church. He feels our choral tradition and high-quality music-making should be celebrated.</p> <p>However, he is aware of the need to provide an offer that is more appealing to families and those not so familiar with church. He presented a proposal for a more informal service on the 1st Sunday of each month. This would be broadly based on the Barford Family Service which is much enjoyed by the people who attend. The difference from Barford would be to include a Eucharistic element using informal yet authorized liturgy. A service would run as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 9.45am – Arrival with drinks and croissants offered • Children's area set-up near font (close to parents drinking coffee/chatting) with seasonal theme bags (as Barford). • Service content to commence at 10.30am using more contemporary (1990s-ish) music. The intention would be for no books to be used with all content /responses on the screen. • No later than 11.30am – Finish and depart (no post-service drinks) <p>The ministry team are supportive and Barford will assist in setting up the format. It was felt that starting in June would help with the time needed to prepare for this new service.</p> <p>Suggestions were made to include music used as part of school worship and with the</p>	

	<p>possibility of the school choir attending on occasion to broaden reach. This could be considered. A worship type band could also be a possibility in future.</p> <p>The first couple of offerings were felt to be important to 'get right' to encourage families to continue to attend after the summer break.</p> <p>The new first Sunday service would replace the current second Sunday at 3pm which would have its final service in May.</p> <p>All supported and were encouraged by this proposal.</p> <p>Nick suggested that he could offer a 9am BCP on the first Sunday for those who were not comfortable with a more informal service although the question was raised about whether this would be well attended.</p> <p><u>Use of high altar</u></p> <p>Countering the request to look at a more informal offer, some feedback has been received around the current lack of use of the high altar.</p> <p>Nick proposed – and had gained support from the Ministry team – for this to be used on five occasions each year: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, Patronal Festival, Midnight Mass</p> <p>We have a handrail to assist those who find the step difficult and are also looking at a ramp. The latter will help with moving the organ to different locations. Nick will always offer communion to those in their seats who are unable to make their way to the altar.</p> <p>All agreed to this proposal.</p> <p><u>Christian Aid Week</u></p> <p>Nick reported that Christopher and Vivianne Hall are looking to step down from organizing this week. We need to find a new team. Tasks involved include finding a speaker for a service, organizing a bring and share lunch and promoting the giving week via leaflet for donations. There are no longer door-to-door collections.</p> <p><u>Lent course</u></p> <p>Nick will be running a Lent Course for six weeks, starting from Tuesday after Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings. This will use the Diocesan <i>Come and See</i> materials which are well structured.</p> <p>It was noted that Bodicote congregation would be welcomed to meetings as they have been unable to arrange a course during their interregnum.</p>	
7	<p>APCM</p> <p>A date of Sun 18th May was set for the APCM.</p> <p>There are several vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer • Churchwarden (Stan is stepping aside although is still happy to serve on PCC) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCC members – Angela and Jane G intend to step down and we have a further vacancy due to Meriel’s passing. Heather had been looking to step down, however, agreed to a further year. <p>All PCC members were asked to try and find replacement members. There is lots to do and we need people to get stuck in with various tasks.</p> <p>Jane M asked if PCC Members were content with the existing format used for reports. Confirmation followed and she will therefore look to compile in a similar style to the last few years.</p> <p>It was stated that Vivianne Hall was undertaking the full electoral roll update (<i>this has been confirmed post meeting</i>), however, it will be a task for all to try and get as many people as possible signed up.</p>	
8	<p>General Fabric Report and review of building repair/maintenance log</p> <p>It was reported that four items from the repair/maintenance log have been completed since November. Huge thanks were expressed to Caroline for her work in this area.</p> <p>The works intended to be undertaken by Alcocks were a concern as they had not been in contact for a long time and some were now getting urgent. Iain/Stan agreed to forward the quote for works to Caroline so she could complete a faculty and then potentially look at other contractors.</p> <p>The church has received a £1,000 donation for works to the kitchen – specifically to improve the hatch, remove a kitchen cupboard and install a new fridge. This will enable the large unit in the Living Room to be removed. The quotes received suggested that we needed around £250 above the donation to complete the works. All agreed that these should proceed.</p> <p>As mentioned in min ref 6 above, we need to purchase a ramp. Initially, this needs a design so that Diocesan permission can be obtained. The ramp needs to be both movable and robust enough to take the organ.</p> <p>The issue of ongoing mold in the Living Room was discussed and concern also expressed about water ingress around the Lady Chapel. This was likely caused in part due to failed flashing on the gullies.</p>	<p>Action: Iain/Stan</p>
9	<p>Churchyard</p> <p>It was noted that the bottom wall to the East has collapsed (adjacent to a residential property). This is likely to be our responsibility. Previously we had been able to claim on insurance for wall works and this would be checked out by Caroline and the project added to the list.</p> <p>Dog mess is now a real problem. Further stronger physical notices were agreed to be put up along with a message on our Facebook page. If these actions didn’t improve the situation, we could take the decision to ban dogs from the graveyard.</p>	<p>Caroline</p> <p>Nick/Olivia</p>
10	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Iain’s report was shared and reviewed.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that we're currently heavily into reserves as we are still awaiting payment from school for the staging to the total of £5,000 and additionally contributed more than £2,000 directly to the same.</p> <p>The fabric fund is healthy, and it was agreed we would pay the notice board from this pot.</p> <p>Onward cost of utilities is a concern. Electricity has gone up twice this year and the current preferential gas contract with Total Power - no standing charge and a cost of just under 4p per kWh - ends on 31st Dec. Total have provided a quote for a new contract which based on current usage will add £5,000 per annum to the bill. The Parish Buying scheme have been approached for a comparator quote/advice. It was noted that PCC members may need to be available at short notice for a decision on future utility contracts.</p> <p>A £10K donation has been received for the new heating solution. Given the heating is now functioning ok and the replacement system some time off however, it was suggested that we use this instead for battery storage for the PVs. This would enable us to store energy generated in the summer for use during winter months. The export tariff would be unchanged. The battery is likely to be positioned under the current inverter. Its installation will require a faculty.</p> <p>Nick had spoken with the donor and they had agreed that they were happy that the money be used for this alternative purpose. Caroline agreed to add to the project list and obtain quotes.</p> <p>Regrettably, despite an appeal being the news sheet for over sixth months, no candidates to take over as Treasurer have come forward. We need to address this as a priority as Iain must be able to step down at APCM.</p> <p>Iain provided a job specification which was very thorough (although a little daunting of the work involved). A suggestion was made that we could pay someone for, say, 8 hrs a week as a bookkeeper to take the bulk of the input/admin load. It may then be easier to get someone to oversee and undertake the reporting as 'Treasurer'. It was agreed to convene a separate meeting to discuss asap with Nick, Stan, Caroline and Iain.</p> <p>We need an advert in both Deddington and Barford News along with a Social Media advert.</p> <p>PCC reviewed the optional wedding fees and these were increased as follows:</p> <p>Choir – plus £10 from existing to £130 Organist – plus £10 from existing to £130 Verger – Increase to £20 Videographer – Increase to £120 plus double organists' fee Bellringers – to be consulted separately</p>	<p>Caroline – to add to project list</p> <p>Meeting re: Treasurer solution</p> <p>Nick /Olivia to work together on copy/message</p> <p>Nick to contact Colin Cox as Tower Captain</p>
11	<p>Deanery Synod</p> <p>Angela was not able to attend the November meeting, however, it seems like it was quite lively. Representatives wished to talk about the Makin report which had just been released. The Area Dean stated there would be opportunities to discuss but no information has been received on that to date.</p>	

	It was noted there is a Deanery quiet day on 8 th March led by Guy Edwards	
9	<p>H&S Report</p> <p>There was one incident – namely, heavy bruising of Heather’s fingers from the organ cover.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to David Odell for his repairs to the heating gratings.</p>	
12	<p>Safeguarding Training Event</p> <p>It was agreed that the training event should be held in June. It should take around 2 hrs. Date to be confirmed at the March meeting.</p>	
13	<p>Fundraising Events</p> <p>Caroline expressed her intention to kick-start some fundraising to generate contributions towards the various projects that we have in train.</p> <p>The first would be an ‘Open Gardens’ event; 29th June was agreed as the date. We need around 15 parishioners to show their gardens. A couple of PCC members volunteered and a number of other suggestions made. A notice will be placed in Deddington News requesting volunteers.</p> <p>The plan would be to have a cream tea in church, with people paying for their ticket and then following the map of locations around the village.</p> <p>A Christmas Craft Fair is to be planned for December (avoiding the date of the Hempton Bazaar). Olivia and Sarah offered to support Caroline with this event.</p> <p>Olivia suggested a return of Pancake and Plonk on Shrove Tuesday (4th March) and this will be organized.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Easter card – This will be designed by school as usual. It will be sent to printers by 25th March (before next PCC).</p> <p>Next meeting: Thursday 27th March 2025 at 7pm</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.34pm</p>	<p>Caroline for note in Deddington News</p>