**St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey PCC Minutes**

**Monday 12th June 2023 in Ramsey Scout Hut, Little Whyte**

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| Item | Topic | Actions |
| 1. | Opening Devotions : Iain led us in the collect for feast of St Barnabas. |  |
| 2. | Attended by: Hayley Challinor, Shan Oswald, Lesley Barker, Rachael Bell-Berry, Jeremy Hyde, Judith Hyde, Glennis Brown, Charlotte Clark, Revd. Maggie Tate-Druiff, Adam Southwell, Revd. Iain Osborne.Apologies from: Val Molloy, Emily Ward, James Carter, Stephen Whittome |  |
| 3. | Glennis agreed to take the Minutes in Val’s absence.The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.There were no matters arising. |  |
| 4. | PCC Operations* All present signed the Fit and Proper Declaration forms.
* Plans to manage set up for Sunday services without named church wardens were discussed.
1. Rachael agreed to fulfil the Sacristan’s role both before and after services.
2. We will ask for volunteers to be ‘Chief Sidesman’ for different Sundays in the month to check some things. Glennis to sort details of jobs and organize a rota.
3. Iain agreed to organise a Whatsapp group of people who can lock and unlock the church when Iain is absent.
* How will we best operate?
1. Shân Oswald agreed to be lay vice-chair, proposed by Glennis, seconded by Judith and agreed unanimously.
2. A proposal was made to set up a Standing Committee, consisting of the clergy (Iain and Maggie) the lay vice-chair (Shân), the treasurer (Jeremy) and the secretary (Val). Proposed by Rachael, seconded by Lesley and passed unanimously.
3. It was agreed to drop the number of full PCC meetings to six a year, using the Standing Committee to enact business as necessary between full meetings.
4. The idea to ask lay representatives to adopt a specialist focus was accepted, but no decisions linking people to areas were made.
5. It was agreed the reporting cycle and method of receiving reports (oral or written) needed further thought as we need also to look at the strategic plan adopted in January. This ideally should be every three months. Iain will look at this again.
6. During the discussion of this item, the need for an induction session for new members became clear. Iain to organize this.
* Meeting dates for full PCC meetings for the coming year:
1. Monday 10th July 2023
2. Monday 11th September 2023
3. Monday 13th November 2023
4. Monday 12th February 2024
5. Monday 8th April 2024

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| 6. | Strategy* We have achieved the Eco Church Bronze Award (an A Rocha UK Project). Many thanks to all involved.
* Pioneer Minister for new housing estates. There was strong support at the meeting for this idea and it was agreed we pursue it and see what success we have with grant applications for funding.
1. Iain has applied to the Henry Smith Charity for a grant, but they do not meet until October and even if they agree their maximum grant over two years, we will still have find approx. £4,000 each year to cover costs.
2. Iain believes such a post needs three years as a minimum, so it would need further funding. Any further funds available from CMT?
3. It was felt that we have the support network in place for the successful introduction of such a post.
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| 7. | Rector’s report* The meeting welcomed the setting up of a group for 20’s and 30’s. This has been planned and will be organized by Maggie and Charlotte. The group will meet at the Ale House every Wednesday evening. It will be an informal meeting, where people in that age group can meet to make friends, socialize, discuss life issues and explore faith. First meeting 12th July.
* No concrete plans yet for an Inquirers’ group we hope to run in the autumn. Perhaps the people for such a course will come from the 20’s and 30’s group mentioned above. Iain is waiting to see how that group develops before starting another.
* Iain asked for any feedback on the reintroduction of the common cup. It was noted that several people elected not to take the cup, but no-one has suggested they felt excluded by doing so. Perhaps Covid has reinforced the validity of communion in one kind.
* The PCC agreed to the digitization of church monuments and memorials by the National Burial Ground Survey (NBGS). Iain to complete their form.
* We agreed to make a £25 contribution to the leaving gift for Bishop Stephen. Iain to forward details to Jeremy
* The policy of accepting dogs in services was discussed. The majority felt only in exceptional circumstances should dogs be allowed into regular services out of consideration for those who are frightened of, or allergic to, dogs.
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| 5. | SafeguardingJane joined the meeting at 8.35pm so we took this item out of order. Her main purpose was to explain to new members the procedure for DBS checking and what Safeguarding training they will have to undertake. She did ask people to tell her if they had any thoughts on how the training could be improved.She left the meeting after this item. |  |
| 8. | Finance – see attached report* We agreed to consider another service in the autumn focused on giving. This would fit in well with the theme of discipleship which we are following through the summer.
* The cost of gas is astronomical. No heating till October when we will have to reassess the situation.
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| 9. | Future Events* Maggie’s first Eucharist 2nd July followed by a Bring & Share lunch with fizz. Maggie was concerned that some people are still not aware of the date and it was suggested it goes onto the church website and facebook page.
* Cider & Sizzle update. The dates previously advertised for July are not happening. Instead, it is hoped to organize a joint St Ives and deanery event in October. Iain will put out a sheet asking for volunteers to get involved with this joint venture.
* Flower Festival – August bank holiday weekend. Glennis raised the topic of the Songs of Praise and will work with Nev to get the flower group and others to nominate favourite hymns. Iain will organize the readings.
* Greenbelt Festival is the same weekend. Maggie is inviting people to purchase a ticket for Saturday online and join together at the event
* The date for the sponsored walk around parts of the benefice in aid of FNKD has been changed to 12th August. The route is dog friendly, but not wheel-chair friendly. Lesley agreed to contact the Cross Keys as Upwood is the planned destination.
* Civic Service on 17th September – arrangements are in hand
* Plough Day on 24th September – arrangements as usual.
* Heritage Day on 10th September – theme is Environment
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| 10. | Fabric/Property committee report has been received..* David Paynter has agreed to rejoin the Fabric and Finance Committee.
* Thanks to Shân for organizing the removal of two pews from the back of church, and for organizing storage for them and the altar rails.
* The bellringers have the possibility of a grant from Rotary. They would like to use this to install a bell simulator and to purchase a CCTV camera they could hang out of the window of the ringing room to see more clearly when brides and hearses arrive (not usually for the same service!). The PCC was happy with this plan.
* In response to a suggestion we could raise money by agreeing to a phone mast on the church tower, Iain and Shân have both put in applications on our behalf. Our tower is a suitable location and has gone on the national list of possibilities which is sent out to phone companies.
* It was suggested putting on social media after Sunday’s service, that anyone who wants a hassock can have one. The Mortuary Chapels will take some and another person has asked for some of the tapestry tops to make a bench.
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| 11. | Date of next PCC meeting: Monday 10th July in the Scout Hut, Little Whyte, at 7.30pm. |  |
| 12. | There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Grace. |  |