

## PCC Minutes, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

To / Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (PCC Sec, PSO & SC)	9. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)
2. Adam Burns	10. Anne Rolfe (Warden & SC)
3. Gillian Davison	11. Pamela Rushton
4. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod)	12. Chris Vass (Warden & SC)
5. Simon Honeywell	13. Elaine Webster
6. Martin Howard	14. Paul Wheeldon
7. Geoff Jowett (SC)	15. Guy Wingate (Treasurer & SC) (via phone only)
8. Karen Killick (V. Chair, Deanery & Diocesan Synod)	

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p><b>Opening Prayers and Reflections</b></p> <p>Lucy brought the reflection to PCC for June keeping it simple and setting the tone so we began the meeting fixing our eyes upon Jesus. Putting aside the rest of today with its worries and cares and focusing on God through bible reading, worship and prayer.</p> <p>"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4 vs 16-18).</p> <p>A time of worship and prayer followed: Blessed Be Your Name and When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.</p> <p>Next Reflection and Prayers: Karen Killick</p>
2.	<p><b>UPDATE: Youth Ministry</b></p> <p>Kathryn Belmont brought a 6 month update concerning youth ministry. She began with a reminder of youth ministry' vision statement which is at the heart of everything they do – their 'why':</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WE WANT TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE BECOME LIFE-LONG FOLLOWERS OF JESUS</b></p> <p><b>What's happened since last time Kathryn was at PCC, which was in November?</b></p> <p><b>Skate Park Outreach</b></p> <p>A small team of have now returned to the Skate Park after taking winter off - seasonal ministry. What Happens there? Once a week take drinks and try to start conversations with the young people. Talk to all sorts of young people; y/p who should attend school but don't, college kids, people who are sitting their GCSEs, children, parents with their kids, some who are facing some big challenges in life, others who are there just to have a nice time, travellers, y/p on motorised bikes and balaclavas. Challenging conversations and challenging spiritual atmosphere. As a team try to notice things or pick things up from conversation and offer to pray and share faith, etc.</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church Opelika Mission Week</b></p> <p>Amazing week of mission during Half Term (29 – 31<sup>st</sup> May - with our friends from FBCO. From a youth perspective did outreach in the park Mon-Wed afternoons, had a worship evening for our young people and Opelika y/p and had a big outreach event on the Wednesday evening which was well attended by church youth, Youth Club youth and some that had never been to anything we've done before. USA team did an amazing job of sharing their testimonies. One of our y/p brought a friend to the outreach event during the mission week and we had a really nice text afterwards from the person that brought him to say he'd had a really nice time, he felt really accepted and had a really</p>

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	<p>positive feeling from being there. He has since been to church twice on Sunday mornings. Long term strategy behind it too – longer term Serve Team people tend to have come on a short term trip like this and get a heart for the area.</p> <p><b>Egglescliffe School</b></p> <p>Kathryn mentioned in November that it has been challenging to get back into the school after the Pandemic. However things are picking up a bit now. She has done a few assemblies there since November. Different to before. Not too long ago Matt made a good link with the Head of RE at the school who brought 15 students to church last week, as part of their Diversity week. Aim was to simply make them feel so welcome, to open their eyes to what the church is/does/what we believe. We gave them a tour, explained the Youth Room, talked about how we reach out to the community, what services looked like, and we gave them an experience of sung worship and shared stories of faith with them. Opened their eyes. We're also currently in the process of getting alongside two Egglescliffe School students as they want to set up a CU in the school. Kathryn will be going in there regularly in the new academic year to help them and encourage them in that.</p> <p>She is also encouraged that a young person has recently set up a CU in her school (Hurworth) and is doing an amazing job of leading it.</p> <p><b>Finished a year of Doulos</b></p> <p>Have recently finished another year of Doulos - a leadership training programme for Christian young people from across Teesside. The heart of Doulos is to see a generation raised up who are passionate about seeking God and serving the people around them. Currently have 12 y/p who are part of Doulos (Year 10+). Throughout this year they've been learning all about servant leadership, time alone with God, evangelism, the power of vision, the disciplines of a leader, time and goal management, spiritual warfare, wisdom, dealing with difficult people, social justice, managing money, rest and sabbath, public speaking, my place in God's plan, and so much more. Connects them with y/p from the wider church, sense of unity. Exciting when a room of y/p all come together!</p> <p><b>Life Groups</b></p> <p>Seeing really good engagement in our weekly Life Groups. Around 30 attending most weeks. Life Groups are the place where we have time to go into greater depth, so the team is excited about this.</p> <p><b>Youth Club</b></p> <p>Seeing a good blend of church and non-church y/p attending: e.g. last Friday it was about 50/50 church and non-church. Kathryn was able to pray with a non-church young person who is having an incredibly challenging start in life.</p> <p><b>Other Encouragements</b></p> <p>Youth Apprenticeships – y/p are loving serving all over the church in different ministries and are feeling well connected with adults in the church.</p> <p>Kathryn has been encouraged recently as one of very regular young people had stopped coming to pretty much everything due to terrible social anxiety. She asked specific people to be praying for her and probably about a year later has seen a complete transformation in her. She has started coming back to Life Groups and Church, she has got her dream job and is just a totally different person: power of prayer is amazing.</p> <p>Kathryn was encouraged by a young person standing up in church to say she took a risk of asking her friend if she could pray for her. Others are daily reading their Bibles and connecting with God. Still connecting y/p with mentors.</p> <p>Having an incredible youth team who give up their time sacrificially to serve our young people and we've been investing in them spending time together doing some great training – Rachel McAuley. Kathryn is connecting with wider church where possible – Talking Youth.</p>

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	<p><b><i>What's Coming Up?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Café Church</i></b> Held in Yarm Costa where youth can bring friends without feeling intimidated in a church building.</p> <p><b><i>St Thomas' Church Newcastle</i></b> Kathryn is speaking to their young people – connecting with wider church.</p> <p><b><i>Prestonwood</i></b> Another church mission team in July visiting for 3 days.</p> <p><b><i>Y6 Transition / college transition</i></b> Ways of making transition easier: been to God's Giants, having Life Group and Youth Club Taster Days. Connecting with Buddys and using Welcome Packs.</p> <p><b><i>Mexico</i></b> 10 young people plus leaders are signed up. We've got our £900 fundraising deadline coming up at the end of June and a few have reached that – a few haven't yet. Amazed by their creativity for their own fundraising; crochet, bracelets, sunflower competitions, cyclathons, 4K in 4 days and so much more. Also amazed at/grateful for the church's consistent support through cake sales and random generosity. Full team meeting tomorrow.</p> <p><b><i>Satellites</i></b> Youth Camp coming up in August. 30 going – dedicated time to build relationships with each other and Jesus.</p> <p><b><i>4 Weeks of Fun</i></b> After summer in September time is spent reconnecting with each other in fun ways and bringing new people in.</p> <p><b><i>Tees Valley Youth for Christ Serve Team</i></b> As mentioned before, because of the pandemic and lack of mission teams able to travel over to the UK, TVYFC has sadly hardly any Serve Team members since the Pandemic. Over the years we have been hugely blessed to have these people serve with us; Ashley, Braden, Jess, Rachel, Caroline, Abby and we've had Brooke and Heather as Summer Interns too. The ministries of these people have enabled us to do more Youth Ministry, reach more young people, invest in the discipleship of more young people, think strategically about the future and has brought life and different gifts to our ministry. Because we have been blessed to have so many of these amazing people over the past few years, it has been a real challenge to do this year without one and keep all the different elements of the ministry going. Something Kathryn wanted to bring to PCC that things are very gradually picking up again and there are about 4 people from the USA who are looking to come for a year from this September. As there are many churches in the area who would love to have them, Tim's plan is to place them in 4 good churches where he knows they'll be at home and well supported part time, and then for the other half of their time they will form a resource team who will resource youth ministry in other churches across Teesside. We have been offered one of these part time Serve Team members. They would do 15-20 hours with us and it would cost us £1500 in the academic year 2023-24. So Kathryn would love to ask if PCC would consider this as a possibility. She already has a host home sorted for if this is possible financially.</p> <p><b><i>Questions?</i></b> Anne explained that she has already approached the diocese for funds towards serve team. Pam and Karen commented on the amazing work and impact seen in church – more connection between youth and the rest of church developing. Gillian asked how Kathryn maintain's her passion when how much work is put into the ministry. Kathryn believes it is God given and she gets fired up by spending time with the young people themselves and seeing how they are developing their own passion for God. She has retreat days to have time to recoup.</p>

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	<p>Kathryn was thanked for her hard work, dedication and ministry. Kathryn and the youth team were then prayed for.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding supporting a Serve Team member for All Saints' for September 2023 – August 2024. There is already £500 built into this year's budget for it up til December 2023. So in agreeing to have an intern we are agreeing to build in £1,500 to next year's budget to cover the cost of an intern and their expenses.</p> <p>PCC was asked to agree to build in a total of £2000 to both budgets to cover the cost of an intern. Proposed by Martin, seconded by Paul: 14 in favour/0 abstentions/none against. Motion carried <b>(ACTION Guy)</b>.</p>
3.	<p><b>Apologies for absence, and declarations of interest</b></p> <p>a) Apologies had been received from: Alexandra Lamond, Margaret Vaughan and Guy Wingate.</p> <p>b) Declarations of, Conflicts of Interest were recorded for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I. Matt Levinsohn as incumbent, his wife as an employee (Receptionist).</p>
4.	<p><b>Approval of minutes of the meeting</b></p> <p>a) PCC were asked if there were any comments, issues or concerns relating to the minutes taken at the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. None were given.</p> <p>b) PCC was asked to approve the minutes for May as a true record of proceedings, proposed by Gillian, seconded by Anne: 13 in favour/1 abstention/none against. Motion carried. <b>(ACTION – Diane - to forward minutes to Shiromi)</b>.</p>
5.	<p><b>Actions/Update and matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b></p> <p>a) All of actions from May PCC have been completed.</p> <p>b) Matt explained what the Standing Committee does. Its remit is to deal with matters on behalf of the PCC in between PCC meetings and to help set the PCC agenda for the next meeting. It meets monthly. At present Standing Committee includes: Vicar, 2 Wardens, PCC Secretary and often Treasurer. It needs 2 elected members from the PCC. Discussion followed and suggestion made to stand for a term: Sept-Dec as everyone busy. Geoff offered to stand for first term: all in favour.</p>
6.	<p><b>UPDATE: Chair</b></p> <p>Matt gave an update of church activities:</p> <p>a) 9am service: survey given and a group met to discuss: stressed importance of liturgy, variety of styles of worship. Main ideas: a) recruit for rotas as only a few serve at present. Paul offered help from 10:30 attendees, e.g. sound, etc – add into rotas; b) look at service being missional particularly those that are de-churched and some have attended Sharing Faith course; c) mixture of liturgy books and slides will be used going forwards; d) seating – suggestion to sit nearer to each other during service to project unity.</p> <p>b) Matt attended one of the three national gatherings for those 'Compelled To Resist' the proposals of LLF: 19<sup>th</sup> June. As you know working parties for LLF continue to evaluate possible options looking at legalities. Dates in July and November for prayer time prior to decision making will be disseminated. Attendees were asked to highlight support feel needed.</p> <p>c) Bishop's Visit – Bishop Sarah was very impressed with the church here and wanted to encourage us in what we are doing.</p> <p>d) Sharing Faith sessions have been well attended (8 sessions) and are helping people build confidence in their witness.</p> <p>e) Welcome lunch went well with Marcie and her family and Neil coming. Both are integrating well.</p> <p>f) Preparations have started for Festival Teesside 2024. In our next budget year it would be good for us to financially contribute. Geoff highlighted events are happening now that we need to attend in</p>

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	<p>preparation for the festival next year and need to be publicised to wider church (<b>ACTION Matt</b>)</p> <p>g) Marriage course is mid-way through with 3 couples coming along. Going well. Looking at when might make sense to run it again now the materials have been gathered and written and who for.</p> <p>h) Website in process of being reformatted so more accessible to all.</p> <p>Discussion – congregation needs updating on parish share pausing and 2 nights of prayer in July and November. Review after General Synod (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July) at July PCC meeting (<b>ACTION Matt</b>).</p>
7.	<p><b>UPDATE: Financial</b></p> <p>Guy Wingate joined the meeting by telephone to give PCC this month's finance update.</p> <p>a) Overall position is that our operating costs are £8000 greater than the planned 2023 budget deficit. Current level of gifts and donations received are £2300 lower than anticipated. Meanwhile, utility costs have been £2100 higher than planned. Our budget assumes the same average monthly utilities spend across the year, and hence did not include an allowance for higher spend in colder months at start of year and lower rebate from our solar panels in darker months at start of year. Expenditure on consumables is also £1200 higher than planned with higher prices caused by inflation and a busy church meaning more people are using our facilities. Maintenance costs are £3600 higher driven by unplanned major works to repair roofing at the start of the year and a quinquennial electrical review required by the diocese that was not in budget and which identified some remedial work to be undertaken. Lower utility costs and higher solar panel rebates over the summer months will help redress the current budget overspend. PCC also agreed that any new maintenance work that is not urgent will be scheduled for next year. As such, the excess operation costs should steadily reduce over the next few months.</p> <p>b) Separately, it was also noted that the current cash balance of unrestricted funds is currently under the target of having two months operating budget held as a reserve. Planning and maintenance of this contingency reserve will be reviewed as part of the 2024 budget setting process.</p> <p>c) Finally, a specific restricted fund has been established within the accounts to track and ring-fence that money that is currently being withheld from our Parish Share payment to the diocese. As mentioned earlier in the meeting PCC will review LLF developments and decide how to handle these paused payments subject to a resolution to the LLF situation being found.</p> <p>d) <b>Actions:</b> PCC will continue to monitor church finances over next few months prior to setting budget for 2024. Defer any further maintenance jobs until next year. Guy Wingate will give a half-year finance update at a Sunday morning service in July, complemented by a newsletter for onward communication to the church (<b>ACTION Guy</b>)</p>
8.	<p><b>UPDATE: Safeguarding</b></p> <p>Diane updated the PCC regarding the report previously circulated.</p> <p>a) Karen asked if last month's concern had been resolved. Diane responded that the situation is being supported appropriately.</p> <p>b) Geoff asked where church sits on gender issues that are being discussed in wider world and how do we handle them. Matt explained that he, Kathryn and Jan discuss gender/identity regularly and are dealing with it in a measured, sensible way when it comes up and help them see their identity is in Christ and we will continually encourage, love and support them.</p>
9.	<p><b>UPDATE: Warden(s)</b></p> <p>Chris updated the PCC regarding:</p> <p>a) On 13<sup>th</sup> June the Wardens attended their Visitation with Rick Simpson at Wynyard C of E Primary School.</p> <p>b) Electrical inspection of 558a (upstairs office flat) was carried out by PGL - it failed – needs a new fuse board. Three quotes have been obtained: PGL quoted £804, including VAT; Matt Falcus</p>

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	<p>obtained a second quote for £760; and third quote was supplied from an electrician recommended by James Alderton at Durham Diocese for £699, including VAT. Guy recommended leaving until next month in terms of expenditure.</p> <p>c) Nigel Stoves Plumbing and Heating Co who installed and service our boilers found an electrical fault on the warm air unit PCB (centre). The cost of the replacement parts is £517 (includes vat) - cost to install the parts will be £270 (includes VAT and labour) total £787 <b>(ACTION – Wardens to obtain further quotes)</b>.</p>
10.	<p><b>UPDATE: Policy/Procedures</b></p> <p>Discussion was held regarding each presented policy/procedure. Matt informed PCC that we have a document of those who hold responsibilities for policies and procedures.</p> <p>a) Centre Hire Policy - is simple as adherence to the hire document will cover us and ensure clarity. The hire document has been amended to include one off hire and repeated hire and a couple of other minor changes in comparison to the document that has been so far used with hirers. Matt proposed acceptance of Hire Policy and Booking Information/Form/Conditions of Hire, all in favour Motion carried. <b>(ACTION Diane – send to Shiromi)</b>.</p> <p>b) Drivers Bank has been worked on and will be presented at July PCC meeting <b>(ACTION Diane)</b>.</p>
11.	<p><b>UPDATE: Calendar</b></p> <p>Matt presented the church annual calendar and time was given for discussion. The calendar had been emailed to PCC prior to meeting. Matt explained that the Calendar is an attempt to ensure people can look ahead and plan to invite friends to things, or indeed plan to come to things themselves. It should also help us in being intentional about how busy we are and balancing discipleship and outreach. Aim is to put on the big boards in the library for everyone to peruse. It could remain up there but we do want people to use church-suite for the details and the primary focus of the calendar is to help us to keep an overview of what is going on.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding Christmas. The following was decided:</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Service – young families - afternoon  17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Service – older youth and adults - pm  23<sup>rd</sup> Sat December Carol Service 6pm with mulled wine and mince pies  24<sup>th</sup> December Joint Morning Service and Midnight Service  <b>(ACTION update calenader with dates - Matt)</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a) Bishop's Letter re Clergy Spouse Residential. PCC was asked to agree to cover £190 residential cost to send Rachel Levinsohn to Clergy Spouse retreat in September, 2023 if she wants to attend. Proposed by Anne, seconded by Adam 13 in favour/1 abstention/none against. Motion carried <b>(ACTION Matt and Guy)</b>.</p>
-	<b>Close</b> - The meeting finished with the Grace
-	<b>Date of next PCC meeting</b> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:30pm.