

Summary of the PCC Meeting held on the 8th March 2023

Date for APCM/AGM This would be on 16th April following the morning service. Revd. John Chandler would be taking the service and was happy to stay for the meeting as an adviser. The PCC chairman would be in the chair for the meeting.

Priest in Charge Interview The candidate, accompanied by his wife had been shown around the two parishes. They then had lunch with a few representatives of both churches at Christ Church. Two days later both PCC's had the opportunity to meet him and hear him preach. He was then interviewed by two appointed PCC members from each parish, along with the Archdeacon, Area Dean and Lay Chair. At the moment the matter is with the Bishop and we do not know the result as yet. Both churches will know at the same time and will announce it to the congregations on a Sunday.

Reports

a) **Fabric.** Since the last PCC meeting there had been a burst pipe connector in one of the gents toilets. This had been replaced.

b) **Finance** The Treasurer said that the annual accounts had been independently checked as being correct and the members were shown the Annual Report which was duly signed by the churchwarden present and will be signed by the other warden.

Later in the meeting the treasurer pointed out that those on the pay roll had not had an increase in four and a half years. Since inflation had risen by 17 ½ % over that period, he proposed that rates should be increased by 15% at the beginning of the fiscal year. This was unanimously agreed, and he would put this in place.

c) **Worship** There had been a misunderstanding about the Good Friday service. It had been thought that Castle would be joining St. B's and the worship committee had met with Michael Foster to prepare the service. It then transpired that Castle were having their own service and believed that we would be joining them. It was put to the meeting as to whether we had our own service or joined Castle. The outcome was that the majority of members felt that we would like to join with Castle but both churches would take a part. The service will be led by Revd. Chris Preece.

There followed discussion on which of the Red Bucket charities already chosen would be at Easter. Motor Neurone Disease was chosen with Essex Air Ambulance at Pentecost and at Harvest, Médecins Sans Frontières.

A member of the congregation had raised with the chairman that his licence for administering the chalice had expired. The Archdeacon has advised that it is now the PCC who should approved these lay positions. He and the congregation would be asked if anyone wished to be included in those wishing to assist in this way, to be approved or otherwise at the next PCC meeting.

d) **Bookings** There was no report. However, two points were raised. There had been an enquiry for the church to promote a concert and sell tickets with the musician giving his services free. We were not in the process of doing this sort of thing and musicians should hire the church for their concerts. PRS reporting had been taken on by Caroline Davies and to help her both booking forms and invoices would state that it was the organisers responsibility to let her know numbers attending and the programme details.

A.O.B. William said that he had rang the bell on at the beginning and end of the King and his consort visit Colchester 7th March. He would also ring it on the day of the Coronation.

The members were asked to consider whether or not it would be a good idea to have a lunch after the service on 7th May, the day after the coronation.

Date of next Meeting This would be Wednesday, 12th April, at 2.30 p.m. in choir vestry.

The meeting closed with all sharing, 'The Grace'.