

A Report from the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 26 January 2022.

The Revd Deb Smith held the chair, and eighteen members were in attendance. There were ongoing discussions about:

- a) how the Eco church initiative is rolling out across the different churches, and
- b) the changes in the pattern of worship across the team.

New Business:

1. There are two Away-days being planned; one for the Ministry Team and then one for the PCC. These will give the opportunity for in-depth discussion about:
 - a) if we can sustain all the church buildings,
 - b) leadership and ministry,
 - c) the size of our worshipping congregations following the pandemic,
 - d) the role and responsibility of the churchwardens together with other key role holders, and
 - e) discussions around the ideas behind the development of the St Swithun's plant. The growth of the team facilities on that site may be the trigger to help us focus on all our churches and what the future might be for them as community facilities, and how they are used for outreach projects.
2. Once again there will be a variety of Lent courses on offer. All will be available for everyone to access. One is picking up on the National Church's ongoing conversation about how identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. This course was recently held in the deanery and will be repeated to enable more people from the parish to engage with these issues.
3. The Diocese is consulting with all the parishes about how the *Diocesan Fairer Share* is calculated. Our financial contribution enables us to have paid clergy (with stipend, pension, housing) in the parish and a wide range of access to support and training for them, as well as members of the laity. On submitting our answers to the set questions, we were able to add in comments about:
 - a) being a coastal community and how that impacts our population,
 - b) having heritage buildings which are an added burden,
 - c) the relative affluence, or not, of our parish compared to others,
 - d) our single-parish status regarding a Fairer Share contribution which should reflect our one Electoral Roll and how we report back any statistics about worship or service attendance.
4. The recent meeting of the Deanery Synod focused on how we sustain the number of clergy while growing lay ministry. How are we changing the way we work in light of new growth in different areas?

The Sub-Committees' reported:

Communications.

A volunteer is sought to serve in the parish office each Friday morning.

Fabric.

- There was an update on the St Swithun's project – architects currently being selected. Steering Committee not yet formally appointed. The PCC authorized their application for permission to apply for a mortar trial following the QI report.
- Holy Trinity, Bradpole are wanting to upgrade their lighting. This will be discussed by the Fabric Sub-Committee and at the next PCC meeting.

Finance.

- The Budget for 2022 was discussed and accepted.
- Scott Vevers and key members of the PCC are preparing the Annual Report and Accounts and the Year in the Life of the Parish for 2021, which will be required for the APCM on 8 May.

Governance.

Minutes from local church sub-committee meetings will not be publicly displayed but feedback on what is happening locally can be shared with congregations. The PCC agreed that a report of each PCC meeting will be published on the website.

Mission & Pastoral.

- The bereavement support group *Life+line* has started its monthly meetings.
- The After-school club at St Mary's Primary will begin after half term.
- Prayer calendars are being prepared for wide circulation across the team.
- A *Listening course* will be held on 19 February for those involved in pastoral work.
- A *Safeguarding course* will be held for those whose voluntary role requires training or refreshing. (Dates: 26 & 28 Feb and 8 March)

Notices:

We welcomed the announcement of the Very Revd Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester, as bishop-elect to the See of Salisbury.

There are vacancies for the following roles:

- A Foundation Governor at St Mary's Primary.
- A Trustee for the Bridport Food Bank.

The next formal meeting of the PCC will be held on Tuesday 22 March.

Bridget Trump
PCC Secretary.

End.