

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 27 January 2025

Paul Groom, Vice-Chair held the chair, and fourteen members of the PCC were in attendance.

Minutes from the PCC meeting held on 6 November 2024 and the Standing Committee on 12 December 2024 were accepted as a true record.

There were the following matters arising:

- In addition to the general safeguarding courses, the online training course on Domestic Abuse is a requirement for all PCC members to complete. **ALL to action.** Those who have already completed it expressed similar comments about the high quality of the training and the easy access once personal login details have been established.
- The Pastoral Care sub-committee are gathering the names of all those who offer the ministry of welcome at our churches, so that they can undertake the basic awareness course, in line with the diocesan requirements.
- Retrospectively the PCC approved the spending of £30,396 for the wiring and electrical works undertaken at SJWES in 2024.
- The notes from Churchwarden's and Duty Wardens meetings will be uploaded to the Drive.

Team Vicar's Report: *(Written as CB is away.)*

Reflecting on the outcomes of the recent Awayday, CB thanked everyone who contributed in person, or who made their thoughts about our future mission in the town known in advance.

Two shortcomings will be addressed as a priority:

1. The Governance Sub-Committee are looking to streamline the process for decisions on major projects.
2. We have invited an ex-communications adviser for the diocese to come to speak to the Comms Sub-Committee and PCC about how we might improve our communications across the parish and the town. Alongside this we have to renew our Electoral Roll this year, so we are planning to create this into a mission opportunity.

From Mission & Faith:

1. Those who completed the **Alpha** course will continue to meet on their own as a group for study.
2. The Easter **Come and Sea** event on 19 April will go ahead at SJWES for families, led by the clergy.
3. The book chosen for our study this Lent is '**The Whole Story of Easter**' by Jo Swinney. James Craddock is holding the stock of books for those who'd like to buy one. Lent Groups will be advertised in advance too.
4. A new **Children and Young People Sub-Committee** has been established to oversee and co-ordinate this ministry. A trial of an all-age communion service is rostered for 16 March in SMBRI.
5. CB is exploring lay ministry with individuals and plans to set up a Pastoral Skills Course after Easter.

Safeguarding:

- There will be another open session focused on Domestic Abuse from 3 - 5pm on Wednesday 26 March in HTBOT. Volunteers involved in CYP groups/activities could do this training too.
- Anne Rees has been recruited to work with those involved in the ministry to CYP.
- We are still looking to fill a similar role focused on vulnerable adults.

Finance Sub-Committee:

- The 2024 Finance Report was presented by Janet Shaw; this will be the basis for the Annual Report and Accounts presented at the APCM on 18 May, as required by the Charity Commission and legislation.
- The income was less than predicted. However, our Gift Aid reclaim has moved forward.
- We have benefitted from the VAT reclaim on capital projects allowed for Listed Places of Worship.
- The Combined Church Expenditure shows that work on our properties in 2024 was double the Fairer Share payment.
- The Bridge magazine's income was lower than expected with a deficit of £4657. Advertising rates and partner church contributions will be recalculated for 2025.
- The PCC had had to draw £13,000 from reserves to cover expenses at the end of the year. All churches paid their full quota towards the Parish Share.

EcoChurch Sub-Committee:

Three actions were discussed and agreed.

1. Individual churches are to review the **Eco Action Plans** they drafted at the Green Day last April.
2. Revd Lorna is leading a **Deanery day on 17 May 2025 in SMBRI** looking at our plans to be Net Zero by 2023, as agreed by the national church. It will be an opportunity for those who have not yet calculated their Energy Footprint Tool to have help uploading the information, in addition to other creation care issues. Details in due course.
3. The **Parish Green Day** will be on **Saturday 27 September** *venue and details tbc.*

Pastoral Care Sub-Committee:

- The group are focusing on establishing Baptism Support, ministry of Welcomers, noticing when members of the congregation stop coming to church, monitoring who is providing visits to people at home and planning the Pastoral Skills course.
- All these topics have safeguarding implications, so it is important that appropriate training is undertaken. The PCC supported all of these steps.

Communications Sub-Committee:

- We've arranged for a visiting speaker to provide some advice for us.
- The website is changed regularly, and we would encourage everyone to submit information about events as far in advance as possible. Info, logo, posters, contact numbers etc.
- When trying to access the site, PG gave the following advice: In the **Google search bar at the top of the home page**, type in: www.parishofbridport.org This will take you to the correct site.

Governance Sub-Committee:

- This year we have to discard the current Electoral Roll, and everyone has to sign up afresh. We only have one Roll, as we are one parish. This is seen as a mission opportunity, to contact everyone currently on our 'membership list' and recruit others in the community too. The timetable for the various stages were agreed.
- As we roll out the Hiring documentation across the parish (currently established in SMBRI, SSALL and SSALL Hall), questions arise about how the current practices will be melded into the agreed format. These are ongoing with HTBOT and HTBRA the next in line.
- Amended Terms of Reference are being drafted for the Major Projects committee.
- The **Annual Report and Financial Accounts** and the **Year in the Life of the Parish 2024** are to be written with contributions from across the parish. MS is collating the reports for the YitLife and will approach people to request articles and photos.

Fabric Sub-Committee:

- Quinquennial Inspection reports are to be kept on the Google Drive – please send to fabric@parishofbridport.org together with any paperwork associated with any historic building works. Inspections are due for HTBOT and SMWAL.
- List B applications have been submitted for internal decoration for HTBRA and bell refurbishments in the tower at SMBRI. The process for both is ongoing and permission to proceed with either work has not yet been granted.
- We will be arranging an information session so that those who are involved in caring for the structure of our buildings can have more idea of the processes we are obliged to follow. Date tbc.

SSALL Project:

The work is now progressing into the rendering of the other three external elevations of the church. No decisions have been made about the internal reordering, which is subject to fundraising and getting the permission in place. *(Update reports are now shown on the website on the 'Churches' page.)*

SJWES Project:

- Stubbs and Son completed the electric wiring and lighting installation in early December, just prior to the storm which damaged a section of the ceiling at the rear of the nave. An asbestos survey and management survey were required but happily, no asbestos was found to be present in the structure. An insurance claim is being made to cover the cost. The repairs will be undertaken when approved.
- The flat roof and gutters were inspected and cleared and the flashing on the south end of the vestry found to be a concern and will need to be repaired. The details are being agreed with the inspecting architect.
- The church is now closed, except for services in the south aisle.
- We continue to explore the various heating options and have made a number of visits to local churches to discuss the effectiveness, of their installations.

Children and Young People Sub-Committee:

- The group have only met once and discussed the Terms of Reference and reviewed the current ministry. The remit covers the two parish toddler groups, Wild & Messy Church, Sunday School at SMBRI, piloting all-age communion at SMBRI and developing Ministry in schools.
- Developing the work of a potential Youth Worker (with Churches Together) is under discussion. (Monies continue to be donated for this project.)

Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and Churches Together:

Neither synod has met since our last PCC meeting.

Churches Together events are advertised in the Bridge.

Notices:

Revd John has been appointed a Foundation Governor for St Mary's School.

Next meeting 11 March 2025.

Dates for the sub-committees are published on the Drive and website.

End.

Bridget Trump

PCC Secretary 15 February 2025.