

**ALL SAINTS COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Present: Rev'd David Gent (Chair); Andrew Whiting; Philip Kinsman; Grenfell James; John Ledbury; Ali Ledbury; Fiona Densham; Jane Watson; Jill Bagnall; Katy O'Connor; Gabrielle Wilson

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The Rector opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Apologies for absence: David Marsh
2. Minutes of the last meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> January (circulated previously): agreed. It was noted that the agreed measures against use of non-natural materials in the churchyard have been implemented.
3. Mission and Ministry
  - a. Licencing of David Kemp as Reader: agreed unanimously
  - b. Rector's report: DG reported that the Benefice is now on the short list to receive a Curate in 2026, although this is not guaranteed.
  - c. children and young families at Sunday services: DG is keen to ensure that parents are aware of the 'Children's corner' and feel comfortable in making use of the facilities. It was agreed that Sidesmen would 'meet and greet' and make parents welcome. (GW)
4. Review of recent worship
  - a. Ordinary Time service: JL queried the change of wording of the Prayer of Consecration. DG explained that he wants to adopt some of the new Liturgy and that particular prayer of thanksgiving seemed particularly suited for this time, given the international situation. DG volunteered to make these links more explicit when this Liturgy is next used.
  - b. Version of Lord's Prayer: DG explained that the adoption of the 'modern' version is still under review. Nicene creed: there are seven authorised versions of the creed. FD proposed printing two versions in the order of service, this was seconded by PK, a vote was taken and this was carried.
5. Finance
  - a. The 2024 accounts had been circulated. GJ asked whether members would be prepared to adopt the accounts, subject to the Examiner's approval. This was agreed.
  - b. 2025 budget: this had been circulated. It was noted that the figure for 'giving' does not include any increase following the appeal about to be circulated to members of the electoral roll. The budget was agreed.
  - c. Plans to eliminate deficit: DG stated that the projected deficit for 2025 of c.£8K was not acceptable and therefore a plan for addressing this and achieving a balanced budget by 2026 is vital. The committee agreed that eliminating the deficit by the end of 2026 should be a strategic objective.

- d. Giving initiative: a letter asking church members to review their giving to the church had been circulated; also a different version addressed to those not currently giving on a regular basis. Both letters were agreed for distribution.

## 6. Vestry

- a. Wooden floor death watch beetle infestation: AW described the recent discovery of death watch beetle infestation in the vestry. Advice has been obtained from both Emma Green, our Church architect and Mark Lidster, the Diocesan Buildings adviser, as detailed in the WC sub-committee minutes provided. There are two possible options to deal with the problem: firstly, to remove some of the flooring and treat the problem, and then to monitor the area. The second option is to remove all the floor timber and relay the existing Lias stone floor which is underneath. The second option would allow the old Victorian heating pipes to be removed and to install underfloor heating.

PK described some of the problems associated with death watch beetle; he feels that removing the problem altogether would be the best option.

DG proposed the adoption of option two (solid floor) – this was agreed.

- b. Faculty for installation of a lavatory: two WC sub-committee meetings had been held since the last All Saints meeting; the minutes were provided in advance of the meeting for information. AW explained that prior to the discovery of death watch beetle, the architect's plans were ready to apply for a faculty, however whilst no major changes to the WC design were anticipated, some additions to detail the floor replacement will be needed. These will be beneficial in that the removal of the old heating pipes will result in additional space and lowering the floor will eliminate the need for a wheelchair ramp. Once we have the final plans it will be possible to determine costs and to submit plans in time for the DAC meeting in May. At this point applications can be made for grant funding.

A resolution to apply for a faculty to install a lavatory in the vestry, plus removal of the wooden vestry floor and replacement with a solid floor (with underfloor heating) was put to the meeting and this was agreed unanimously.

## 7. Safeguarding

A copy of the updated safeguarding action plan was circulated, and JB was thanked for the work she has put in with this, and it was noted that there are now no 'red' sections. Approval of the plan was agreed. It was noted that it would be helpful to have just one amber rather than a yellow and amber indicator.

## 8. Fabric

- a. Defibrillator: information was circulated from Resuscitation Council UK (CARE) explaining the pros and cons of keeping the equipment locked or open, with the recommendation they should be kept unlocked minimising any delay to access. This was discussed, and on a vote it was decided to change our defibrillator access from locked to unlocked as recommended on the basis it can increase the chances of survival. There is a need for regular checking – AW will speak to Sue Lamburne about this.
- b. Lychgate: PK said that a visit is awaited from Ellis & Co to look at the repairs needed and provide a quote. A report had been circulated recommending that one of the gates should be kept open for ease of access, with the other closed to provide a visual barrier to the road.

- c. Report on Quinquennial work and the West Window: a comprehensive report by PK had been circulated. He drew attention to the damp above the children's corner that will need repair. It was agreed that repairs should be funded up to £3K from reserves. AL asked whether the repainting of the lamp-post and the noticeboard at the north gate could proceed – this could be financed from the 'routine maintenance' budget, although the Friends of the Churchyard would also be approached to cover the cost. It was agreed that the work could go ahead, subject to prices being obtained.

## 9. 2025 Diary

Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am	Mothering Sunday service
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday
21 <sup>st</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> April	David on annual leave
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 am Benefice Communion service at St Mary's
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30 pm APCM
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Cantiamo Evening Concert
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> May	David on annual leave
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day service followed by Bring & Share supper
14 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	David on annual leave
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 10.30 am	Benefice Joint Service (with URC) on Glebe Field
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Garden Trail
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Wedding of Jake Sparey & Lana Pugh
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Wedding of Lucy Fews & Will Becker
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 9.30 am	Harvest Communion (Preacher: Bishop Michael) followed by 1.00 pm Harvest Lunch in All Saints'
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30 – 9.00 pm Benefice PCC meeting with Bishop Michael at St Mary's Langford

Christian Aid Week – 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May: there will be a fund-raising coffee morning on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. Correspondence: none

11. Friends of the Churchyard: the Friends will be asked to consider funding the repairs to the lamppost and noticeboard by the north gate, also the repairs to the lychgate. Prices are to be obtained for these works.

## 12. Date of next meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm

The meeting closed with the Evening Collect.