

## **PCC St Peters Church 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 7.15pm**

**Present:** James Hunt, Paul Emmerson, Liz Webb, Mandy Cawood, Robin Felix, Rosemary Wier, Amanda Wollam, Penny Flemons, Emma Nash, Luke Watkins, Di Hunt, Matthew Barker

**Apologies:** Keith Wickert, Rosie Greenlees, Kate Smythe, Theresa Pratt

**James** opened the meeting with prayer and shared Psalm 130 and 131.

**PCC Matters:** No pecuniary interests were declared. The church hall has been booked for all forthcoming PCC meetings except 11<sup>th</sup> July when we will meet at the vicarage or in church. The APCM will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 3 pm in church. Thanks to Robin who has joined the finance committee. Our communications team would welcome new members. We are planning to hold one more meeting of the Mission team after which it will be disbanded and the PCC will take decisions re mission grant giving. This year we will need to produce a new electoral roll (rather than updating the one we previously held) and Paul is discussing this with Nick re how the hub can be used for this.

**Safeguarding:** A homeless protocol has now been produced by Luke and James will review it. Liz and Luke have met with Karen Johnson who is our lead for Safeguarding. There are a number of changes in process. There is a new policy re who needs a DBS, and the training required is changing. We will wait for the new training to be produced before Luke asks us to update our training. Luke has asked for face to face rather than online Safeguarding training, and has offered our church premises for the training and has also suggested a Train the Trainer model is adopted to increase the availability of training. Karen will seek clarity re whether Bell Ringers are required to have DBS checks. There is a new declaration form which people newly undertaking roles requiring a DBS, which people can sign to confirm a DBS has been received in a previous role and they have not committed any offenses. James has completed the Safeguarding training required for his role.

**Correspondence:** We have received a briefing from Rev Andy Davies re the appointment of Emma Andersen to a role developing a new church initiative in the Meon Valley, outside of existing church buildings.

We have also received an invite to a meeting re church insurance but no one is available to attend. We have also had an email re concerns that the scheme to

reimburse VAT to listed places of worship who undertake repairs, was likely to close and not extended, with an encouragement to write to our MPs to express our concerns. We have also received letters of thanks, from the schools following our Christmas Service, from a lady on her own on Christmas Day who had joined the service online and enjoyed it, to the choir following their singing at a funeral service and from the church in Winchester Prison to whom we had given a grant.

**Finance:** Nigel had shared detailed accounts detail in advance of the meeting. At the end of the year we had a deficit of £9889 which was less than predicted. We have gratefully received a legacy of £10,000 which will be spent in accordance with our legacy policy. We do have monies in the BWEI available to distribute in the community in accordance with the grant criteria. Our projected budget for 2025 is £194,000, with a deficit of £23,200. There are a number of options being considered to address the deficit which will be considered by the Stewardship Committee. Les Craddock has now taken over as chair of the Finance Committee, after Tim Gover resigned after many years service.

**Parish Share Review:** There has been a review of how the Parish Share is calculated in the Diocese. St Peters has been asked for an increased contribution. We can ask for this to be reconsidered.

**Property:** Paul had produced a lengthy report prior to the meeting for consideration. The Church Log Book and Property Register were available at the meeting, and can also be seen in the office. A Common Wealth War grave stone is damaged and needs to be repaired. We have been unable to identify anyone to fund this and it was agreed that Paul will bring a quote for repair to the next meeting for consideration.

We also considered receiving additional help in our church yard as part of the Community Payback scheme, All agreed that we should consider this. Luke would like to see the risk assessment which the Probation Service have completed and Matt would like to see the contract before James signs it. The work would take place on a Friday morning.

There have been some concerns expressed re where ashes have been scattered in the Garden of Remembrance, with ashes being scattered on top of ashes already there. It has been agreed to use an adjacent area and ashes will all be

poured in the same area, with bereaved families being made aware of this. The area will be marked “ I am the Resurrection and the Life:”

The wildlife area has now been cleared. Work on the RBL Standard is now completed.

We have received complaints re dogs fouling in the churchyard. A sign will be put up periodically indicating that people are welcome to use the churchyard but please pick up your dog poo.

**Families, Children and Young People:** The numbers in our children’s groups are increasing, with an average of 20 children on a Sunday morning, Teeny Tinies and Garden Gang also going well. Kate recently spoke to a large group pf children in Uganda following the trip in the summer.

**Pastoral Care and Ministry:** We were reminded that pastoral care is the responsibility of us all and it was suggested that this could be a focus on a Sunday morning. A welcome tea for those who have recently joined the church is being planned. We continue to need drivers able to offer lifts to church for those in need.

**Deanery:** We need to continue to pray for Andy Davies who is still recovering from his accident, and for the Parish of Shedfield and Wickham as David Isaacs is now retiring. James will be presenting a paper at Deanery Synod on the bid being prepared for funding for pioneer ministers in the Deanery.

**General Items:** The Standing Committee met recently and were able to identify many things which had gone well last year. We need to continue with our vision in 2025 “Walk, Talk Listen and Eat, with Jesus and others”.

The meeting ended at 9.15 with the sharing of the Grace.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.15pm.