

THE PARISH OF CENTRAL EXETER

Minutes for the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council 3.30pm on Wednesday 7th September 2022 in St Petrock's church

Present: Revd Sheila Swarbrick, Keith Walton (chair), Celia Smith, Jessica Claridge, Claire Mayer, Betsy Allen, Richard Skinner, Helen Evans, Sue Blow, Zhao & Mary Keaney (sec)

Apologies: Viv Asher & Don Branton

1. **Welcome & Prayer:** Please see separate minutes.
2. **Future of the parish: Archdeacon of Exeter, Andrew Beane, to share ideas/plans:** Please refer to separate minutes.
3. **Minutes of the meetings on Wednesday 25th May and 27th July:** Both sets of minutes were approved and signed by Keith as an accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising/Questions:** None
5. **Parish Activities:**
 - 5.1 **Pastoral Care:** Unminuted
 - 5.2 **Pattern of services:** The pattern is working fairly well but thought to be complicated if new to the parish. It seems people are looking at the website for information.

Sunday 3rd October: Harvest service at St Petrock's with a bring and share Harvest Lunch at Stephen's

Sunday 23rd October: Chris Bryan to take this service in St Olave's

Sunday 30th October: Fr Porphyrios to preach and Soup Lunch

Sunday 20th November: Crossing Place possibly led by Bee with a musical theme

Action: *Sheila to discuss with Bee*

Sunday 1st January 2023: Baptism in St Olave's
 - 5.3 **Parish Social and Events:**

Festive Flea Market: Sunday 20th November

Heritage Weekend: Thursday 8th September – Keith's illustrated talk 'Church life in Medieval Exeter – Saxon to Reformation' in St Stephen's and Saturday 10th September – St Olave's Open Day with tours, organ recital and Keith's talk 'St Olave – Viking Warlord and Exeter Saint'. Betsy to serve teas/coffees from 1.15pm to 2pm. £30 to go to James Anderson-Besant, assistant organist at Exeter Cathedral.

Marking 10 years since reopening of St Stephen's: Keith is aware that an update to the screen is needed to include information on the banners and possibly other information.

St Nicholas' Fair: Saturday 3rd December

Action: *Jessica to recruit helpers*
 - 5.4 **Updating church leaflets:** Keith has mostly rewritten information for the St Olave's leaflet

Action: *Keith to add information on the restored banner to document*

Action: *Mary to put text onto Publisher and send to printers for quotes.*
 - 5.5 **Operation London Bridge:** The protocol to be considered on the death of HM the Queen was discussed.

Post Meeting: *On Thursday 8th September Buckingham Palace announced the death of HM Queen Elizabeth 11. Keith adapted the C of E resources to produce a Sunday service sheet which was circulated to the parish. A prayer for Her Majesty was added to the website and the thoughts of the Bishop of Exeter.*

6. Church Buildings:

6.1 **St Stephen's:** The next Quinquennial Inspection will be in 2023. A plumber is to replace or fix the water heater in the servery.

6.2 **St Petrock's:** The architect, Jeremy Chadburn, to conduct the QI on Friday 21st October. Don is to meet the AA people to show how to use the heaters. The window repair cost about £1,000 more than the original estimate which the insurance covered. This has been paid. The St Petrock and Heavitree Trust was approached to help with this additional cost but were reluctant and suggested we contacted our insurance again.

Action: Sheila to approach the Trust again.

Action: Keith to write to John Allen about the cleaning of the monument he feels is in need of a deep clean.

6.3 **St Pancras:** Julie and Sam to conduct a deep clean of the church with Julie taking on an extra 2 hours per week of cleaning duties as Jim steps back. There is the ongoing soakaway issue.

6.4 **St Olave's:** Recently there was the theft of a cross from the church and Keith has been in contact with the police. Mary continues to investigate the Central Contents Register as a route to sell the vestments & altar frontals.

7. **Social Media Update:** Helen asked if she can share posts from the different groups who use some of our buildings. This was agreed.

8. **Inner Room:** Helen reported that the 'Room at the Well' workshops on Saturday 13th August went very well. This workshop will be repeated on Saturday 12th November and there are a couple of places still available. Upcoming is the Inner Room event on National Poetry Day, Thursday 6th October, in St Stephen's. This will be running from 10am to 3.30pm.

9. **Deanery Synod Report:** The next meeting is on Thursday 13th October where there will be presentations on revitalising the parish and being a resource church.

10. Finance:

10.1 **End August 2022 account:** The profit from the July concerts was in excess of £1,000. It was agreed to increase the suggested donations expected for hire of our churches. This may need to increase again by the end of the year due to the cost of living crisis. Sheila is to pay the annual Zoom subscription of £144. Everyone is welcome to make use of the parish Zoom facility. Julie and Sam are to conduct a 4 hour deep clean of St Pancras. Julie is to take on an extra 2 hours cleaning in St Pancras and St Olave per week. The PCC may wish to review the hourly rates of pay. The donations from the wall boxes have been banked. One donation from the St Stephen's letter box came to £800 from an anonymous donor.

Action: Mary to update relevant hiring documents with new suggested donation for use of the church and to inform regular users.

11. Safeguarding and Health & Safety:

11.1 **Approval of Action Plan:** The Action Plan was approved. Mary mentioned that she will be starting to review DBS checks and inviting those requiring an update to start the process.

12. **CTAX/CTCE:** Mary circulates the latest CTaX emails.

13. **ECCC:** There are chaplains covering streets in the city centre. Hotel Indigo is due to open on the old House of Fraser site on Friday 14th October. It would be good for representatives from the parish to say 'hello'.

Action: Sheila to email Andrew Beane, archdeacon, with dates for the ECCC service due to be held in St Stephen's in November/December.

14. **CMS link:** Sheila saw Ruth at the clergy conference in June.

15. **Correspondence:** None

16. A.O.B.

Zhao suggested holding Coffee Mornings in St Stephen's. Sadly, the parish doesn't have enough resources to run these.

Viv mentioned that our stock of postcards for use in the churches is low.

Action: Mary to order 1000 pc's from the University printers

Short Reflection on Archdeacon's Visit:

The hope is that the new Unlimited Church appointment will begin preliminary conversations between St David's, Central parish and others moving toward a Joint Council. Lots of questions raised eg How could a partnership work in practice? What will it look like? What about the parish and lack of people to do jobs in the coming years?

Action: Keith to draft a letter to archdeacon outlining the parish response

17. Date and Place of future meetings:

Wednesday 7th December; Wednesday 8th March 2023; APCM Sunday 16th April 2023

The meeting closed at 4.50pm with the Grace.