



PCC Minutes, 15th July 2024

Present	
1. Lucy Falcus (Deanery Synod) 2. Simon Honeywell 3. Jacob Howard 4. Geoff Jowett (SC) 5. Karen Killick (V. Chair, Deanery & Diocesan Synod) 6. Matt Levinsohn (Chair & SC)	7. Pamela Rushton 8. Ben Scott 9. Chris Vass (Warden & SC) 10. Margaret Vaughan (Deanery & Diocesan Synod) 11. Paul Wheeldon 12. Guy Wingate (Treasurer & SC)

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p>Opening Reflection - Guy Wingate Jacob led the meeting in a short act of worship.</p> <p>Guy reflected on the passage John 16. 33b where Jesus says "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world". Guy went on to reflect on the contrast between what is happening in our world (the troubles we experience) and His encouragement to take heart for He is in control.</p> <p>He also turned to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 4:8. • Lamentations 3:22-23. <p>He closed with Psalm 68:6-8 and Deuteronomy 32:3; reminding that meeting that " He is our Rock and our Salvation".</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from: Diane Backhouse, Karen Snowden, Martin Howard, Anne Rolfe.</p> <p>Declarations of interest by Matt Levinsohn & Ben Scott as their wives are employees of the PCC. Standing declaration of interest: Martin Howard - employee of Durham DBF</p>
3.	<p>Approval of minutes of 17th June PCC Meeting The minutes were approved. Proposed by Guy Wingate 11 in favour, 1 abstention.</p>
4.	<p>Matters arising and Chairs update – Matt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church camp: had gone well, visiting speakers had been valuable but some felt had spoke for too long and was the timing quite right (too late?). Testimony time had felt valuable. Additional children's provision was required. • Focus remains on discipleship, Matt and Ben are creating materials which could be used one on one for people to help new Christians to take first steps in faith. These will be ready for the autumn term. • Trying to be "more family" and less busy. • Discovery church struggling over the last few months. Part of that is lack of profile in local schools, likely evaluate in September. • Kathryn and Matt working on bid for funding from diocese to become a youth hub.

- Various borrowed and gifted items of drum kit being tried in August; will consult with neighbours during the testing. Paul W noted that if this become permanent additional microphones would be required.
- Additional “comfy” chairs for chapel. Proposal to purchase a couple of ikea style “poang” chairs. The meeting supported this but noted that firmer / hard back chairs are more suitable for some.
- General synod (GS) / Prayers of Love and Faith update:
 - GS has recently met. At this meeting GS voted by about 52% in house of clergy and laity for stand alone services of blessing for same sex couples, to explore same sex marriage for clergy which will need a 2/3 vote next year, and to replace the document where clergy promise to only have sex within married heterosexual relationships.
 - The motion included that Delegated Alternative Episcopal Oversight would be provided for those churches not wanting to go down this route. In practice, some feel that this is not enough protection as it relies on bishops being willing to delegate power to someone else to oversee a church in their diocese.
 - A grouping of many organisation (HTB, New Wine, Forward in Faith, ReNew) - called “the Alliance” has been established. It aims to provide a safe space where an orthodox view of sex and marriage can be upheld at the same time as getting on with Jesus’ mission in this land.
 - The Alliance wrote to the House of Bishops before Synod to ask them to not vote through stand alone blessings and to not proceed until more theological work has been done. In their letter they say that if the vote went through, they would need to establish a third province within the C of E to protect those churches who cannot stand under the authority of their bishop. There are 11 bishops who stood against the motion at Synod and some of them have said they will sponsor and ordain curates put forward by the Alliance.
 - Matt noted that there were zoom calls in September for church leaders arranged by The Alliance. The aim is to hold unity with the majority of Anglican churches around the world, to hold unity with the evangelical wing of the Church of England here, and to get on with the mission of the church. Matt has joined the alliance in a personal capacity.
 - Individuals can sign up to The Alliance if they wish.
 - A short discussion followed where a number of points of clarification were provided.
 - MV asked for prayers for the 6 Durham Diocesan Crown Nominations Representatives (she being one of them) charged with being part of the appointment process for next Bishop of Durham.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life groups: Life group leaders are meeting in September and will be doing three evenings all together about groups and what the purpose is, and possibly starting some different groups. • Approaching the final week of Bailey, Emily and Kelsey with us. Matt noted what a blessing they had all been. Leaving gifts were planned.
5.	<p>Policy Review</p> <p>Policies coming up for review were assigned to members of PCC.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martin to send existing word version of policy to reviewer 2. Reviewer to read and mark up any suggested amends / comments etc (reviewers note expected to have legal knowledge) 3. Reviewers return documents to Martin by 31/8 4. Aim to table polices for approval at September PCC <p>Disclosure Policy - Guy Wingate Health & Safety Policy - Paul Wheeldon Food Safety Policy - Karen Killick Donations and Legacy Policy - Margaret Vaughan Hire Policy - Pam Rushton Booking Forms - Chris Vass Drivers Bank Policy - Simon Honeywell Drivers Bank Declaration Form - Simon Honeywell Diocesan Safeguarding Policy - Lucy Falcus to read (noted that this shouldn't require any amends as is the Diocesan policy) Risk Assessment Procedure - Martin Howard</p>
6.	<p>Social</p> <p>ACTION PCC members named against an activity to start to plan/consider how to deliver the activity (with support from others). Noting that no budget has been agreed so ideally activities should be self financing.</p> <p>14th Sept - Family quiz night and pizzas - Ben Scott 17th Nov - Music Creative Jam Night - Jacob Howard 7th Dec - Christmas Party - Matt L 25th Jan - Barn Dance - Pam to check availability of band (to book if less than £400) Feb – Men’s and women’s socials dates tbc - Lucy happy to sort women’s socials (might be before Feb) 6th March - After school world book day party tbc 22nd March - Murder mystery evening - Simon Honeywell 6th April - walk after church –Margaret V 18th May - Meal after church and treasure hunt 21st June - walk in lake district Ben Scott</p>

Financial Update – Guy Wingate

Current Finances

Church income and expenditure remain broadly in balance, at end of half-year (i.e. end June) we have surplus of about £3k. The accounts say £5.5k but £2.5k is spoken for (monies collected in advance of church camp, invoices awaited to pay for services received, some church mission donations still to be made). The surplus would have been higher from not having to pay for a Childrens Worker for 5 months but for the decline in church income we have seen this year (down 5-6% compared to last year). Our church finances should be fine to end of year assuming we have no extraordinary unplanned expenditure since we have enough to cover anticipated higher energy bills in winter months, a large CCLI licence invoice just received, and puppets costs agreed at last PCC but not yet billed. In response to a question on the cost of the church camp, Guy informed the PCC that it was currently showing a small loss and Matt confirmed he had just written to attendees with a general update on the camp which included a reminder for anyone who had not paid yet to please do so.

2025 Budget

Some initial work has been done on planning for 2025 budget. Guy noted that there will be a full complement of employees and the need to budget for pay rises. Energy costs are also likely to jump up in cost from September 2025 when the current fixed price contract comes to an end and a new energy contract comes into play. Guy noted that as in previous years the draft budget would show a sizable deficit between provisional expenditure and anticipated. The PCC would be required to reflect on this in the autumn. At the September meeting the parish share pledge for 2025 would also be discussed.

Review of Financial Controls

Guy is completing a gap analysis of the PCC's finance internal control framework using a checklist provided by the Charities Commission. This has included preparing a procedure for the Treasurer's role and conducting an assessment of governance and operational risks. PCC agreed with a proposal that these will be taken through Standing Committee rather than PCC for review and approval. PCC will be notified when this has been completed. Any major actions resulting from this work will be brought back to PCC. PCC agreed that the Treasurer procedure will not be made publically available on the church website with our policies because it will include some sensitive information.

ACTION: Margaret Vaughan and John Belmont to be invited to join the meeting of the Standing Committee that will discuss the assessment and potential actions to address its findings.

Seek Authorisation to Enter into New Energy Contract

The summertime is a good time of year to enter a new energy contract as prices tend to be suppressed with lower consumption. PCC gave permission to enter into a energy contract before next PCC meeting in September if a good price can be found. Any new contract would have to be agreed by members of Standing Committee. Noted that if the contract was a green tariff this would support Eco Church status.

ACTION: Karen Killick to represent Matt if this occurs while he is on holiday.

Support is being given to J Evans to apply for a grant from SBC for Ukrainian café.

7.



8.	<p>Safeguarding Update</p> <p>Matt noted that there one situation had arisen since last meeting time which is being worked through.</p> <p>Progress is being made on role descriptions.</p>
9.	<p>Warden Update – Chris Vass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both wardens had attended visitation and were sworn in.• The flat is to be redecorated at the tenant’s expense• Kitchen - water boiler repaired• Portrait of King Charles being provided from the Diocese• Building Improvement plan - handed out. KS/CV/MH/ML had met. Chris took mtg through the items noted, and where there were sources of possible funding (including Diocesan grants). Chris advised the meeting that he was looking for someone to support grant applications process. <p>ACTION: KK offered to review forms (supported by MH and wardens); initial focus for funding would be replacing lights in the hall with LED lights and foyer lights and secondary glazing to the main church</p> <p>ACTION: Maintenance party: to be considered by wardens.</p>
10.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Pam - noted that car park users are parking in the spaces in front of flat. Plan is to mark the space once good weather. It was also noted that the sign on YFC flat very small.</p> <p>Matt advised the meeting that YFC wished to remain as tenants.</p>
-	<p>Close - The meeting finished with prayer at 9.02pm</p>
-	<p>Date of next PCC meeting – 16th September 2024 at 7:30pm</p> <p>prayers to be led by Diane Backhouse [MV to advise]</p>