

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 5 July 2022

The Revd Canon Deb Smith held the chair, and eighteen members of the PCC were in attendance.

The draft minutes from the meetings held on 7 June and 16 June were accepted as true records. One matter was arising: the nomination and subsequent election of Graham Purse as one of our representatives on Deanery Synod, until the APCM in 2023.

Revd Philip drew our attention to the church in a wider context – Bishop Stephen’s inaugural address to Diocesan Synod (available on diocesan website), Deanery Synod’s initiative on Rural Hope, the forthcoming Lambeth Conference and how we can contribute, and the local witness of Churches Together in Bridport.

The Team Rector’s report included information about the recent Archdeacon’s Visitation, celebrated Maggie Crosbie’s ordination in Salisbury Cathedral and the announcement of Lorna Johnson’s licensing service in SMBRI on Sunday 9 October, which will be a united service.

- **Lay Training** was also key in her report, with local opportunities being created for this - Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants with the opportunity of linking into funding from the Rural Hope initiative for funds for exploring collaborative ministry.
- **SSALL project.** The PCC and others from our churches were invited to an afternoon session as Crystal Johnson facilitated a discussion around the following questions: *What do I value most about SSALL today? What could be improved in the building? Who do we want to be engaging with in the future? What does SSALL bring to the parish?*
- Following the PCC’s Away-Day in May, a new **Vision Sub-Committee** has been formed and has held its initial meeting. The above questions were an echo of previous discussions and feature in relation to all our church buildings as this groups leads our consideration of all aspects of our future ministry.

Safeguarding – training sessions are being offered monthly on a Monday morning. Contact the parish office for information and to register your interest.

Parish Sub-Committees:

A presentation about the **Community Hub** formed a substantial element of the meeting, with Revd Pete explaining the progress and planned trajectory of local initiatives.

Developing the use of **online storage** for all documents, policies and reports is being explored, with the aim of enabling its introduction for 2023.

EcoChurch Sub-Committee – we’re getting involved on 24 September in the ‘**Great Big Green Day**’ in Bridport (details to follow). A churchyard **Nature Count** was held in conjunction with the Community Orchard at St Mary’s, and HTBRA want to run a similar event. The EcoChurch worship and reflection that has been prepared has still not been adopted by every church despite the PCC

giving its support. Local church sub-committees are asked to address this. (Details from Peter Wright or Janet Webster)

Finance Sub-Committee – The PCC wish to consider how we plan our giving across the parish and suggested approaches will be tabled by FinCom. These might include a set percentage tithe from our income, or a commitment to a range of charities (local, national and international), but the current feeling is that this outline will sit alongside our responses to any emergency events to which we'd also want to give support.

We will continue to engage with the diocesan through a consultation document as they seek our view as they explore options for a future share scheme that will be widely owned by parishes. There are different ways of assessing how each parish can contribute to what is a 'Fairer Share' as its currently named. 'Ability or Willingness to give' is difficult to interpret but the PCC will consider each question in the survey with respect and will submit their response by the end of July, the deadline.

Fabric Sub-Committee – Heather Purse has taken the chair of the group who have agreed to put in place a process of sharing documentation, and the collaborative use of resources across the parish. The PCC will approach the diocese for guidance in requesting that SJWES is adopted under the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019, to bring all six churches under the same system for maintenance permission.

Other Points:

- Mike Gittins has been appointed as the **Parish Health and Safety Officer**.
- On 4 October **Revd Philip Ringer** celebrates 30 years of his ministry in the priesthood. There will be a special service and opportunity for us all to give thanks with him.
- **Chalice Assistants** – as we return to using a common cup for communion, authorized assistants will be appointed, and training renewed.
- **SMBRI** have completed the drafting and presentation of documents for hiring the church - Hiring Handbook, Booking Form (with conditions) and the role description for the Booking Manager. These can be adapted for other churches, following a courtesy discussion with SMBRI.
- The PCC are discussing with **Good Books Christian bookshop** to see if we have a suitable space that could accommodate them when their current tenancy concludes in early 2023.
- Two **hot water flasks** are available for use at events. They are currently stored in SMBRI.

The next meeting of the PCC will be 26 July 2022.

Ends.

Bridget Trump, PCC Secretary