

ST PETER'S, TIVERTON

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2019 at 7 pm
in the Tiverton Hotel

Present: The Revd Robert Gordon (in the chair), Christopher Burford, David Catchpole, Gill Heard, Jean Jenner, Averil Long, Catherine Makepeace, Sally Mundy, David Pope, David Ricks and Keith White.

Apologies: Helen Fensome, Rod Hilton, Jennifer Palmer, Mary Seaton, Richard Stenlake, Helen Wakely and Roy Webber.

The meeting opened with prayer.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 7 February 2019 were approved and signed.

2 Matters arising from the minutes

2.1 *Sunday lunch party* (minute 2.1): This had by common consent been a very successful and happy occasion, when our guests for the day had appreciated the welcome they had received. It was agreed that repetition of the event should take place once in every year.

2.2 *Mission communities* (minute 3.2): RG reported that he would be seeing Bishop Jackie on 12 April, when this and other matters would be discussed.

2.3 *Peaches Trustees* (minute 10): There was further discussion of the unease caused by the merger of the patrons of St Peter's, the Peache Trustees, with the definitely conservative evangelical Church Pastoral Aid Trust. It was agreed that DC would write to the chair of the Peache Trustees to report that unease and to register our conviction not only that St Peter's occupies, and wishes to continue to occupy, a more central position within the Anglican spectrum, but also that diversity among the Anglican churches in Tiverton is highly desirable and should not be endangered by increased representation of the evangelical tradition.

3 Safeguarding

CM reported that a number of St Peter's members, who were required to undergo even the basic training in safeguarding, were expressing unease or unawareness of the necessity for such training. It was agreed that in an effort to dispel anxiety and reluctance she would write an article in the June magazine explaining both the need for and the content of this training.

4 Worship

GH presented the minutes of the Worship Committee meeting on 1 March.

New service books: RG reported on the current state of preparation and printing of new service books for the 10.15 Holy Communion service.

The PCC endorsed the minutes of the Worship Committee meeting.

5 Finance

DP introduced the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 28 February and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018.

- 5.1 *Appointment of parish administrator* (minute 6): Terms of reference had been agreed, including an hourly rate of £10.00, and an advertisement would shortly be placed on the diocesan website.
- 5.2 *Annual Report and Accounts*: These, having been confirmed by the independent examiner, were adopted *nem con* and signed by the chair and the treasurer.

The PCC endorsed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting.

- 5.3 *Resignation of the treasurer*: DP informed the PCC that for the last three years he had considered whether the time had come for him to pass on the duties of treasurer, and this year he had very reluctantly made the decision to do so. The need for him and his wife to ease up and drop some activities in order to be able to keep up with day to day home chores and with their wider family had been major influences upon him in making this decision.

He intended to finish as treasurer no later than 31 December 2019, although he would expect to help to see the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts through to acceptance by the Independent Examiner. In the meantime, he would be continuing conversations with RH, and he hoped to make all the necessary arrangements for a smooth changeover to someone who would take over and carry on as he had been doing. He observed that there might well have to be change in the way we do things, and that we should have minds open to fresh ideas.

RG expressed the appreciation of the highly efficient and innovative way in which DP had undertaken the task of treasurer, and our gratitude for the very helpful and considerate way in which he had indicated his intention to resign.

6 Fabric

DR introduced the minutes of the Fabric Committee meeting on 26 February.

In addition to matters covered by the minutes, he reported (i) that work on the window in the vestry would take place sometime in April, and a certain amount of movement of furniture would be necessary for that purpose; (ii) that a further visit by the pest specialist was in prospect; and (iii) that repair work had been necessary on the lamp post near RG's parking place.

The PCC endorsed the minutes of the Fabric Committee meeting.

7 Project management

DR reported as follows on his meeting with the architects in their Wedmore office on 13 March to review progress and future objectives.

- 7.1 *Toilet block*. The external toilet block is with the Planning Authority for approval. They have raised two queries which have been responded to, and a request for an extension of time has been agreed. They asked about the date of the lean-to organ blower chamber which is to be demolished. No precise information can be found easily, so an estimate of 'between the wars' has been submitted, and we hope this will be sufficient. We know it is not part of the Ashworth works and that electrically powered organ blowers were not common before the 20th century. Records show Tiverton had its first electricity generating plant in 1924. We hope to receive planning approval by early April.
- 7.2 *General design works*. All the various items of the reordering works were reviewed. The design is making significant, if somewhat slow, progress. All the sketch drawings are at a preliminary stage, so cannot be published yet, but they are quite sufficient for a meaningful review between architects. The open west end, servery area, flower arrangers' cupboard, font area and east end dais are all at an advanced and agreed stage ready for final presentation. The rest – children's area, entrance porch, notice board/book stall, office/meeting room and chair storage – are not so advanced but the

principles are now established and most necessary instructions have been confirmed. The architect is now in a position to commence his final drawings for the faculty submission.

7.3 *Indicative programme.* The architect will now review and revise his indicative works programme, in line with our instructions to allow construction work to commence after Christmas, at the start of 2020. The programme indicates a total requirement of about 37 weeks for the various stages of work to allow this start, and we thus have a small time contingency remaining. DR has asked that it should be reserved for any delays caused by the DAC. The architect is hopeful that our pre-application submission and subsequent discussions with the DAC will allow a fairly smooth approval process. Only time will tell.

7.4 *Project management group meeting.* DR will organise a meeting of the PMG soon. As well as general progress, this meeting is to consider joinery and other detail and finishes, which are now required by the architect. He has provided a series of photographs of different examples to aid us in our consideration. The PMG will report back to the PCC for confirmation of its decisions.

8 Deanery Synod

The PCC received a report of the Deanery Synod meeting on 25 February, which had been addressed by Bishop Jackie.

9 Electoral roll and APCM

9.1 RG confirmed that the Revd Steph Gordon-Jeffs would speak to the APCM on the subject of 'Rustic Reflections of a Rural Rector'.

9.2 CM reported that so far 91 applications had been received for the new electoral roll, the figure for the old version being 151. She asked that anyone who might have been expected to apply, but who had thus far not done so, should be reminded by PCC members. The official deadline was Monday 18 March, and RG undertook to remind the congregation at the services on Sunday.

10 Calendar of events 2019-2020

The draft calendar was approved, though it was noted that some items might turn out to be affected by reordering work, notwithstanding the fact that the church would remain in use during 2020. The calendar is attached as an appendix to these minutes for reference by PCC members during the coming year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.09 pm.

Signed:

Date: