

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 29 October 2024

Revd Cally, Team Vicar held the chair, and sixteen members of the PCC were in attendance.

Safeguarding (SG):

- Wendy Thorogood (PSO) attended the start of the meeting to give her verbal report and update on the safeguarding processes in the parish. All records of DBS clearance and training of volunteers will be kept on the diocesan dashboard, so that the PCC can easily call up the information and see who is behind in these requirements. Wendy's opinion is that we are doing well with our understanding and awareness of SG. She is setting up training sessions entitled 'Tea, Cake and Chat' to continue with subtle training within a group setting, the first being on 4 November at 3pm in HTBOT.
- We have identified that there is a gap in the SG provision between the PSO, the group leaders and volunteers, so we are now looking to recruit champions to assist Wendy and Di in their distinct roles. Proactive SG Assistants who will help with the safer recruitment of volunteers to our groups and ensure that regular training is available to everyone involved in what we do. More details from the office or PSO.
- The full and summary parish Safeguarding Policies were approved by the PCC and will be displayed on the church notice boards.

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

SMBRI/SJWES are looking to purchase temporary heaters so that groups can continue to meet in the colder months. The three Advent Meditation evenings will be held in SMBRI. Details to follow.

Team Vicars Report:

- Revd Cally reflected on the current busy time in the parish as Canon Deb is away on sabbatical. She is juggling both her pioneering role and the parish role, with the particular help of Revds John and Lorna. Making new contacts across the town in our community are all threads that she hopes will come to fruition in due course. She notes though, that it is essential that we provide warm, dry welcoming church spaces as places of nurture.
- Occasional Offices (particularly funerals and the interment of cremated remains), regular ministry reviews, parish services and large seasonal services (All Souls, All Saints and Remembrance) reflect routine parish life but are also key opportunities for outreach and pastoral care.
- Once again, the PCC are holding an Away-day in mid-January and will be focusing on our vision for the next five and ten years. What will we be doing in our churches and in our parish? Please give your ideas and thoughts to any PCC member before then, so that we can gather all ideas together. Each congregation has already identified one new activity on which to plan and work for 2025, but this is a broader discussion and encourages us to look further ahead.
- Revd Cally thanked the St John's Task Group for gaining permission to proceed with the rewiring project for the church, which is essential if we want to continue to use it. The contractors will begin mid-November after Armistice Day. They will be able to complete the first phase in November and will then return in the new year. Having upgraded the electrical supply, lighting and heating provision the PCC will be turning its mind to the re-ordering of St John's to adapt it for mission and outreach. Although there is a small, committed local congregation we have identified the opportunity for outreach to the hundreds of visitors each year who visit West Bay.

Children and Young People Sub-Committee:

- With the growth of our ministry with young people, hand-in-hand with plans to engage more with the schools a new sub-committee of the PCC was created, with Revd John appointed as the leader for 2024/2025. The Terms of Reference were approved in addition to some minor adjustments of other sub-committees too.
- We have run a pilot of Breakfast Church, Flourish is a diocesan project which may be introduced with St Mary's School, Wild & Messy Church is becoming embedded at St Swithun's, with a team of volunteers

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from across the parish. Junior Church at St Mary's each week is well established with up to 7/8 regular children attending each week.

Finance:

- Janet Shaw the parish treasurer presented the Quarter 3 review. Our income against the budget is in surplus and our expenditure less than predicted as some maintenance work has yet to be completed. Gift Aid claims continue to cause issues. The Parish Giving Scheme may be introduced in other churches, following St Mary's lead, which has the advantage of an annual increase and includes the reclaim of Gift Aid. The allocation for Community Mission Events has not yet been spent.
- Our annual contributions to the diocese to cover all clergy expenses and ministry provision will increase from 2025 by 5%. FinCom will continue to discuss the implications for the parish.
- W&MC do not currently contribute financially into parish funds, although their numbers are included in the worshipping community numbers. To broaden the discussions at FinCom it has been suggested that a champion for the parish events/services could join the current membership of FinCom, which is made up exclusively of the local treasurers.
- The Bridge magazine has had a fall in income from advertising and is always looking for more deliverers. All ideas to Olivia, the editor!

Mission & Faith:

- The list of Advent groups is nearing completion and will be advertised asap. The book we will all be studying has been selected (Rachel Mann's 'Do not be afraid') and can be ordered from Michele Craddock @ £10 each via cwteam@parishofbridport.org

Governance:

- This sub-committee drafts and amends the Terms of Reference for the sub-committees and has met twice recently to prepare for the new CYP sub-committee. Identifying how we include parish events will need our consideration too.
- A completely new Electoral Roll is required for the APCM in May 2025, so this group has already started to think about how we will reach out to the current 297 people on the roll and encourage them to re-join. Issues of GDPR and how we could make use of information about our membership needs to be addressed before we draft and circulate the application forms.

Fabric:

- The financial quotation to restore the bells mechanism at St Mary's has been reduced as the bell ringers feel able to provide some of the labour. (Our thanks to them for their commitment to this project.)
- The PCC approved the application to the Chancellor for the following permissions:
 - HTBRA – internal decoration.
 - HTBRA – installation of a water butt in the chyd.
 - HTBRA – installation of modern light fittings in some periphery areas, once further details are clarified.
 - SMBRI – adaptation of the louvres in the bell tower.
 - SMBRI – refurbishment of the bell mechanisms.

The HTBRA chair project requires additional information and research.

AOB:

The PCC have submitted the following proposal to Deanery Synod: ***"This synod asks the Bishops how each of them stands on the issue of the rejection of Assisted Dying as currently proposed in Parliament?"***

Other sub-committees provided update report for information.

2 November 2024 –
Bridget Trump, PCC Secretary.