

Summary of the PCC Meeting held on the 11th January 2023

Reports

Fabric - The work on the organ was progressing. There had been a hitch when the electrics had been switched off whilst the boilers were running causing the boilers to cut out. They couldn't be turned on without calling out the boiler maintenance engineer. The sump pumps were unable to pump out the water on the boiler house floor and an electrician was called to sort that out. David B. asked if some of the cost of the call-outs could be transferred to the organ company but it was thought that since their price had been held for the last two years and they hadn't realised that the switch affected more than the organ, it wouldn't be fair. Since there had been no heating on for the first Sunday of the year when Christ Church were joining us, Alan had re-arranged the hall in a very short time, for the service to be held.

Finance - The Treasurer had produced an end of 2022 statement before it would go to the Auditor. He pointed out that it showed a surplus of £14,015.87 but this included almost £7,800 which was to be spent on the organ during 2023, plus the costs associated with the Chancel Arch repairs in 2022. In real terms we had a loss of around £2,000 over the year but we had paid 80% of our Parish Share. Our weekly giving was down on previous years. Our Red Bucket Collection over Christmas in aid of the Food Bank had raised £188.45.

A letter from Ann Levy was read which stated that due to her health problems she wished to stand down from her positions as PA and Deanery Synod at the next AGM. She would be prepared to carry on producing 'St, B's News' for the time being. The Treasurer was thanked for all his work on the accounts.

Worship - Services over Christmas had gone well. The mid-night service at Christ Church had seen a few members from St. B's attending.

The fifth Sunday in January would be a joint service with Castle Methodist held at St. Botolph's. Michael Foster had been approached and he was willing to take the service which the PCC accepted. A Lent Study Group with Castle was being spoken about. It would probably be held on Fridays in our Hall.

Castle Methodists were providing a 'Warm Space' one day a week for people who were not able to heat their homes adequately in the present energy crisis. Five people from St. B's had volunteered to help staff this.

Bookings - There were several bookings in January but February was clear. March was quite busy.

Planning The chairman had received notification that, after two and a half years, the separation of the benefice of St. Botolph's with St. Peter's had come to the public notice stage. A notice had been placed on the notice board at the church entrance, stating that this was to happen and any objections should be sent to the Church Commissioners by 20th March 2023.

The Chairman had also received an email from Bishop Roger's PA. saying that our Parish Profile did not include some of the points expressed in a meeting last October, where we discussed what we would like from a new Vicar. The meeting felt that these points had been covered within the Profile. David P. said he would consult with Christ Church to find out what they felt and, if necessary change the Profile.

Castle had enquired as to our services over Holy Week. As yet nothing had been planned. David P. would consult Christ Church as to what they had planned before planning our own services.

A.O.B. Castle Methodists were looking for volunteers to steward a 'Warm Space' on Wednesdays during January and February. Three people were needed for each session of two hours. (11pm. – 1pm and 1.00pm – 3.00p.m.) Telecom had now obtained a faculty to update the masts in the tower. It was hoped that the work would be done during the same period that the organ was being done.

The meeting was told that Colchester Army Band had given an excellent Christmas concert to a full church and appreciated the venue and the help they had received. Also, the Army Padre had held a Carol Service for the Parachute regiment in St. Botolph's church.

Date of next Meeting This would be Wednesday, 8th February at 2.30 p.m. in choir vestry.