

St Oswald's Church Fulford

PCC Secretaries for the Parochial Church Council Report 2024

Introduction

The PCC met 8 times during the year (January, March, May, July, September and November for ordinary meetings and 2 extraordinary meetings to discuss the appointment of a permanent vicar in October and November). Average attendance at meetings was 77%.

Rev. Canon Sue Sheriff is licensed as Priest in Charge. Sue Baughan continued to co-chair the PCC throughout 2024 with Rev. Canon Sue Sherriff. The annual report gives details of the membership of the PCC throughout 2023.

The PCC continued its practice of making church members aware of the content of its meetings by publishing the key points by email and giving a brief update in the service following the PCC.

Key issues discussed and decisions made by the PCC in 2024

Finance

The PCC approved a deficit budget for 2024. By the end of 2024 this had turned round into a surplus of over £x mainly due to xxxx. (See annual report for further details of our financial situation and the church activities report for further information about the cafes). The PCC receives monthly financial reports and reviews its position at each meeting.

The PCC and the Building and Finance groups considered the financial position of the church during the year, particularly in relation to its designated and restricted funds. The Charity Commission encourages its charitable bodies not to hold on to funds. The PCC intends to spend a significant amount of its designated and restricted funds on the building work planned for 2025 (Porch, kitchenette, toilet and heating in church).

The PCC agreed to increase the freewill offering from £54,000 in 2024 to £60,000 in 2025. The PCC is very grateful to Terina Hurley for continuing to support us as our treasurer. We believe that we have now found a replacement who will train up and gradually take over the role in 2025.

The PCC acknowledges the fact that it has set deficit budgets for a number of years. It recognises the need to ensure ongoing sustainable funding for its activities. The PCC intends to appeal to the congregation in 2025.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

The PCC receives a report at each meeting and ensures that the appropriate policies and procedures are in place and are being followed. The PCC is very grateful to Tricia Giltrap and Pippa Ensor who are the Safeguarding lead and deputy and to Tricia again for her work leading Health and Safety.

The PCC were delighted that St Oswald's is now on level 3 on the Diocesan safeguarding dashboard and we are in the process of populating the safeguarding hub.

Building work

Throughout the year the PCC discussed and made decisions to enable the church building programme to go ahead. The PCC delegated much of the detailed discussion to the Building Group which was chaired by Michael Courcier for most of the year. Michael has stepped down and a new

chair will be found in 2025. The PCC is very grateful to Michael Courcier for the work he has done and continues to do to take the building programme forward.

The PCC approved and oversaw the replacement of the dividing screen in the church hall which was installed in August 2024. The PCC approved the replacement of the emergency access ramp out of the church hall. Work was completed in September. The PCC is very grateful for the grants received for the ramp and the screen from the National Lottery (£19,000), the Bramall Foundation (£2000), City of York Council (£900) and Norman Collinson Charitable Trust (£500). The PCC decided that a handrail is also needed for the emergency ramp. Faculty permission has been granted for this and the work will be carried out early in 2025.

A generous anonymous donation enabled the PCC to approve the replacement of the chairs in the hall. The new chairs have been very well received by the congregation and the community groups who use the hall.

In 2023 the PCC approved the plans provided by Ferrey and Menim to install a disabled toilet, kitchenette and porch in church. Faculty for this work was granted in June 2024. Work on this is planned for 2025.

Work on the wall and railings at the front of church was completed in September 2024. The railings were modified with balls covering the spikes in order to satisfy health and safety requirements following a concern raised by a member of the public. The majority of the cost of this work was covered by an insurance claim to cover the damage caused to a section of the railings and the wall caused by a falling tree.

In 2023 The PCC also commissioned and paid the Diocesan Advisory Committee advisor to produce a heating report to advise on the options to improve the heating system. The PCC considered the report and agreed to start with the quick wins to improve the heat in church. It is expected that these will be pursued during 2025. The work will coincide with the work on the Porch, toilet and kitchenette. The work will be financed from designated and appropriate restricted funds and from grant funding if it can be obtained.

Work to identify a permanent vicar

Revd Canon Sue Sheriff was appointed as an interim Minister and planned to serve at St Oswald's until December 2024. Led by Sue, the PCC used 'How to Make Great Appointments in the Church' and undertook a community and church audit to better understand who we are as a church and a community, what we want to be and the vicar we need. Based on this work, the PCC produced a parish profile. An extraordinary meeting of the PCC was held in October with the Archdeacon (but without our interim minister Sue) to discuss the profile and the process of appointing a vicar. The PCC were absolutely delighted (and confirmed this at an extraordinary meeting in November) when Sue felt that God was calling her to remain at St Oswald's and become our permanent vicar. The PCC worked with the Archdeacon and the diocese to install Revd Canon Sue Sheriff as the Vicar of St Oswald's Church Fulford. Sue's Collation service took place on 25th February 2025.

Lay Ministry

The PCC were delighted that Jackie Tuvey-Smith was licensed as a Lay Minister in September 2024. The PCC were very pleased to commission Ben Khybett to start his training as an Associate Lay Minister in 2024.

Church Wardens

Bryan Milner announced to the PCC that he will step down at the 2025 APCM. The PCC recorded its thanks to Bryan who had served as a church warden (and latterly as the only warden) for a significant number of years. The PCC recognises that it is vital to appoint a new warden and preferably two at the APCM in 2025. Work began in 2024 to understand the duties and roles which Bryan covers in his church warden role. The PCC's approach is to delegate responsibility for as much as possible to other volunteers in order to make the role of warden less onerous.

Other key aspects of PCC business during 2024

Good place warm place

Once again, the City of York Council awarded St Oswald's church a grant to provide a Good Place Warm Place. The church has done this through its weekly cafes, Tots group and Time Out and through extending the café to run in school holidays and provided a food share (see church activities report for more detail).

Revitalise

St Oswald's continued to take part in the Diocesan Revitalise initiative. This programme is aimed at enabling and empowering churches which have the potential to reach a wider community and grow in number. A team of 4 people attend the planned events as part of the Revitalise Learning Community and take this forward on behalf of the PCC and report back to every meeting. The team is working with Rev. John Lee who continued to work with us during 2024 (see church activities report for more detail).

Administrator

The PCC acknowledged that in order to support the vicar, it was vital to have more administrative support. The PCC has agreed to the appointment of a paid administrator. Work was done in 2024 to prepare the job description and it is hoped that an appointment will be made early in 2025.

Christian Aid

St Oswald's church has long been a supporter of Christian Aid and for many years has supported Christian Aid Week through house to house collections in the parish. The PCC accepted that this had got more difficult in recent years and that it was no longer appropriate to ask for money in this way. The church will continue to support Christian Aid week through making donation envelopes available in church and advertising the week in the magazine and on our website.