

St Botolph's Church, Colchester

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 21st June, 2023

In the choir vestry at 2.30 p.m.

Present were:- The Vicar, David Poppleton (Chairman), William Jolliffe, Beau Mackay, Pauline Palmer, Jackie Haylett, Chris Kidd-Stanton, Pat French, Gill Poppleton and Colin Nicholson. Sarah Butcher as Safeguarding Officer attended for part of the meeting.

1. The Chairman welcomed the vicar to St. Botolph's PCC and the Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Ann Levy and David Branson.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved, and signed.

4. Matters arising Nicky Phillips had been invited to join the Worship Group and she had accepted.

5. Correspondence The Chairman had received an email from the team leader of Songs of Praise thanking him and the church for being the back up venue for inclement weather and thanking those that had been present in the Castle Park for the recording. It will be broadcast on 13th August.

6. Safeguarding The Safeguarding Officer pointed out that, as yet, no one on the PCC had been DBS checked. At least two members and a churchwarden were legally required to do so. David P., Chris K.S. and Jackie H. said they would do so. Sarah would enlist the help of Nigel Humphreys at Christ Church to help her. She explained the different types of abuse which applied to both children and adults. All PCC members should take the online training. Rev. Chris proposed that all PCC members should bring their certificates to Sarah (these could be kept in the church safe) so she can create a chart showing who has received 'basic', 'foundation' and 'domestic abuse' training from the Church of England and who has a current DBS. This was seconded by Chris K. S. and carried unanimously. A small poster with a contact phone number could be placed in toilet cubicles which would be private for individuals to note the number. They could record a message which would be acted upon by the Safeguarding team. The logistics of which phone and in who's care have yet to be agreed.

7. Vicar's Comments The vicar thanked everyone for the warm welcome he had received both at the licensing service and his first service at St. Botolph's. Although St. B's was now legally separated from St, Peter's we are awaiting the suspension of the new benefice to be declared, which would then enable us to liaise with Christ Church about our future relationship. When the suspension is confirmed, there can then be a further licensing service at St, Botolph's to formally appoint Rev. Chris. When asked about services at both Churches on Sundays, he said that he had no intention of travelling between the two churches each Sunday but would be at one or the other for the whole morning so that he could get to know each congregation. To put people's minds at rest Chris K.S. asked if this could be put in the July Newsletter and he agreed. Also, he had no intention of drastic changes to services or to the timing.

8 & 9 Deanery Funding for leadership and team away day The vicar told the PCC that he thought that the Deanery would have funding for the PCC to have an 'away day' for the purpose of getting to know each other better. He asked the chairman to write to the Area Dean to see what money would be available. If this was not forthcoming, he suggested that we should still go ahead.

10. Reports

a. Finance

The financial summary and forecast as at the end of May 2023 was presented to the meeting. The acting Treasurer drew attention to the payment received from the Mobile phone masts in the tower. With the current method of calculation NET who administer the system are happy

to include all units used at the daytime rate and they pay the standing charge in full, giving us a sub towards the electricity we use.

Also, he said that the Parish Administrator at Christ Church was prepared to work three extra hours each week to help with work needed for St. Botolph's. This would cost us £37.50 per week. This would commence on 1st July. Gill and David P. and the vicar would meet Emily to discuss what work she would take on.

b. Fabric

David P. pointed out that the hall carpet was in need of a professional clean and had obtained two quotes from companies. Also, the carpet in the Welcome Area could do with being cleaned and he felt that the church carpet needed spot cleaning, especially in the sanctuary. The company that he preferred had been to look at the carpets but the other had quoted on sizes only. There was discussion as to what should be done. The meeting felt that cleaning the sanctuary carpet might be a false economy as the carpet quality was inferior compared to the other carpets. Perhaps we should be thinking of replacing it at a future date. Eventually, it was decided that it would be prudent to just have the hall carpet cleaned so that we could see the work of the company. If this was satisfactory, we could then get the other jobs done. This was proposed by the Vicar and seconded by Pauline P. with everyone in favour.

c. Worship

It was felt by those who had attended June Welham's funeral that the service at the crematorium was not suited to June's love of the church, and Chris K.S suggested that we should hold a memorial service. After discussion as to a suitable time and date, it was decided to celebrate her life during the Morning Worship Service on 2nd July and be followed by a light lunch. Revd. Chris was happy to prepare a service around June's favourite hymns and music and Colin N. would prepare a short eulogy. As this was very short notice Chris K. S. would send a message for the PCN's to email to the congregation. The next Newsletter would come out in early July.

d. Bookings

The Booking Secretary had sent a report saying that June had been a very busy month with many varied hirings of the church and hall. All these activities are an important outreach and service to Colchester. We were just about managing with only two stewards, but it was difficult. December was going to be as equally busy and there were already bookings for 2024. David P. told the meeting that Shared Access wished to update their equipment in the tower commencing on 17th July. As we had a booking all day on that date they would need to delay by a day. As yet, David P. had not heard from them to say they would.

11. A.O.B

There was none.

12. Date of next Meeting, Wednesday, 12th July at 2.30 p.m. in the choir vestry.

There being no other business the vicar closed the meeting with prayer.