

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 26 November 2024

Paul Groom, Vice-Chair held the chair, and sixteen members of the PCC were in attendance.

Safeguarding:

Wendy Thorogood spoke about Domestic Abuse and reminded the PCC members that it is a requirement that they complete the online training for this. She is holding a number of informal discussion sessions in HTBOT over the coming months for us to join in conversations about safeguarding issues. (All at 3pm - 2 December, 20 January & 26 March.). Open to all.

Two volunteer SG Assistants are being sought to assist in the parish. Role descriptions are available from the office or admin@parishofbridport.org

Wendy was co-opted onto the PCC with immediate effect.

Matters arising from the last PCC meeting (29 October 2024):

- Conversations are being held across the parish in preparation for an Away-day in January when the vision for the parish will be the focus of the day. This will be for the PCC, ministry team and others with a missional vision and approach to our Christian life together in this place. Each church congregation is involved in these discussions.
- The correct Authorization of Expenditure process for the current works at St John's is being regularized.
- A question about the position of the Bishops on the issues surrounding the Assisted Dying Bill was raised by the PCC and passed to Deanery Synod. Bishop Karen has responded. Her statement is available from pcc@parishofbridport.org
- The Governance Sub-Committee will be discussing the introduction of formal oversight of all Parish Events in line with other sub-committees.

Team Vicar's Report:

- Revd Cally expressed her thanks to those involved in safeguarding across the parish, the building projects at SJWES and SSALL, and the Duty Wardens' oversight of practical service associated with services and church use.
- Canon Deb will return from her sabbatical on 1 December and together with Revd John they will be working out the balance of how things will work going forward.
- Revd Cally was then given details of how each congregation is discussing the vision task set as preparation for the Away-day. Detailed planning will begin before Christmas.

Sub-Committee items for discussion:

Communications:

- Photos of the licensed clergy and church wardens will be displayed on each church noticeboard.
- Those actively involved in posting on Social Media are asked to make themselves known so that some framework can be devised to set out boundaries for what is posted on our behalf. Contact comms@parishofbridport.org
- The website is primarily our outward looking face to the community, not an internal network, which is why the format is different to our old website. However, to achieve wide publicity for church events, all organizers are encouraged to email information, posters, photos etc. to this email address for the editors to pick up - webmaster@parishofbridport.org
- Volunteer(s) is required to assist in updating the parish website and our pages on A Church Near You.
- We will apply for a QR code to promote and signpost to the parish website.

Governance:

- We are drafting an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

- A volunteer is required to look at our GDPR compliance.

Finance:

- The parish Wedding and Funeral Fees 2025 were agreed.

Away-day:

- Details of the day were discussed, timings, format, worship, & practical aspects. Further notices will be put in the parish news to encourage ideas and visionary thinking from everyone.

Parish Centre:

- The subject of the re-siting of the parish office and developing the facilities for storage, meetings and technical support has been part of the thinking of the PCC for some months. The Mission & Faith Sub-Committee had charged Paul Groom and Francis Grew to identify specific factors to be included as a potential site is being identified. The paper received at this meeting named SSALL as the preferred location, although this is not the final decision. The PCC agreed to undertake further thinking after the outcome of the Away-day is assessed.

Sub-Committee reports for information:

St John’s Task Group:

- The electrical wiring work has been completed, to allow for temporary lights and heaters. The group continue to research the options for heating which will involve church site visits and consultation across the diocese and with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

SSALL:

Reports of progress were received from the Steering Committee and the Major Projects Group. A substantial grant from Dorset Historic Churches Trust had been received. Further grant applications are being submitted.

Diocesan Synod/Deanery Synod/Churches Together

Deanery Synod had discussed the increase in the Parish Share for 2025 and our reps emphasized the need to submit accurate worship community numbers to ensure that we are asked to contribute an appropriate amount. (Our amount is calculated on the number of worshipping congregations and for two full-time clergy persons.) There are a range of training courses set up by the diocese for which we have access and so PCC were encouraged to take up these opportunities.

Churches Together have a range of events planned, which are publicized in the Bridge. All are encouraged to attend and support these with our prayers. This includes a ‘Stand for Peace’ vigil in SMBRI churchyard each 4th Saturday from 12 noon, beginning in January.

Fabric:

A number of applications for granting Faculty permission to proceed are in the preparation stages.

There were no individual submitted reports from the Pastoral Care, Eco Church or Mission & Faith Sub-Committees.

Date of next full PCC meeting: 27 January 2025.

Next Sub-Committee Meetings:

Children and Young People	??
Communications	??
EcoChurch	4pm Monday 9 December in SMBRI

Fabric	3:30pm Thursday 16 January in HTBOT
Finance	January
Governance	4pm Wednesday 8 January at BT's home.
Mission & Faith	January
Pastoral Care	3pm Tuesday 14 January in SMBRI
Bridport & West Bay	7pm Tuesday 3 December in SMBRI <i>Single item agenda; discussion about ideas for Away-day vision.</i>
Allington	4.30pm Monday 6 January in SSALL
Bradpole	Tuesday 10 December
Bothenhampton	??
Walditch	2.30pm Tuesday 7 January
Duty Wardens	2pm Tuesday 28 January in SMBRI
Safeguarding – <i>Pressures of Christmas</i>	3pm Monday 2 December in HTBOT
<i>Reflective Scenarios</i> <i>(Red, Amber, Green)</i>	3pm Monday 20 January in HTBOT 3pm Wednesday 26 March in HTBOT

Bridget Trump, PCC Secretary
2 December 2024