

Summary of the PCC Meeting held on the 14th September 2022

Revd. Erwin Lammens and Revd. John Chandler also attended this meeting.

Fabric - The faculties for the upgrading of the telecom system in the tower and the laying up of the British Legion Standard were now with the DAC.

The request for a grant for the organ work had been submitted to Environ and we were waiting for a decision in October. It was hoped that LED lights could be fitted in the hallway to save on electricity.

Finance - Revd John Chandler gave a report on the finances of the Deanery and how the Parish Share had been arrived at. Fifty-three synod reps had met representing twenty two of the twenty four churches in the deanery. At the present time there was rampant inflation, Parish giving income was therefore lagging behind thus making buildings vulnerable. Clergy numbers were lower, meaning that many clergy were now responsible for more than one parish. Deanery investments were getting a better return but deanery giving had gone down. Individual PCC's were being asked to consider their parish share which was based on the number on the electoral roll and other aspects of the parish eg. deprivation, parish size etc. Some parishes will see an increase in their share and others a fall but overall this will balance out. A vicar's salary plus housing costs £70,000 per year. Twelve Curates were in training each year for three years and needed costing. At present we are paying half of the cost of half a vicar in our parish share but it was hoped that by 2023 we would be able to pay our full share.

It was pointed out that without our concerts and crafty drama income we would be unable to afford our share and with the rising cost of heating bills it was uncertain whether concert hiring would continue in the same numbers. The Chairman suggested that for 2023 whilst we would aim to pay our full share, we commit to pay 75% of our Parish Share by standing order and if at the end of next September were in a position to pay 100%, we would. The meeting unanimously agreed.

Individual giving had dropped considerably and it was felt that we should make an appeal for increased personal giving,. However, it was felt that many of the congregation were giving by standing order. Revd. Chandler informed us that our Parish Share equated to at least £15 per week per person which should be given where possible. Since the Covid shutdown, offertory collection bags had not been in use and the box for collections and donations within the welcome area was not prominent enough. It was suggested that a plate be placed in the Welcome Area so that people saw it when they came into church. It was agreed that this should begin the following Sunday.

Worship – Harvest. The service was being prepared by Colin and Clive Joyce. Our red bucket collection was to be for Self-help Africa and Nicky would give a brief talk about the charity the week before. Tangible gifts would be for the Food Bank. The meeting was informed the meeting that a considerable amount of paper was being used each week for printing the service sheets and hymns and wondered whether we should consider having a new hymn book with larger print. It was pointed out that it would be difficult to find a book with all the hymns in one book but we would look into it. Beau said that we were paying £500 per year for copyright of printing hymns and services.

Bookings – These were healthy and bookings were being placed into next year. In October the Borough Council were hiring the building for several days for a public enquiry and were, after initial instructions stewarding it themselves.

Planning – Although we were not as yet separated legally from St. Peter's it was hoped that in October or early November we could invite the Christ Church PCC to join us for informal discussions as to our future together.

A.O.B. – Pauline and Colin had attended a meeting with Castle Methodists to discuss things that we could do together. Their new Minister, Chris Preece, was keen to know what types of activities we already did. Our Reps. Were warmly welcomed. St. Botolph's people were invited to join them for their Harvest Lunch on 9th October which would be a Bring Your Own Picnic type. They were hoping to get a government grant to be able to heat their hall for people to come if they could not afford to heat their own home. They would also like to re-start the planning group between Castle and St. Botolph's that planned events between the two churches. One idea was to have an Advent study group.

The Date of the next Meeting – Wednesday, 12th October at 2.30 p.m. in the church.

The meeting closed by saying The Grace together.