**CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, ABINGTON**

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th February 2025 AT 7.45PM PARISH ROOMS**

**PRESENT:** Rev Byung Jun Kim, Rev Tracy Pegram, Prester Coleman, Bob Purser, Cathy Tinsley, Donald Loe, Elizabeth Loe, Andrew Munns, Jim Mercer, John Wishart, Jane Evans, Douglas Rutherford, Esme Cushing, Dianne Ward, Sue Harrison, Chris Waters, Damian Pickard, Susie McKay, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

**85/24 RECTOR’S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Jun welcomed Bob’s brother Alistair as a guest to the meeting who is staying with Bob for a few days.

Jun advised that the General Synod was meeting today, when it seems so much turmoil within the Church of England. On the flip side, we at Abington are thriving, which Jun felt was so encouraging and an example to others.

Jun reported that there had been a meeting in November with the Methodist superintendent regarding the future of the parish rooms.  This was a very frank and honest discussion which included developing a relationship/partnership between the two congregations, along with

1.  Joint Group site development

2. Joint Lay Deacons and Ministers

3. Framework of Practice and Relationships.

There was a question as to whether there was a willingness to share sites, as they have a number of rooms which they hire out and whether there was a willingness to share Ministry as the Methodists as a whole are in the midst of a huge change with regards to their Ministry and worship.

**86/24 OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting opened in prayer.

**87/24 APOLOGIES**

Alison Barnes, Liz Kelly, Matthew George

 **88/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER 2024**

Were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**89/24 MATTERS ARISING**

Electoral Roll revision – Douglas explained that every sixth year we are required to prepare a new roll (rather than update an existing one) and this year is that sixth year. A letter will be sent inviting people to complete a form to apply to be on the new roll. If letters cannot be delivered by hand in church then they will be posted. Douglas will draft a letter for Jun to approve and people will be given four weeks to return the forms. The letters and forms will be issued on the 23rd March and the deadline to return the completed and signed forms will be 20th April 2025. This will be four weeks before the APCM on the 18th May. Notices publicising and explaining the process will be put up.

**90/24 CORRESPONDENCE**We have received a request from Carbon Theatre looking for church space to host a performance of the Witness between September 2025 to summer 2026 as part of a UK tour. They are requesting permission to host the performance at our church. Jun sought and received support from those present to discuss the matter further with the churchwardens.

**91/24 SAFEGUARDING**

New guidance has been issued which Esme has incorporated into our action plan. This updated plan was presented for approval and was supported by all present.

There was a question of clarification as to whether pastoral visiting risk assessment applied to all clergy as well as Liz and Esme confirmed that it did.

There is also a new safeguarding e-manual available on the Diocese website.

The Diocese are currently reviewing training so Esme expects some further changes in due course.

Esme will also investigate examples of a policy to employ ex-offenders with Tracy.

Esme will undertake safeguarding leadership training and will review who’s training is still outstanding.

Cathy and Esme will add a standing item for risk assessment to the Children and Young Peoples meeting agenda.

**92/24 REVIEW OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS**The 800 year celebration service went very well. Midnight mass was very good and well attended. There were a couple of requests to not to be away from our church at Epiphany, as people missed the procession, but the service at PAM was very enjoyable. It is nice to see so many new people continuously coming into our church.

Last year was a huge success, a fantastic year for the church and our community. Everyone was committed to giving 100%, whether worship or fellowship or different events. The open-air baptism was particularly special. It was nice to see some previous clergy coming back, which everyone enjoyed. The whole year was extraordinary, we did a lot of things that took bravery and everyone’s generosity was amazing. The church is stronger than ever before.

**93/24 TREASURERS REPORT**Susie circulated a pack of information to report the 2024 accounts. Income ended a long way ahead of our budget at £186,000 and this was as a result of a generous response to stewardship, generous one-off gifts, three legacies, and increased card reader and general collections. The rental on the nursery and Lime Avenue were also successfully renegotiated by Donald.

Expenses were under budget by £2,000 which led to an overall surplus of £18,000. This was due to the fact that some projects didn’t go ahead in 2024 and these still need to be done so this surplus will fund them in2025. This includes the redecoration of lady chapel.

There were also no unplanned expenses on the rooms, Lime Av along with little work and basic maintenance and servicing at church. Our utility costs for the rooms means we have spent less but the fixed price deal at the church has now come to an end which will result in extra costs in the future. Charts showing the breakdown of income and expenditure were reviewed.

Our balance sheet is in a good position as all our investments increased in value and returned a good level of income. All our reserves are unrestricted, with a designated fund for our organ currently standing at £15,000. The remainder is in the general fund.

There were four collections made for other charities in 2024, which resulted in a total collection for others of £5,846.

The annual accounts have been circulated and these were unanimously approved by the PCC.

The PCC thanked Susie for all her work in 2024.

**94/24 ACTION AND DECISIONS LOG**

We will create a PCC action and decision log to more easily track agreed actions and decisions from now on. A copy of this will be circulated with the minutes after each meeting.

**95/24 REPAIR OF THE SOUTH PATH**
Three very thorough reports from Donald have been circulated along with a summary paper circulated at the meeting.

There was a full discussion at the meeting, where a number of questions were raised and discussed for example, whether we could afford a full replacement. Do all options allow for vehicular access, (yes apart from the turf margins option). How often vehicular access was needed (once every two years). There was a feeling that the turf margins would make the path too narrow and a there was a sentiment expressed that whatever we do, we should do it correctly, so if we can afford it, we should do it all. The meeting understood that a partial option would mean it wouldn’t be fully re-bedded.

Bob believes the landfill tax community fund would be an option to raise at least a proportion of the money as the path is available for the whole community to access. Bob recalled that there were three criteria – biodiversity, heritage and community value. We would have to apply before work started. Applying to the Historic Churches Trust is also an option.

Donald’s strong recommendation was for a full repair rather than a phased project.

Jun asked the meeting to consider the financial impact of the options given there is work needed from the Quinquennial Review and the vestry floor still needs addressing.

There was a proposal that we approve the full option in principle, and this will enable us to apply for grants and we can then re-assess once we know the result of the funding applications. One objection was raised in favour of partial option, but the rest of the meeting approved the proposal. The meeting was then asked for which full option we wished to proceed with. Donald’s recommendation is concrete replacement for the margins, and this was supported by all present.

The need for further quotes will be assessed according to the needs of the grant application. Donald and Bob will liaise over the grant applications.

Thank you to Donald and the Buildings Committee for preparing the options and thank you to Donald in particular for his resilience and patience and for making the case for the best for the church.

Regarding the Quinquennial Report findings and recommendations, there is a Priority 1 and 2 list of work that is recommended for delivery, and the Buildings Committee believe there are some items in category 3 that we would be wise to do now. The schedule will be reviewed at the Finance Committee next week and the PCC agreed that we should accept their recommendation, unless there is a significant discrepancy.

**96/24 CONCLUSION OF RIBBONS OF PRAYER**On Sunday 9th of March the ribbons project will conclude. Posters will be put up this week and the ribbons will be taken down after the service on the 9th.

**97/24 COLLABORATION WITH THE HOPE CENTRE**

Melissa explained the project to the meeting and shared the news that due to success finding sponsors, the project cost will be covered so there will be no requirement for the church to contribute financially. The project will launch on Mothering Sunday (31st March) and will conclude at Harvest.

**98/24 CLEARING AND REDECORATION OF THE CHURCH OFFICE**

We would like to redecorate the office to make it comfier and cosier. We will remove some furniture and rearrange what remains to create more fellowship space. This was supported by the meeting. A request was made to ensure the office is adapted to meet all needs. Cathy will lead the project and will liaise with people who currently use the office. If anyone wishes to be consulted, they are encouraged to liaise with Cathy.

**99/24 LENT CHARITIES**

We would like to support two charities as usual this Lent. The charities suggested were the Hope Centre, Christian Aid, Eve and the Crisis Café. The meeting agreed to support Eve and Christian Aid.

**100/24 RESOLUTIONS ON THE CHURCHYARD**

The meeting was asked if we wish to re-affirm and uphold our existing resolution. This was supported by those present (with one abstention).

The meeting was then asked to consider the request being presented to the PCC, and whether an exception should be made in this instance. The request was unanimously declined.

**101/24 PREPARATION FOR APCM**

Those wishing to be renominated to PCC please discuss with Jun.

As previously communicated, the Ministry team will be split into two, with one focussed on worship planning meeting and the other a Ministers meeting.

**102/24 COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Prester reminded people of the upcoming Lent course.

**103/24 FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Little Fishes + at church: 17 Feb

Ash Wednesday: 5 Mar, joint service.

Conclusion of Ribbons of Prayer: 9 Mar

Bishop’s Bible Day: 8 Mar

Mothering Sunday: 30 Mar (Tree of Hope launch)

Palm Sunday: 13 Apr

Holy week: 14-16 Apr, 17 Apr: Maundy Thursday, 18 Apr: Good Friday, 19 Apr: Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday: 20 Apr

Ascension: 29 May, morning service

Family Fun Afternoon: 31 May

Pentecost: 8 June

Ordination of Helen: 6 July, 11 pm

**104/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Jane requested permission to buy additional copies of her book back at £7.50 per copy (originally 300 copies were made, with 200 donated to the church and 100 to Jane to sell). Jane has sold out her copies and requested permission to buy some of the church copies. The PCC were happy to support this and congratulated Jane on the success of her book.

**105/24 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

SC:  7 May, 2 July, 10 Sep, 19 Nov

PCC: 21 May (lay chair to lead), 16 July (only if needed), 17 Sep, 3 Dec

APCM: Sun 18 May

**THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE**