

PCC Meeting – 27 September 2021

The PCC met on Monday, 27 September 2021 in The Orchard. This was the first in person meeting of the PCC since the start of the pandemic. Previous meetings had been on Zoom.

Following opening prayers, a large part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the latest output from the group charged with implementing the recommendations in the John Truscott report. This was a wide ranging report produced earlier this year by an external consultant, John Truscott, experienced in church organisational structures.

Following some great input from a member of the congregation who is an HR professional (to whom the PCC expressed warm thanks), the PCC were able to agree the terms of reference for a new Human Resources and Staff Welfare Group. This will replace the existing HR Committee. We are now in the process of establishing the membership of this group. If anyone would like to be part of this group, please do contact either Ray King or Chris Taylor. If you have experience of HR that is great, but it is not a pre-requisite for being a member of this group.

We also discussed the latest position on the structuring of the finance, administration and property management roles and the governance structure over fabric matters. Work is continuing in these areas. We also agreed to produce a short report on upcoming PCC agendas in advance of PCC meetings and a report on the PCC meetings themselves (of which this is the first) that can be made more widely available to members of the church.

Since the APCMs in May, we have lost three PCC members including our Treasurer for differing reasons. If anyone is interested in joining the PCC, please don't hesitate to contact either Chris Taylor or Ray King. In particular, we are keen to find somebody who would be prepared to take on the role of Treasurer. We also discussed the need to find an additional churchwarden to support Ray King.

Over the last couple of years, the church has been very fortunate to receive two large legacies. However, it is also true that the church is running a substantial deficit at present. We are only able to do this by using these legacies to fund the deficit. The PCC is continuing to explore ways to close this deficit and to then identify worthwhile projects for the legacies. In the meantime, the PCC resolved to invest part of the legacy in The CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC also received a report back on current service patterns. Whilst Susie is away on sick leave, we do not have sufficient resource to run more than one onsite service on a Sunday. People currently leading and preaching at services are either doing this on a voluntary basis or are visiting clergy organised by Susie before she went on sick leave. We agreed to review the position again once Susie is back with us.

Finally, we received an update on the recruitment process for a Children and Families Leader. The closing date for applications is 8 October. At the present time, we have one application and a number of other enquiries. However, we do also urgently need more volunteers to help with the Junior Church. If anyone is able to help, please speak to Madeleine MacCallum, Ray King or Chris Taylor.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Chris Taylor
4 October 2021