

Parish of St Cuthburga, Wimborne Minster

PCC Minutes, May 16th, 2024 at 19.15 hrs in Church House Lounge.

(Chair: Rector, Andrew JW Rowland.)

Attendees: Canon Andrew Rowland, **CW Bruce Jensen, CW Andrew Patrick, DCW Peter Cook, DCW & Treasurer Richard Knott**, Alison Francis, David Allen, John Waldsax, Dennis Child, De Ashton, Andrew Kelley, Angela Mullens, Revd Heather Waldsax (ex-officio).

1. **Welcome and Prayers.** The Rector, read John 17:20 and opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed Angela Mullens and acknowledged that Bruce was now the senior CW and welcome Andrew P's return as CW. Peter Cook CW Emeritus has become Deputy CW.
The recent death of beloved sister and serving PCC member Sheila Soper was lamented, after a long battle with cancer.
2. **Apologies:** Sarah Steele, Anne King, Heather Davey, Jane Davidson
3. **Declarations of new interests: Trustees' register of interests** none.
4. **Safeguarding:** Andrew Kelley said that as a Chained Library volunteer he said that we needed to chase up library volunteers to complete Safeguarding. **Action: De Ashton** to follow-up.
5. **GDPR:** Usual advice to keep all PCC papers password protected and not to pass anything on to others. The rector underlined that personal contact details should not be passed onto to any enquirer, rather the enquirer's details taken and passed on to the contact.
6. **Correspondence:** The resignation of PCC Secretary, Beatrice Dopita was recorded; members wish to show our gratitude for her five years of service. **Action: CW** to purchase some flowers.

Barry Glazier had offered to be co-opted onto the PCC, after the APCM, for a period of one year. A secret ballot was held, overseen by Revd Heather. Nine votes were cast: 3 For, 3 Against, 3

Abstentions. Action: Rector, acting as Minutes Secretary to contact Barry to advise him that his offer had been declined.

7. **Minutes** of the 21st March PCC meeting. Unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings (except that Heather Davey's name had been mistakenly omitted from the attendees). Proposed Dennis Child, Seconded David Allen. All who were present in favour. **Matters arising:** Richard volunteered to take on the role of summarising and advising the Parish Magazine editor of PCC meeting highlights. Action: Richard Knott. Bruce confirmed the food voucher scheme had been stopped and that in its stead a sum of £500 was paid to the Wimborne Community Fund of the Allendale Centre. (This had been covered by a generous individual donation). John Waldsax enquired about the identity of the purchaser of the former Holt Parish Church building. Bruce had met the person, during a visit to the Minster, but did not have any details. Enquiry could be made of Simon Ferris in the Property Department. It was noted that we should revert to placing a paper copy of the approved PCC Minutes in the Minster as previously. Action: Rector will print off a corrected copy and hand to Bruce. Dennis noted that not all minutes were posted on the church website. **Action: Rector** to forward PCC Minutes also to webmaster (Antony Wakeling). Bruce to review procedures.
8. **Treasurer's Report: Richard Knott:** Rae Sykes (RIP) has left a unrestricted legacy in her will, £5k immediate and approximately £10k as a sixth share of her estate, still to come. A grant of £30k from the Aldhelm Mission Fund had been awarded towards the costs of our Family Outreach Worker. Standing Committee recommends to PCC to use these two funds and make a commitment to offer a three-year extension to Claire Lehmann's existing contract (1 year remaining). All were in agreement. **Action: Rector** to inform Claire.
The current balance sheet was shown which showed an increase in resources of some £20k. Discussion followed about how best to present the Minster's financial position to our congregations, that they might be informed and be able to ascertain our healthy situation (and delight in it!). **Action: John Waldsax, Dennis Child and Richard** to confer on how to provide some simplified but useful information. Dennis reported that givings were up by over 10% and additionally donations through our contactless machines were up 196% nearly trebled. A grant of £750 towards covering costs of an upcoming schools Y4 Leavers event had been gained by Revd

Heather from the Sarum St Michael Educational Trust. This would enable two Verwood schools to pay for necessary transport etc. There is a balance of £3k in the Minster Preservation Trust towards the cost of Quinquennial repairs (a new 5-year period is pending).

9. **Churchwarden Bruce Jensen's Report:**

Revd Derek and Bruce visited Blandford church and were shown their video system by Revd Chris Beaumont. Their system is newer and more sophisticated than ours. The cameras are better placed for showing the service, and they can superimpose graphics and words on the screen. Disadvantages are that the system requires a video-mixing desk and requires two or three people to operate. Investigation is ongoing and this should eventually lead to a recommendation to the PCC.

AC Wallbridge visited the Minster on May 3 for repair and inspection of our lightening protection system. The inspection had 2 failures and they proposed a second repair visit for an estimated £845+VAT. It was agreed that we had no choice but to book a second visit.

We tried a new firm for gutter cleaning, Skyvax in Bournemouth, who clean gutters using gigantic Hoovers to clean and drones to inspect. They did a satisfactory job and provided us with photos and videos showing the results. Stonecroft Stained Glass repaired and re-set the windows in the Chained Library staircase and fixed a bit of broken glass in a north aisle window ('Reuben's knee'). They were alarmed that the Beaufort window was in a bad state and were preparing a bid to repair it – to be discussed at the next PCC.

The faulty lighting in the Chained Library was fixed.

The List B application for the remaining 2020 Quinquennial work, to re-fix 2 monuments and remove the plaster from the west wall of the Children's corner, was rejected. The rejection letter said a faculty was required and included the sentence "When dealing with monuments it is expected that attempts are made to trace any heirs at law as part of the application process."

Upcoming events the PCC should know about:

1] There will be Civil War Weekend in Wimborne late May bank-holiday weekend. There will be events and re-enactments in the town, and the Minster will have special tours, be open to the public on the Sunday afternoon, and there will be a peal attempt on the Monday starting at 10.

2] There will be the usual Minster Charity Fair on the Green on the Saturday of Folk Festival Weekend, June 8. There will be two folk concerts in the Minster that evening, at 16:30 and 19:30. On Sunday the main Eucharist service will be at 8am. At 10am there will be an ecumenical service on the Minster Green. There will be no 9:30 or 11:15 service. There will Choral Evensong at 18:30 as usual.

Bruce will be stepping down as churchwarden and stepping back from his other roles in 2025. We need people for these jobs:

Holiday/sick-day verger

Events manager

Site manager

How we might re-arrange current roles and/or find people to do these jobs is under discussion by a forthcoming meeting of all the Wardens.

10. **Churchwarden Andrew Patrick's Report:**

Our Vision for the Minster

The Church Buildings Council Site visit has had to be re-scheduled for the afternoon of 22 May, so we do not yet have all the feedback from our initial consultees on our re-ordering proposals. However, two key issues are emerging:

a) Replacing the existing Vestry Block with a bigger building is particularly contentious

b) The need to really make a convincing case for any changes.

It is therefore essential to be very clear in our Vision: what do we want the Minster to be, and what do we need to do to the building to support that?

Our current summary of our Vision for the Minster is: A centre for Mission and Worship – both traditional and 'fresh expressions' – supported by use as a centre of excellence for music, a resource for the community, and a visitor destination with an inspiring and exciting interpretation of our spiritual and architectural heritage." The latter – the Heritage Zone – is evolving in our thinking as a potentially exciting & powerful tool for Mission.

To achieve all those things needs more floorspace than we have now. If we do not replace the Vestry with a bigger building, we can't achieve that.

Being confident in our Vision will enable us to know what battles to fight, and how. So, once we do have the final feedback, we need to pray and review. **Action: all PCC members** to revisit the Vision (e.g. as set out in the APCM Reports) for thought and prayer.

Getting the Minster message across:

Thought is being given to how we communicate what the Minster is about and everything that happens here, in today's media-dominated world. Debate has included questioning the degree to which people look at posters, or websites, compared with social media. CW Andrew Patrick suggested we need to use all forms of media to reach out to as wide a range of people as possible.

Two discussion papers have been produced: "Marketing the Minster Experience" by Verger Martin Smith, and "Getting the Message Across: Media Action Plan" by CW Andrew Patrick. These have so far been circulated to Standing Committee, Anthony Oliver (Hon. Publicity Officer), Parish Magazine team, and Revd Derek Butler. PCC were very interested to hear from Revd Heather that she and Revd Derek are presenting to the Diocesan Clergy Day on the topic of "Worship as Mission"

Actions: AJP to circulate the discussion papers to PCC members; PCC members to contribute any ideas and actions.

Who does what in the Minster?

Following Andrew Patrick exchanging roles with Peter Cook, the Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens are meeting on 21 May to clarify who does what. It is hoped to produce a reference list which can be circulated. **Action: PCC members:** email Andrew Patrick by then if there are particular aspects of responsibility on which they think clarification is needed, or which might be overlooked.

11. **DCW Peter Cook's Report:**

1. Breast Cancer pink event. This is a request to light up the Minster in pink. Corfe Castle and Sherborne Abbey have agreed to take part. Churchwardens met with the organisers and DCW Peter will organise colouring the floodlights pink for this occasion.

2. Electrical work in Church House. After various problems the water heater in the upstairs hall kitchen is shortly to be replaced. DCW Peter extends his thanks to David Allen for providing the solution. The heater is on order and will be fixed as soon as possible after it arrives.

3. Licences – DCW Peter has met with Jackie and we have streamlined our licenses. He has also spoken at length to the PRS who have confirmed that all performances have to be charged.

Some bodies claim that they have their own PRS licence but since the Minster is a licensed venue of itself all fees have to go through us. We have chapter and verse from the PRS to show to anyone who questions this.

4. MMM was successfully re-launched on 21st April at Evensong with a reception. DCW Peter (who is the trust's secretary) will now be working on a new banner and a card machine specifically for MMM. He is also endeavouring to organise a recital (to be named the "Haywood" recital) by John Challenger from Salisbury Cathedral for this autumn.

5. DCW Peter will be working closely with Philip Evans our new Sacristan in the future.

6. The Friends have been donated an authentic replica of a sword – with Robin of Locksley on the blade (made in Spain)

7. DCW Peter will be attending a Cathedral Music Trust Conference at Salisbury in September on behalf of the Wimborne Minster Musical Heritage Trust.

12. **Rector's Matters:**

1. New Rectory planning update: Jon Pittard, architect, was yet to finalise revised plans and all necessary planning application depositions, but was advising that this should be completed soon.
2. Assistant Curate; Rector would attend Marianne Mangham's ordination on 30th June at the cathedral. She was expected to move into the curatage mid-June. Rector, Simon Ferris and MM were in contact on this.
3. Rector had had an initial review meeting with Antony Wakeling to discuss proposals regarding the benefice website. He was awaiting Antony's initial feedback.
4. Revd Sharon Boyle has requested the Rector's permission to officiate in the village parishes, now that she is no longer moving away. She continues as Chaplain at Salisbury District Hospital. This has been welcomed and in time the Rector will ask Bishop Karen to provide a licence.

The meeting ended with Prayers offered by Revd Heather & the Grace at 20.59.hrs.

Next PCC Meeting, Tuesday 16th July, at 19.15, in the Minster.

Minutes approved and signed at PCC Meeting 26, 16th July 2024 by Rector on behalf of the Parochial Church Council.