

A Report from the meeting of the PCC held on 23 July 2024

The Revd Canon Deb Smith held the chair, and nineteen members of the PCC were in attendance.

Matters arising from the last PCC meeting (4 June 2024):

The named members of the local church sub-committees were identified and elected en bloc. The complete list is on display in each church. A new leader of the **Fabric Sub-Committee** is required in addition to more volunteers with an interest in heritage buildings to assist that team of people looking after our churches.

Team Rector's Report:

- Cover for services during the rector's sabbatical has been arranged with the Ministry Team. The Revd Cally Burch and Paul Groom (Vice Chair of the PCC) are negotiating over who takes responsibilities in other key areas. Any queries can be directed to them via their email addressed: pioneervicar@parishofbridport.org or vc@parishofbridport.org. The Churchwardens can be contacted on cwteam@parishofbridport.org
- We are hosting a visit to Bridport from the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral (The Very Revd Nick Papadopoulos) on **Monday 9 September**. He will be speaking about his recent sabbatical in Jerusalem and Gaza. *Details tbc*
- The Rector welcomed the new ministries of the **Revd John Rees** as a licensed Associate Priest for the parish and **Anne Rees** as a Lay Worship Leader. Bishop Karen recently visited the parish to undertake the formalities.
- The Quiet day at Hilfield Friary was a new opportunity for many who attended. We expect to make these a regular part of our common life.

Making Jesus Known:

The PCC discussion about input from the local churches focused on identifying which of the elements of our **Parish Action Plan** will be those undertaken across the parish. Local church sub-committees are doing a similar exercise to identify what new initiatives they will focus on over the period 2024 - 2027 and who might take the lead. The two stages of this discussion will be collated at the next PCC meeting in September.

Pioneer Vicar's Reflections:

Revd Cally had circulated a paper which reflects her encounters since she joined us 100 days ago. She has identified small sparks and evidence of seeds being sown. The PCC engaged in a personal reflective exercise where we identified two of our own local networks and pondered the questions of how blessed we felt in the groups, what prayers the group needs, how we see Jesus as Good News to the group and how might we as a church body contribute to this conversation.

Revd Cally will collate our responses and respond accordingly in due course.

Safeguarding:

A new SG Policy is yet to be agreed by the PCC. However, Wendy Thorogood has been making herself known to some of our groups and advising leaders on appropriate SG guidance.

Health & Safety:

The local church sub-committees are asked to look at the church risk assessments and discuss with the H&S Officer if any amendments need to be made.

Sub-Committee Reports for Decisions:

Finance:

The PCC Treasurer presented the Q2 budget review. The current surplus of £33,500 is almost equal to the grant we received from Benefact Trust. Income has been more than expected and Gift Aid reclaim is still a problem. Expenditure has been less than expected.

The budget allows for Community/Mission events and the next event at SJWES (*Come and Sea*) will draw on those funds. Lesley Dove was welcomed to the Finance Sub-Committee. The income to the Bridge magazine has reduced, perhaps because of fewer businesses advertising. There is always a need for more distributors.

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The PCC Central fund receives monies from the local churches and covers parish commitments. A discussion about the required adjustment will be led by FinCom.

Fabric:

The PCC had received an interim report, but more personnel are required to be able to undertake the appropriate management of our buildings.

No decisions were made about works in any of our churches except for authorization to apply for permission to replace a bench in the churchyard at SSALL.

Sub-Committee Reports for Information:

Communications:

The new website is now live, and we are slowly uploading all parish documents to the Google Drive. Many role-specific email addresses have been created for those in post, who will now be given editorial or viewer access rights. Details are in the Bridge. New website: <http://www.parishofbridport.org> The website is our outward-facing platform to the general public and NOT a means for access to our internal information (unlike the old site). Neither the clergy rota nor the master calendar will be accessed through the new website.

EcoChurch:

Local churches are encouraged to develop the action plans that were drafted at the Parish Green Day in March. It had been agreed that progress would be marked after 6 months, during Creation Time (1 September - 5 October).

A Roche are changing their survey, so churches are encouraged to complete one stage using the current questionnaire or expect to adapt to the new format when it is released.

Mission and Faith:

Plans are well advanced for the *Come and Sea* activity event in SJWES and on Harbour Green on 10 & 11 August. (See the many flyers for more information.) A full balance sheet will be completed after the event to reflect the expenses and used on future projects.

It was noted that some events had not been noted when advertised, so all PCC members and those in the parish who read these reports are encouraged to do so carefully, so that events can be accessed by anyone who is interested.

Pastoral:

- Diana Wright leads this group. They are setting up a support network for those who visit people across the parish and want to put in place guidelines. Each church is carrying out its own audit and the results will be collated.
- There is potential to identify more Lay Pastoral Assistants, and a course is being planned for the autumn for those who might be interested in finding out more about this ministry.
- The Toddler Groups and Bereavement Group continue and are valued by all connected with them.
- Home Communion services in local care homes are led by a member of the clergy. The midweek communion services at SMBRI and HTBRA are much appreciated, especially when transport is arranged for people to attend.

Major Project Committee:

The group authorized the replacement of the trough with purpose made urinals in the hall at SSALL.

St Swithun's Project:

- Phase 1A (external rendering): the project is currently out to tender for builders to submit quotations for the work. Authorization is nearing completion. Funding has been identified: £200,000 to be taken from reserves and £100,000 from fundraising. Some funds have already been raised.

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- Phase 1B (solar panels and lighting the cupola): both planning permission and faculty authorization will be required and are being sought.
- Temporary Re-ordering: permission is only until July 2025, but the group have collected evidence to use in support of a faculty application to make it permanent.
- Heating and Phase 2 (internal decoration): research is ongoing to identify the best heating solution to replace the gas boiler.
- Parish Centre: The Mission & Faith Sub-Committee have identified SSALL as the preferred location.
- Please contact Philip Sturrock for more detailed information about the progress of the project at SSALL. (chair@stswithunsrandr.org)

Diocesan Synod/Deanery Synod/Churches Together:

- The Revd Jonathan Herbert had been the guest speaker at Deanery Synod recently. He is the chaplain to Travellers and Gypsies in the diocese.
- There will be two church tents at the Melplash Show - one to promote church events/groups in the deanery, and the other one to offer hospitality/respice to the show attendees.
- The Revd Andrew Rawding has been installed as Incumbent in the Bride Valley Benefice.
- The vacancy in Golden Cap Benefice will be re-advertised.
- Churches Together are organizing **Pray Bridport** on the second Tuesday of each month, in various locations. Heather Purse is the new secretary and can be contacted for information.

Date of next full PCC meeting: 23 September 2024.

Next Sub-Committee Meetings:

The following meeting dates are for information. Any input that you may want to have can be sent to the Leader (whose names are all listed on each church notice board).

Communications	7pm Wednesday/Thursday 4/5 September <i>tbc</i>
EcoChurch	4pm Tuesday 10 September in SMBRI
Fabric	4pm Thursday 26 September in HTBOT
Finance	2.30pm Thursday 10 October
Governance	<i>To be arranged when issue identified.</i>
Mission & Faith	4.30pm Wednesday 4 September in SMBRI
Pastoral	5pm Tuesday 3 September
Bridport & West Bay	7pm Tuesday 1 October in SMBRI
Allington	??
Bradpole	Sunday 13th October (after service).
Bothenhampton	??
Walditch	Tuesday 10 September.

Bridget Trump, PCC Secretary
5 August 2024.