



# Christ Church with St. Mary's PCC

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
7.30pm at Christ Church

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### **Covid update**

- The Re-opening group have now met 19 times and Daniel is working on an update to the current risk assessment.

### **Rose garden renovation**

- Grateful thanks to Caroline and Daniel Pitt and Ian Handy, with many appreciative comments - and a few complaints being dealt with.

### **Bell tower training centre**

- The faculty has been granted and work is ongoing.

### **Church car park**

- Thanks went to Stephen Grosvenor for his paper and thanks to the team who did the white lining.
- Simon said that we need to rely on people's goodwill in respect of the use of our car park. Our policy is that the car park is for those with permits and for those here using the church, or for Community Centre activities and for those visiting the church yard and Burial Ground.

### **Eco Church progress towards attaining the A Rocha UK Charity - Bronze Award**

- Phil Mansfield had submitted a comprehensive paper that showed our progress in the 5 categories that asked us 25-30 questions per category
- Bath Road, Immanuel, and Wroughton and Wichelstowe now have bronze awards.
- Silver is within our grasp if we are committed to diversifying and expanding our land management. Phil spoke of many possible initiatives to increase our environmental awareness from providing bird boxes, to using recycled toilet paper.
- The PCC **endorsed a motion to agree to: a) produce a management plan; b) to establish an Eco policy and c) communicate our commitment and focus on environmental issues via our teaching and preaching.**
- Phil agreed there was room for the Sunday Club to be involved in some of the work.
- Daniel thanked Phil for the work to collate the assessment that led to the Bronze award

- Phil was now submitting the survey for ratification of the Bronze Award
- The PCC supports our intention of being more fully an eco-congregation, building on our present Eco-foundation.
- Simon reminded everyone to help by picking up litter.

### **Invitation from the Christ Church Burial Board asking us to enter into a period of due diligence towards the possible merging of our two charities in the interests of bereaved people in Swindon.**

- No discussions had started yet. The motion as it was proposed was split into two parts and the first part only was voted on and passed, namely **“The PCC accepts Christ Church Burial Board’s invitation to enter into a process of due diligence towards the potential merger of our two charities”**. This motion will be discussed at the next F&G working group meeting.

### **Financial report**

- We are holding our own financially, this situation is helped by the £30,000 grant the Community Centre @ Christ Church received from the National Lottery. This was awarded to help towards the running costs of the Community Centre through the Covid 19 Pandemic in the light of reduced income when the centre was closed.
- Our income is holding up well, helped by weddings starting again. PCC have saved approximately £2k in expenditure which leaves us about £8-9k ahead at this stage. The next six months will be more challenging. Andrew was thanked for all his work.
- Simon and the PCC pass on their appreciation to the congregation for their generosity and financial support

### **Disposal of the old heavy chairs which remain in church**

- The PCC wishes to make full use of the lighter chairs bought 4 years ago and dispose of the old heavy white chairs. 16 white chairs will be kept
- Jim, Anne and Simon will work together to look at options for passing the chairs on or disposing of them

### **PCC training**

- The PCC continued to explore its purpose and Reviewing church life mission –Simon stressed that we should be intentional about mission and asked the Council what they thought we should be involved with?
- The responses focused on those who are isolated and lonely, which has been made worse by services stopping during the pandemic
- The PCC were asked to support the staff team in help, prayer and support to encourage this growth.

### **Autumn Worship**

From 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, a 3-month trial of more services is beginning:

- Weekly, starting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September: Christ in Quiet at 12 noon.
- Monthly two evenings services:

- First Sundays, starting 5<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm Holy Communion
- Third Sundays: 6.30pm Choral Evensong
- The first Sunday Club gathering will be on 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- St Mary's: Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday as well beginning on **10<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Old Town Partnership**

- **The** celebration of the Desai project at Harvest time will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Christ Church when Mike Welsh will speak about Desai.
- **Further details on the** Swindon Hardship Fund which is being promoted by our Partnership of Churches are available from Anne Macmillan

### **Living in Love and Faith**

- The Swindon Deanery and the Diocese are encouraging people to look at this resource, via [bristoldiocese.org](http://bristoldiocese.org) or the Church of England website.

### **Working Groups**

- The finance and governance group is working on plans for September for the annual stewardship activities. Archdeacon Christopher and Andrew Yeoward, our treasurer, are speaking in September at our Mission Gift Day.
- Anne Macmillan reported the Church Family Group needed more members.
- People in the working groups were thinly spread at the moment.

### **Other news**

- Curate Mark Siddall will be on placement at Christ Church in October and will lead a quiet morning on 9<sup>th</sup> October on Christian Imagination in the Book of Revelation.