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

**On 11/9/2023 at the Scout Hut**

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| Item | Topic | Actions |
| 1. | Opening Devotions led by Iain: Psalm 4 |  |
| 2. | Attended by: Iain Osborne, Glennis Brown, Shan Oswald, Jeremy Hyde, Judith Hyde, James Carter, Hayley Challinor, Rachael Bell-Berry, Charlotte Clark, Adam Southwell  Apologies from: Maggie Tate-Druiff, Val Molloy, Vicki Latter, Emily Ward |  |
| 3. | Minutes of last meeting agreed as true record.  Matters Arising:   * Iain has yet to set a start date and format for the Enquiries Group but it will probably be a shortened version of the Alpha course, running in the Ale House back room, piggy-backing on the new 20s-30s group. * 1st Communion day for children has been set for 24 September with preparation time on 23 September. * A time and date still needs to be set to update the congregation on the progress made on the Parish Strategy. | IO  IO |
| 4. | PCC Operations:   * Only one person still to sign the Fit and Proper declaration * Members received a copy of the Terrier and Inventory. Shân volunteered to be responsible for this until a Churchwarden is elected. * Jeremy explained the correspondence about funds in trust, managed by EDBF, and income can be used for repairs to the chancel. | SO |
| 5. | Strategy Report on Worship:  This was circulated to members. Progress has been made on developing 5th Sunday services with positive feedback and learning about what works well. The children’s choir is growing, with much work being done by Fiona and Jackie on the practice nights. They sing at family services and are expected to attend 2 practices a month. Sweatshirts for the choristers are being investigated. The online services have continued with about 40 regulars attending but family services can no longer simply be recorded into a camera as they grow more interactive, so recording these has become an extra job, a challenge to the time and skills of the personnel involved. On the 3rd Sunday one person will be responsible for the online service and 2 for the family service. Live streaming has not progressed through lack of personnel, equipment and the internet connection.  The aims for 2024 are to develop adult-focused informal services and explore external venues for worship. |  |
| 6. | Strategy Report on Buildings  The PCC receives minutes from all meetings of the Fabric and Finance Committee. Work has begun on obtaining quotes for the installation of solar panels and on ways of re-imagining the building. The architect has already been spoken to and has given a quote, accepted by the PCC, for preparing work on these. A meeting with the DAC to discuss the various ideas is imminent. |  |
| 7. | Strategy Report on Children and families  There has been a great deal of development since the appointment of Hayley Challinor, our Children and Families Missioner who circulated her report to the PCC. Existing work has been built on with Open the Book volunteers going into all the primary schools in the Benefice and Christmas services for all the primary schools, most at their local church. A children’s corner in church, with suitable resources, has been created with linked activities being provided during services. The Scout Hut has been set up for after school clubs. Holiday clubs have been held and also events like pop-up chocolate at Halloween, a pancake party and pop-up ice lollies on the Green for Abbey pupils. The church now has links with Abbey College.  The aims for 2023/24 are to maintain and grow, supporting the RE curriculum in primary schools and expanding 1:1 mentoring. More volunteers will be needed. There are plans for further work with older children and parents and to set up a deanery hub for shared planning, resourcing and training. |  |
| 8. | Safeguarding  Jane Cusworth had circulated the Safeguarding Action Plan. The PCC agreed to adopt the action plan with the removal of Wednesday Night Live (which ended) and Lego Church (because has not yet begun). The following activities need action to be taken on risk assessment:  Choir  Bellringing  Becket Seniors Lunches  20s and 30s group | RB-B  CM/PK  VM  CC/MT-D |
| 9, | Rector’s Report   * Policy on animals in public worship. After much discussion, it was proposed that dogs would be allowed in services providing they were kept on a short lead and muzzled. They must not be taken near any refreshments or children’s areas and their owners would be encouraged to sit on the south side of the church. This proposal was carried by 8 votes to 1 with 1 abstention. Iain agreed to amend the policy accordingly and place a sign in church stipulating these conditions. This policy will be reviewed in 6 months. * Parish Office. The office in the TSB would meet the requirements of the administrative staff. The Town Council has offered it to the church on a 2 year lease for £500 per month. The vestry does not currently provide a good working environment in terms of heating, lighting, screens and ergonomics. The office in the Scout Hut could be used but this is only on a 3-month rolling lease after November. It was decided that, given the current state of the church finances, we could not afford the lease on the TSB but would buy the necessary equipment for a proper work area in the Scout Hut. This equipment could be moved elsewhere should the Scouts decide not to renew the lease. * Cleaning of the Scout Hut. This is in need of a good clean. Hayley and Judith will organize a group to do this. * Communications Update. Daniela has produced some suggestions for a parish logo, colours and fonts for a uniform approach to communications. These were considered. Daniela will be leaving in a few weeks. | IO  HC/JH |
| 10. | Finance (report circulated prior to meeting)  Shortfall of £17,500 this year predicted,  Gas bill of £20,000, meaning spending of £25,000 on utilities. There will need to be careful use of the heating in the coming months, something church users will need to be made aware of.  A small scale stewardship campaign will take place in October, focused on covering utilities bills.  £108,000 has been received from 2 legacies and this has been placed in the Restoration Account until a decision is made on their use.  Barclays have threatened to close our account but an agreement has been reached. Jeremy Hyde, Glennis Brown and Lesley Barker will remain signatories on this account and Jo Latter, Janet Reed, Richard Darmody and Jim Hewison will be removed as signatories. This was agreed by PCC. | JH |
| 11. | Future events:   * 17 September Civic Service * 24 September Plough Day * 1 October Harvest Festival It was decided against having a Bring and Share Lunch * Weekend 15 October Booze in the Pews |  |
| 12. | Fabric/Property  There will be a fire drill on 8 October after the service  On 26 and 27 October there will be a major clean of the church with higher levels being cleaned on the afternoon of 26th and floors, pews etc on the morning of 27th. | LB |
| 13. | Date of next meetings:  Monday, 13 November 2023  Monday, 12 February 2024  Monday, 8 April 2024 |  |