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

**On 10/7/2023 at the Scout Hut**

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| Item | Topic | Actions |
| 1. | Opening Devotions led by Iain: The Blessing of the Light |  |
| 2. | Attended by: Iain Osborne, Glennis Brown, Shan Oswald, Jeremy Hyde, Judith Hyde, Val Molloy, Maggie Tate-Druiff, James Carter, Hayley Challoner, Emily Ward, Rachael Bell-Berry  Apologies from: Lesley Barker, Charlotte Clark, Vicki Latter, Adam Southwell  Stephen Whittome has changed his mind about joining the PCC. |  |
| 3. | Minutes of last meeting agreed as true record.  Matters Arising:   * Iain has yet to set a date for induction of the new PCC members. * 1st Communion day for children has been set for 10th September * Iain to organize a Whatsapp group for those who have agreed to join a rota to lock/unlock the church in his absence. | IO  IO/HC  IO |
| 4. | PCC Operations   * Declarations signed by those who were not present at the last meeting * Lead members agreed. (In view of Stephen Whittome not joining us it was agreed the clergy would take the lead on reports for the Evensong congregation.)   + Premises (to include, as in our Strategy, the fabric of St Thomas’ but also other developments such as parish office) – Lesley   + Worship – Glennis   + Pastoral – Val   + Social action - Judith   + 8am congregation – Stephen   + Evensong congregation - clergy   + Youth and families - Hayley   + New housing - Charlotte   + Eco-church – Maggie and Shan   + Fundraising - Adam   + Flower Group - Judith   + Bell-ringers – Rachel   + Deanery – James and Glennis   + Revive Ramsey – Emily and Judith   + Safeguarding - Iain * The reporting cycle to be:   + July – half-yearly review of Strategy;   + September – Worship, children & Families, Building/Premises   + November – New housing, Eco-church   + February – Annual review of strategy   + April – Social Action (Foodbank & Revive), Pastoral |  |
| 5. | Half year review of Strategic Plan (see dashboard circulated)   * New housing was the only ‘red’ area. We are awaiting the result of a grant application for a worker to assist in this area. Jane Yardley has offered to come to a ‘Welcome to Ramsey’ event, potentially in the Autumn? There could be a ‘Welcome to Ramsey’ stall at the Eco-Fair. Possibly hold a barbecue on the new estate to welcome people in a more social context. * Everyone is happy with the current dashboard layout. It was decided that if areas are showing ‘Green’ then we would just do a full review every year. * Iain to do a display in church, and present to the congregation at a suitable time. | IO |
| 6. | Safeguarding – nothing to add this month |  |
| 7. | Rector’s Report   * Policy on animals in church discussed. While it was agreed that we should agree a policy first, and then consider individual cases, it was also recognized that this matter potentially affects some of the most vulnerable people in our church family. Great care is needed. In discussion, there was clear support for emphasis on our welcome and mission, and therefore for a restrictive approach on the lines of the draft policy. (Perhaps with relaxation at the services where the congregation is mainly stable?) But given pastoral sensitivities, all were asked all to think and pray about this over the summer and we will return to it at the next meeting.   Policy not adopted.   * Parish Office – Iain and Jackie had been to see the TSB premises; a good office which is self-contained with kitchenette and toilet, with room for 3-4 desks and the photocopier. It would certainly be warmer in the winter months. The Town Council next meet on 13th July to decide whether or not to let this office space, and at what cost. They may need to discuss with other churches in the town.   Alternatives could be the site of the original Indoor Market which is being converted into offices, or the other half of the Abbey Office, though it was commented that this is further from the centre of town.   * Rota from September – with Maggie going on Maternity leave Iain has been giving this thought, as although Val Kilner and Janet Humphries can continue to help in the villages there is still a need for Iain to conduct services there. This may need altering the times of services. Barry Pate is happy to help at St Thomas’s when Iain is in the villages, at a cost of £65 per month and it was agreed this was acceptable. (Cost to be shared between parishes as part of sharing of clergy costs.) Iain will discuss further with Upwood and St Marys before circulating a proposed rota. * Deanery Plan – treasurers to take a more prominent position in encouraging stewardship.   To develop lay ministry, especially for baptisms and funerals  To develop collaboration between benefices, especially for families & children’s work, eco-church, and training & support across the deanery.  There is the possibility of a 6th stipendiary post – a deanery admin post would add a further £20K and a mission priest would add £53K, we would need to find another £10K. Though happy in principle to go forward with such a proposal it was agreed we needed greater clarification regarding details, such as how would sharing these posts work, who would gain. All were particularly in favour of the admin post, but would still wish to see a job description before agreeing to fund. | ALL  IO |
| 8. | Finance – (report circulated previous to meeting)  A shortfall of £16 K predicted by the end of the year (previously estimated as £20K so this is improving)  Gas bill of £3500 still the main concern.  A large bequest is coming from the estate of Steve Brown so thought can be given to what this could be used for. |  |
| 9. | Future Events   * Booze in the Pews is now arranged for 15th October. A list for volunteers is now on the back table. * Flower Festival over August bank holiday weekend will have a Songs of Praise service on Sunday evening. * Iain has been asked to officiate at the Drumhead service on 20th August. * Civic service is on 17th September. * Plough Day is on 24th September. * Harvest festival is on 1st October, with a Bring & Share lunch to follow. There are also Baptisms planned for that service. * Greenbelt at the end of August. No-one has signed to go yet, only one person interested, who cannot afford the cost. It was agreed Maggie would email the Standing Committee to see if we can help financially. | MT-D |
| 10. | Fabric/Property committee report had been received.   * Shan suggested a bench for the graveyard in memory of Steve Brown. All supportive of a bench, but not necessarily in Steve’s name (pending wider conversation about his bequest). * The architect Henry Freeland had replied with a list of the ideas submitted for re-ordering, with a quotation for £4250 + expenses. More information needed about hours included and other work. Committee agreed to go ahead, subject to Shan and Jeremy being satisfied on these points. * Fire evacuation policy submitted. Glennis to feed back a few amendments necessary to Lesley. | SO/JH  GB/LB |
| 11. | Next meeting to be held on Monday 11th September 2023 . |  |
| 12. | AOB – Iain to draft guidance for people reporting back regarding their strategy area’s progress. | IO |
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