



NOTES FROM WEST CHELTENHAM PARISH JULY PCC MEETING

Dear all,

To help you understand a little bit more about what's happening in West Cheltenham, we're going to start sharing summaries of each of our PCC meetings. Here's your first update.

Your PCC met at St Barnabas on 15th July. We started by reflecting on Genesis 12, and the rhythm of being before God and then being sent out to bless. Rod reminded us of how hard it can be to stay under blessing and in God's presence, important as we think about going out and delivering the vision.

FINANCE

We started by looking at the finances of the church. Our biggest concern was that regular giving is below the level we need to cover the costs of running the church. Although we have ways of coping with this in the short term, we've set ourselves the goal of covering our basic activities through regular gifts, so that additional income can be released to do bigger projects. If you're not part of the Parish Giving Scheme, or haven't reviewed your giving recently, please do so as we will be able to use all our money more dynamically if we know regular costs are covered.

The church has had the sad news recently of the death of a couple of supporters of West Cheltenham, but we were grateful for gifts they have left in their wills that we will be able to remember them by through further mission activity.

VISION

PCC then turned its attention to the 'what next' for the vision. We're thinking through a small number of key priorities that help us take the next step. Prayer and small groups are two that we are agreed on, and we have a couple more areas that we're going to refine over the summer. Our hope is that these will give us a focus for the next year or so, and set us up to be in the right place for bigger opportunities that these first steps open up.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

Linked to this is taking some immediate action on our buildings. We know that all our sites have got problems, and as well as considering major building

projects in the medium term, PCC also wanted to just get some of the niggles fixed. We looked at a list of little fixes that are ready to go, and gave permission for the wardens to crack on with these.

SHARON WALKER MINISTRY UPDATE

Sharon shared some of her reflections on the first six months she has been with us. She is connecting with more and more local organisations and businesses, and enjoying being part of the community on Coronation Square, particularly through offering prayer each week. She has recently taken on the role of Family Space chaplain.

SAFER CHURCH

We talked about how we are making progress on becoming a safer church, and how the implementation of our new safeguarding approach had begun. This was particularly important as we heard how General Synod had received the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, which had specifically talked about local churches needing to follow good approaches consistently. We looked at the new risk assessment we'll be asking groups to undertake, and a list of all the activities happening in West Cheltenham that will need to be looked at.

OTHER

Finally, we made decisions on responding to various items of communication from the diocese, including their work with A Rocha to become an eco diocese, and appointments of local school governors. We finished with a time of prayer.

Your PCC are Paul Ewins, Judy Sibley, Rob Goldsmith, Colin Binks, Pippa O'Connell, Helen Sexton, Pauline Carter, Kathryn Martin, Patricia Bowen, David Lawlor, Hannah McLelland, Mike Horne, Judy Sibley, Phil Southam, Sharon Arbuckle and Christopher Chiswell, as well as Ralph Catto as our treasurer, and the clergy team, so feel free to ask any of us for more information on the things we're up to.

Chris Chiswell, PCC Secretary.



NOTES FROM WEST CHELTENHAM PARISH JULY PCC MEETING

Dear all,

To help you understand a little bit more about what's happening in West Cheltenham, we're going to start sharing summaries of each of our PCC meetings. Here's your first update.

Your PCC met at St Barnabas on 15th July. We started by reflecting on Genesis 12, and the rhythm of being before God and then being sent out to bless. Rod reminded us of how hard it can be to stay under blessing and in God's presence, important as we think about going out and delivering the vision.

FINANCE

We started by looking at the finances of the church. Our biggest concern was that regular giving is below the level we need to cover the costs of running the church. Although we have ways of coping with this in the short term, we've set ourselves the goal of covering our basic activities through regular gifts, so that additional income can be released to do bigger projects. If you're not part of the Parish Giving Scheme, or haven't reviewed your giving recently, please do so as we will be able to use all our money more dynamically if we know regular costs are covered.

The church has had the sad news recently of the death of a couple of supporters of West Cheltenham, but we were grateful for gifts they have left in their wills that we will be able to remember them by through further mission activity.

VISION

PCC then turned its attention to the 'what next' for the vision. We're thinking through a small number of key priorities that help us take the next step. Prayer and small groups are two that we are agreed on, and we have a couple more areas that we're going to refine over the summer. Our hope is that these will give us a focus for the next year or so, and set us up to be in the right place for bigger opportunities that these first steps open up.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

Linked to this is taking some immediate action on our buildings. We know that all our sites have got problems, and as well as considering major building

projects in the medium term, PCC also wanted to just get some of the niggles fixed. We looked at a list of little fixes that are ready to go, and gave permission for the wardens to crack on with these.

SHARON WALKER MINISTRY UPDATE

Sharon shared some of her reflections on the first six months she has been with us. She is connecting with more and more local organisations and businesses, and enjoying being part of the community on Coronation Square, particularly through offering prayer each week. She has recently taken on the role of Family Space chaplain.

SAFER CHURCH

We talked about how we are making progress on becoming a safer church, and how the implementation of our new safeguarding approach had begun. This was particularly important as we heard how General Synod had received the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, which had specifically talked about local churches needing to follow good approaches consistently. We looked at the new risk assessment we'll be asking groups to undertake, and a list of all the activities happening in West Cheltenham that will need to be looked at.

OTHER

Finally, we made decisions on responding to various items of communication from the diocese, including their work with A Rocha to become an eco diocese, and appointments of local school governors. We finished with a time of prayer.

Your PCC are Paul Ewins, Judy Sibley, Rob Goldsmith, Colin Binks, Pippa O'Connell, Helen Sexton, Pauline Carter, Kathryn Martin, Patricia Bowen, David Lawlor, Hannah McLelland, Mike Horne, Judy Sibley, Phil Southam, Sharon Arbuckle and Christopher Chiswell, as well as Ralph Catto as our treasurer, and the clergy team, so feel free to ask any of us for more information on the things we're up to.

Chris Chiswell, PCC Secretary.