

PCC jottings 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Present:** Tim Gleghorn, Rebecca Armstrong (Chair), Alastair Gibson, David Chambers, Matthew Judd, Brenda Carter, Andy Waterman, Anne Cameron (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Dan Darwin, Fay Breed, Matthew Judd

Brenda led devotions on the importance of abiding in Jesus, using the simple and beautiful image of the vine and the branches from John 15 v1-17; any branch cut off the vine cannot live or bear fruit. Abiding in Christ means spending time with him in prayer, and enables us to do the things Jesus did; loving, feeding and nurturing others.

David updated on the financial situation and shared the proposed budgets for 2025. The financial picture is really encouraging; the operating budget will come close to breaking even this year, and we should break even next year. The reduction in the deficit earlier than forecast is a reason to thank God and is primarily due to increased giving and income from café and hall hire. Many thanks to everyone who gives and to Bryony for her fantastic work on increasing income from renting out the building. We are also starting to see reduced costs from our new heating control system and LED lighting.

The main costs for the investment budget for this year were for refurbishing the crypt including new flooring and lighting, alongside major external window repairs on the south wall. Investment costs next year will include further external window repairs alongside many smaller projects arising from the quinquennial inspection, and we are also hoping to improve the livestream cameras and sound quality. PCC thanked David for his hard work on preparing the budgets.

We are legally required to carry out a fire risk assessment and this is in the process of being commissioned. Ops Committee are continuing to work on implementation plans for the recently reviewed and updated church policies. Suzi Darwin and Ann Banner are working on new safeguarding policies and processes. PCC are aware that there have been recent issues with the hearing loop and we are working on resolving these as soon as possible.

Tim shared that Christchurch has appointed a new vicar who is starting in the new year. St. Andrews school will be holding their annual carol service in the church in mid-December.

James's last Sunday with us will be Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December and we will be advertising for a new worship pastor in the new year.

Tim shared that he would like to review the format of the APCM and we had some initial conversations about what this could look like.

The focus this term has been on prayer – several prayer groups have been set up, focussing on healing, mission and evangelism and vision and Tim has been encouraged by these. Meeting to pray in the early mornings has also been encouraging. PCC are conscious of the need for everything we do to be grounded in prayer in order for God to do significant things amongst us, and of the value of meeting together to pray.

Tim shared that the Archdeacon will be visiting the church in early March.

Brenda and Nicola Stuffins will have been leading the work with our global partners for three years in March, and are in the process of reviewing this work. PCC expressed thanks to Brenda and Nicola for their hard work in the past three years.