

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 12 March 2024

The Revd Canon Deb Smith held the chair, and twenty members of the PCC were in attendance.

Matters arising from the last PCC meeting (23 January 2024):

There were none.

Team Rector's Report:

- Once again, we will be preparing a document 'The Year in the Life of the Parish 2023' and a volunteer editor is required.
- Our new Team Vicar is soon to move into the parish and we discussed various welcome initiatives. Her licensing service will be at **7pm on Thursday 11 April in SMBRI**. All welcome.
- The services for Holy Week and Easter were outlined; all of which are advertised elsewhere.
- DS acknowledged the variety of events, groups and services taking place despite issues of availability these last few months and is very grateful to all who have taken on additional commitments. She is aware that some people are doing *too* much.
- DS requested support from the PCC for **Anne Rees** to resume her previous role as a Lay Worship Leader (LWL) in the parish; she will be licensed by the Bishop in due course.
- The Bishop is minded to license **Revd John Rees** to the parish too, as an Associate Priest. No timescale has yet been set for this to happen.
- The new list of authorized **Chalice Assistants** will be published for the parish; their appointment is valid until the APCM 2025.

SSALL Project:

- The PCC have authorized the additional budget of £20,000 to be available for Phase 1A and 1B of the building works, predominantly for the external rendering and associated works. (Contact Philip Sturrock for more information.)
- The Inspecting Architect will be Antony Feltham-King for this development, and he will undertake the next QI when it is required.

Safeguarding:

- The PCC agreed that the parish policy needs to be revised before being accepted.
- The role description for a new **Parish Safeguarding Officer** (PSO) is available, and volunteers are being sought to consider if they would be able to get involved in this area of parish life. Contact the PCC Secretary.
- In the meantime, contact the Team Rector or PCC Secretary if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Health & Safety:

Nothing was reported.

Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and Churches Together:

- Bishop Stephen's address to Synod is available on the diocesan website.
- Deanery Synod are focused on the cascading of information about how Diocesan Fairer Share will be calculated from 2025 as the emphasis is moving from attendees in worship to the number of clergy. There has been an 8% increase for 2024, and a further 8 – 12% is forecast for 2025.
- FinCom have requested a **Parish Stewardship** campaign and Canon Deb said that we will do this as a parish and share the challenges together.
- Contributing to a **Parish Giving Scheme** is one way of building our parish funds as the scheme includes annual incremental changes and Gift Aid recovery.
- We are thinking about how we use our resources as we work together within what the Church of England will allow.

Sub-Committee items for decisions:

Finance:

- The PCC approved the draft **Annual Report and Accounts for 2023** as presented by JS/BT, with assistance from Scott Vevers, Accountants again this year. It will be presented at the APCM and then submitted to the Charity Commission.
- Due to a grant from the Friday Trust the overall income is in excess of our expenditure.
- The Net Income looks good on paper however, this will be reduced when the SSALL project gets going and we draw down on the investments.
- The valuation of the School House in Walditch is unchanged.
- Canon Deb worries about the deficit in individual church accounts, although the parish picture looks healthy. We do need to think about stewardship, about the number of buildings and our resources.

2024 Budget:

- Individual churches contribute to the PCC Central account; contributions may need to be increased in future years.
- The predicted large deficits for HTBRA, SMBRI and SJWES will be covered by reserves in 2024, but this action will reduce the reserves. The situation cannot continue.
- Overall costs are increasing, and voluntary giving does not cover the basics.
- 'HTBRA Friends' group generously contribute to cover costs relating to building projects.

MAKING JESUS KNOWN:

At the last meeting the PCC identified the following priority areas for the parish:

- **EcoChurch and Sustainability**
 - **Engagement with families and young people**
 - **Discipleship, personal development**
 - **Outreach to tourists**
- The Local church sub-committees are now being asked to identify 1 or 2 *new* ways which would progress the work in these areas; identifying what the local church expects to focus on, or for the parish to look to doing.
 - The Mission & Faith Sub-Committee will be collating the responses at their meeting on 15 April. All replies by then, please.

Sub-Committee items for information:

Communications: progress is being made with the new website and cloud storage.

EcoChurch: Plans for the Parish Green Day are nearly complete. PCC members and clergy are encouraged to support the named people from each congregation who will be starting the journey of EcoChurch by populating the online questionnaire.

Fabric: An update on the structural position of the churches was received.

SJWES Fabric update – An emergency DAC was held with good support from Stubbs Electrical. An online application is being prepared to replace the electrical circuits for lighting, heating and sockets so that these services can be renewed.

Pastoral: An open Tea Party is arranged for **Sunday 21 April** for anyone who already visits people, or who would like to begin to undertake this ministry. To discuss how we manage it and how we can offer support. This is the beginnings of how to put the visiting across the parish into a better framework.

Date of next meeting: 23 April 2024.

The APCM will be held following the Parish Service at 10am @ HTBRA.

Next Sub-Committee Meetings:

The following meeting dates are for information. Any input that you may want to have can be sent to the Leader (whose names are all listed on each church notice board).

Communications	??
EcoChurch	4pm Monday 22 April in SMBRI
Fabric	??
Finance	Tuesday 9 April
Governance	<i>To be arranged when issue identified.</i>
Mission & Faith	7pm Monday 15 April in SMBRI
Pastoral	Tuesday 28 May in SMBRI
Bridport & West Bay	7pm Tuesday 30 April in SMBRI
Allington	4.30pm Tuesday 26 March – General 4.30pm Tuesday 2 April – Events & Fundraising.
Bradpole	??
Bothenhampton	??
Walditch	??

*Bridget Trump, PCC Secretary
24 March 2024.*