

## St Peter and St Paul PCC Minutes

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 19:30 pm - Peter Street Rooms

### 1. **Welcome**

Jonathan commenced with a Bible reading: 2 Timothy 3 and prayer.

### **In attendance**

Dave Crisfield DC as lay Chair of PCC who chaired the meeting,  
Jonathan Hunter Dunn JHD, Sue Crisfield SC, Vivien Good VG, Pat Penn PP,  
Vaughan Ives VI, Stephen Jarret SJJ, Sophie Jarrett SMJ, Andy Mortimore AM,  
Nick Bennett NB as ad-hoc secretary

### 2. **Apologies** received from Wendi Davis WD, Robert Goodhand RG, Matthew Dawkins MD

### 3. **Minutes** from the meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved for accuracy and signed by JHD accordingly

### 4. **Matters arising not covered by this agenda**

4a) Children's Youth and Families work. JHD reported on a recent sub-committee meeting. Suggested contract for a permanent Youth Leader position of 40 hours per week, at a salary of around £25k+ to suit a more experienced person; 6 months' probationary period with regular reviews. £15k fund already available towards year one. Input is awaited from Cheryl Govier, Diocesan Children's and Youth Advisor. The specification then put to vote. The specification functions as an agreement to advertise the post. Mood positively supported by meeting.

4b) **Methodist Sharing Agreement.** JHD proposed time is right to start legal work with Harris & Harris (H&H) to formally draw the agreement to an end. Methodist chattels can remain in church for time being. **Action NB**

4c) **Piano (Petrov).** AM reported that the Petrov had been repaired and tuned. He suggested that thought should be given to a more portable keyboard-type instrument to assist in situations where the grand is not flexible enough. NB suggested this might be in addition to the Petrov, as the grand is likely still needed for more classical concerts etc.

4d) **Charitable Giving Payments.** Cheques to the previously approved charities not yet actioned but this will be done via the office in due course. **Action HB / NB**

4e) **Readers' Subscriptions.** SJJ reported that they are all paid up.

4f) **Potential Curate for 2019/2020.** JHD reported that the DDO said there were no applicants following the Diocesan request sent out to various theological colleges last year. He reiterated to the DDO our interest for 2020 / 2021. The meeting expressed some dissatisfaction with the perceived lack of Diocesan action on this and therefore **JHD** agreed to investigate directly with certain Colleges to see what response (if any) there may have been. **Action JHD**

5. **Issues Around Human Sexuality, The Church of England and Us.** JHD spoke on this subject for about 30 minutes. In summary:

1) We need to be welcoming to all members of the community. Everyone came to Jesus to seek His teaching and guidance for living faithful lives. So we, too, are to attract all people to the Church to hear the gospel message. Some, however, will not see us as welcoming, and we need to be aware of their concerns and how to deal with them.

Jonathan reported on a meeting in Glastonbury two years ago which focused on changing the teaching of the Bible on aspects such as marriage. He stressed that we need to be clear on the Biblical message of marriage and be equipped and prepared to uphold that. He reported on a new initiative: 'Rainbow Church' launched in September of 2018 in which Bishop Ruth presided. He explained the agenda of Rainbow Church is to be inclusive but 'revisionist' ie seeking to *revise* the teaching and practice with respect to marriage in order to *require* parish churches to conduct same-sex marriages. He mentioned that a group of clergy, the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) has raised concerns to both bishops who nevertheless decided to go ahead and support the launch of Rainbow Church, sending the message that both bishops supported the revisionist agenda. Accordingly, several parishes/benefices have decided that they are 'out of fellowship' with the bishops. Following the launch of Rainbow Church, representatives of the DEF met with the bishops to seek clarification on their actions and convictions. So far, their response has been wholly insufficient. In private, Bishop Peter expressed sorrow and regret over this situation so Jonathan considers that, as a benefice, we remain in fellowship with him.

2) We can't turn a blind eye. How we view marriage matters. In Genesis chapter 2 we find that ' . . . marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh', to quote the introduction to the marriage service. We are all sinners and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. As forgiven sinners we live according to God's teaching and ways. This puts us at odds with contemporary society as well as the revisionist movement within the Church of England. Is there a constructive way forwards?

3) Glynn Harrison, the author of *The Better Story* (available in the church bookstall) spoke in Bath recently. He says we need a *better understanding, a better tone and a better story* and offers four steps through which we can constructively engage with people on this. In summary:

1) **Sorry.** The Church needs to say sorry for its failure to teach and uphold Biblical truth on marriage and sex which contributed to social dysfunction, confusion and hurt in the area of issues involving human sexuality.

2) **Thank You.** Because popular culture has forced the Church to see where its failures are within the context of relationships in the Community.

3) **Please.** Ask if we can talk about these things in an open, honest and constructive way. Ask what's important as people try to discover a sense of self in this modern age ' . . . with gentleness and respect.' (1 Peter 3:15)

4) **Never.** Never let go of what the Bible teaches. We suffer with those we seek to engage with, of course, but we should not seek to change what the Bible teaches. We can only offer a better story if we hold on to it.

DC thanked Jonathan for his initial response to the sensitive and often emotional subject of human sexuality and how we, as a PCC may deal with issues that might approach us as a Church and PCC in future months. Jonathan will continue to talk on this at the May PCC and subsequent meetings to enable the PCC to move prayerfully forward. **Action JHD** will send out to PCC members a fuller text. All PCC members are welcome to contact Jonathan with any concerns, questions or comments.

There followed a short time of reflection and prayer.

#### 6. **Reordering**

VI gave a short update of the responses of the various heritage agencies (Historic England, Victorian Society etc) to their recent site meetings. Responses were largely disapproving on aspects of pew removal, floor raising, toilet block installation et al. The Town Council, however, was greatly in favour of all proposed changes. In light of this, Vaughan will modify the Statement of Significance to reflect the 'advice' and views given in order to gain ultimate support from the Chancellor in seeking final approval. It is still very much work in progress and an on-going effort to determine what can be achieved that is largely supported by all.

#### 7. **APCM Preparation**

DC reported on the various PCC, Treasurer and CW vacancies that are available to be filled at the forthcoming APCM, and at next year's APCM.

*(see AOB below for further discussion that ensued regarding APCM for 2019)*

#### 8. **Fabric Report**

NB reported that the invoice for the recent **QI works** is now due: £8580 including VAT. Also, the good news that Ellis and Co fixed the north porch door gratis (saving around £500 in parts and labour). The **collapsed crypt** has received an emergency faculty from the Chancellor and Pat Bridgeman Builders will carry out the work in due course. The approved **CCTV camera** for PSR courtyard and bins area is installed and working well. **Bells Donation Board** - VI has installed brass plaques as donated by Paul Treby. Paul has been thanked via telephone and email, but PCC asked for letter of thanks sent to him accordingly.

JHD reported that a quotation has been received from a second AV company following their site visit in January for the installation of two **projectors and screens**. The quotation came in at around £12k and, as the amount of up to £15k had already been approved by the PCC, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the installation pending successfully gaining a faculty for the works. **Action NB**

JHD reported that the **Women's Royal British Legion flag** (WRLB now disbanded) has been donated to the church and a request has been made to install it in the west entrance along with the existing flags in the vacant receptacle. It was suggested that the RBL arrange for the existing flags to be taken down, cleaned and

reinstated. NB suggested that an Archdeacon's List B licence might be required to enable the flag to be installed. JHD to dedicate it accordingly in due course.  
Proposed by VI, seconded by VG - approved unanimously. **NB to action AD List B**

#### 9. **Finance**

SJJ gave brief update on state of finances. Cash-flow is sufficient to allow proposed expenditure on recent works etc. It was noted that John Knight is willing to take on the role of treasurer - subject to a positive vote at the APCM. A recent sub-committee meeting's paper on proposed changes to Church finances and banking protocols was presented to the PCC. Acceptance of this was proposed by SJJ, SC seconded - approved unanimously. **Action NB and JK** to visit NatWest on 15th March in Wells.

Parish share has not yet been paid. Delayed subject to JHD discussions with Archdeacon / DBF.

NB asked that the PCC approve John Knight becoming a signatory on the main PCC account in advance of (and subject to) his becoming Treasurer. This was proposed by DC, seconded by VI - approved unanimously.

#### 10. **Prayer Ministry Team**

This important aspect of our ministry was recognised by the PCC and JHD encouraged us to avail ourselves more of prayer following services, and to consider coming forward as part of the prayer ministry team.

#### 11. **Safeguarding**

No issues were reported. JHD commented that he has now renewed his C3 training.

#### 12. **Health and Safety**

JHD reported that David Schwartz slipped on the wet moss in the PSR courtyard following a Sunday service. Thankfully, he was not hurt or injured. Offers from DC and AM to jet-blast the courtyard were forthcoming. **Action DC & AM**

#### 13. **Additional Correspondence**

JHD mentioned letters were received from the following:

Wendi Davis sent a letter of thanks to the PCC for its support over the 17 years of her ministry. This was read to the meeting.

Charlotte Starky apprised the church of the Town Council's approach to 'Operation London Bridge' [actions to be taken following the death of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh].

A letter of thanks was received and read from Christina Kennedy of the Snowdrop Festival, in grateful thanks for the use of the church building and for the Snowdrop Sunday Service.

Finally, a request for funds for 'Project B Wing', a prison-based arts festival was sought from the Church - not approved.

#### 14. **AOB**

It was noted that the Annual Report had not been approved by the PCC prior to being adopted at the APCM in early April - the report still being compiled at Burton Sweet. A discussion ensued as to how PCC approval could be achieved in the limited time available.

It was noted, also, that the budgets for 2019 had yet to be approved by the PCC

for adoption at the APCM. SJJ pointed out that the figures he had compiled were no longer relevant following the earlier approval of expenditure at this meeting. The meeting resolved to allow time for SJJ to adjust the budgets accordingly and to allow for the Annual Report document to be finalised, by delaying the date of the APCM until **Sunday 28th April 2019** following the 11.00 service. Proposed by DC, seconded by SJJ - unanimously approved.

DC suggested an extraordinary PCC meeting be held to approve the revised budgets and the Annual Report document and accounts following the 11.00 service on **Sunday 14th April 2019**. Proposed VG, seconded by PP - unanimously approved.

AM suggested that there was a potential conflict of interest if Mr Lance Foy and Mr Brian Hooper both tendered for the organ refurbishment works, as each might sub-contract to the other. To ensure due diligence he advised the PCC to seek a third quotation which would incur a cost of £350. It would appear that no other organ company will provide a free quotation. The PCC noted this recommendation - no vote was taken.

The meeting closed in prayer at 21.54.

Future meeting dates:

**Extraordinary PCC Meeting at approximately 12.30 on Sunday 14th April**

**APCM - revised date of 28th April**

PCC - 13th May