

St John's PCC Jottings

January 2025

The meeting started with a prayer.

Safeguarding report

The focus of the meeting was on the Safeguarding Dashboard and the Safeguarding Officer attended the meeting in person to discuss the relevant elements of the dashboard which required updates.

The PCC reviewed the sections of the dashboard which required updates (i.e. red or amber flags) and updated them where relevant. It was agreed that the remaining outstanding amber and red flags can be addressed at the next PCC meeting.

Esther and PCC members thanked Connie for all her hard work on the safeguarding as it is such an important topic.

Esther proposed that it would be useful to invite the Safeguarding Officer in person to all January PCC meetings in future and this was agreed by the members.

Rector's Report

Esther reminded the group of the Verse of The Year; Nehemiah 8 v10 ('The joy of the Lord is your strength'). Esther reflected that she found lots of joy over the Christmas period in the busy church services. She noted that the Carol service had around 170 adults attending and 17 children with £447.06 collected for 'Crisis at Christmas'. The Christingle service had over 30 people with £70.50 collected for the Children's Society.

Esther noted that whilst the boiler in the church is having issues, it is a blessing that worship can still take place in the church hall instead.

Esther would like the St John's community to have a focus on prayer for 2025. She is proposing to expand the 'Time to Pray' by offering a 30 minute Parish prayer meeting once a month on a Tuesday evening, which would be led by Esther. This meeting would take the form of an Anglican

service of evening prayer, mostly led but some opportunity for open prayer input at the end of the meeting.

Standing Committee meeting

The Standing Committee met on 12 January 2025 to discuss further issues with the church boiler. At that meeting it was decided not to spend £1,000 on a new fan to replace the broken one, as it is a very old boiler which must be fully replaced and this now feels like sinking funds into a lost cause. Bishop Michael is drafting paperwork to allow worship in the church hall in the longer term.

The group discussed the potential merits of splitting planning applications. Whilst there will be additional costs per application, separating them could avoid delays to the church heating planning approval and this must be progressed before winter 2025.

Next Meetings: 18 March, 27 April APCM, 15 July, 16 September.

The meeting ended with The Grace.