



West Dartmoor Mission Community Meeting

Held at St Paul's, Yelverton at 7pm on 23rd January 2025

Minutes

Attending: Revd Andrew Thomas (AT) (Chair), Richard Bayly (RB), Helen Sims (HS), Simon Hill (SH), Bunty Baxter (BB), Ros Knight (RK), Mary Helby (MH), Caroline Jennings (CJ), Nicky Smith (NS), Elaine Hay (EH), Hilary Prout (HP), Andrew Lacey (AL).

Apologies: Brian Medhurst (BM), Richard Byrn (RBy).

1	Opening Prayer & Welcome Following an opening prayer, everyone was welcomed to the meeting.	Next Steps
2	Discussion Topic – Pastoral Principles – Pay Attention to Power This set of principles has been issued by the Church of England Pastoral Advisory Group for Living Well Together. The six principles form the basis of a course attended by AT and PB over Lent and focus on six pervading evils for consideration: acknowledge prejudice, speak into silence, address ignorance, cast out fear, admit hypocrisy and pay attention to power. These were discussed by all in attendance, noting personal experiences and impact within local communities, especially those in West Devon. What actually is power and where the use of power goes wrong were considered along with respect and one's approach being important so as not to assume power and "talk down" to others. People in power can be held, sometimes incorrectly, in high regard and we should all encourage vulnerability by putting others before ourselves and enabling. Whether gender has an effect was also discussed. AT thanked everyone for their input in the positive conversation.	
3	Apologies Apologies noted (as above).	
4	Minutes/Action Points of the MCC Meeting of 28th August 2024 Minutes from the meeting of 28 th August 2024 were approved as a true record. AT/AL reviewed Action Points this week, 2 remain ongoing and the list has been updated. It was agreed to advertise the date of MCC Meetings 2 or 3 weeks in advance in the Bulletin and on the Website. AT/AL to inform Ruth and Belinda. MCC Meetings are not open meetings but PCC deputies can attend as stand ins.	AT/AL inform Ruth & Belinda
5	Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda It was noted that Bulletin Prayer List names are removed after a short time but if an individual would like the person to continue to be prayed for, and the person has consented, Caroline Paskins should be informed.	



	For those that would like prayers, but not their name published in the Bulletin, PCCs should contact Nicky Smith accordingly.	
6	<p>Finance</p> <p>BM had sent AL the Year End Accounts and 2025 Budget that had been agreed at the November Treasurers Meeting and include 2025 Common Fund figures. These had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Donations have been previously agreed and are noted below: Events in Lent and/or Easter, e.g. Lent lunches, donations will go to Feeding Devon who run the Food Hubs at Horrabridge and Princetown. Christmas donations, e.g. Carol Services, and/or other Christmas events, will go to Shekinah. Harvest Services and/or events donations will go to the Farming Community Network. Remembrance Sunday is to the RBL. It was also decided that these donations would go through BM as this would result in one healthy donation rather than several smaller ones.</p> <p>AT had prepared the 2025 Non-Statutory Fees Table for discussion. AT noted that an increase had not been included for Organist, Verger, Bells and Preparation of an Ashes Plot. It was agreed to increase Heating to £60 and for PCCs to consider how accurate this is for their Church and feedback to AT. It was noted that the organist fee for a wedding is higher than for a funeral due to the extra work entailed in meeting the family prior to the event.</p> <p>AT also noted that Pascoes will dig ashes plots for free if they are to provide the plot stone. They also honour this agreement for funerals held by Morris and Co. There are no stones on plots at St Pauls.</p> <p>AT to contact Graham to separate out Funeral and Committal Fees. AT noted the name of the relevant verger for fees and would encourage those that give the fees back to the church to please add Gift Aid. AT to contact Graham to give fees direct to each verger.</p> <p>With the Stewardship Campaign, PCCs are encouraged to consider how we all pay for church upkeep, including not just the congregation but the wider community. It was noted that the Sampford Spiney PCC do this very well. As a PCC they contact households in the Parish via a Newsletter stating what the Church needs and if the community want the church as an asset to the Parish they need support any financing. It was agreed this approach to community engagement would be considered by all PCCs and all should continue to support other Parish Events. SH will send all a sample Newsletter. The Ministry Team are also here to help in PCCs Stewardship Campaigns.</p>	<p>PCCs feedback on Heating</p> <p>AT contact Graham x2</p> <p>PCCs to consider approach</p> <p>SH share Letter</p>



7	<p>APCM</p> <p>APCM is on the 1st of May 2025 and will follow the same process as 2024 where any PCCs have not completed their individual meetings, St Pauls will remain open for them to do so.</p> <p>AT noted that it is a complete re-write of the Electoral Roll this year and PCCs should be proactive towards achieving this. The APCM Timeline has been circulated to all by AT. Parishresources.org.uk is the site that has a tab for APCM with all the forms needed.</p> <p>Churchwarden Election; PCCs should know who to approach to join the PCC. Forms should be completed and handed to AL at the APCM and decisions should be minuted and typed. Minutes sent to AL. Current Churchwarden are: Yelverton 1, Sheepstor 2, Sampford Spiney 2, Meavy 0, Horrabridge 0 and Walkhampton 0.</p> <p>Central guidance on the changing role of the Churchwarden is forthcoming and AT noted that for any PCCs with no Churchwarden, then he has the responsibility.</p> <p>PCC Annual Reports are progressing well with some complete. As each PCC prepares their own individual report and sends centrally to Mike Jeffries, it was agreed not to combine all into one large MCC document but that AL will prepare a smaller MCC document compiling smaller reports from AT, Toast, Deanery Synod etc.</p>	<p>Individual PCC Annual Reports</p> <p>AL collate Rector etc Report</p> <p>All PCCs Annual Minutes & CW Forms to AL</p>
8	<p>Churchwarden Meeting Feedback</p> <p>CJ gave a summary of the latest CW Meeting where information was shared and discussions held on Eco Church, shared Churches for Services, quarterly PCC Meetings, putting MCC Meetings in the Bulletin, Evensong clashes and discussed some of the difficulties faced by all.</p>	
9	<p>Treasurers Working Group Feedback</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting has not been held recently.</p> <p>A meeting is due to be arranged.</p>	
10	<p>Service Schedules</p> <p>AT noted that the new Service Schedule is in place and will run for the next 6 months. Currently there are decisions to be made for Mothering Sunday and Easter. The proposal is to move the 5th Sunday of March to the 4th Sunday to enable all to have their own Mothering Sunday Service. The first Sunday of April Bishop Mike is to attend MC worship. The Ministry Team are meeting in the next 2 weeks and will decide the March/April Service Schedules and these will as usual be circulated by AT. It was stressed that every effort is made to spread MC Services throughout the MC and things like heating and parking are also taken into account.</p>	<p>Ministry Team to decide & revert</p>



11	Mission Community Mission Action Plan Progress It was agreed previously to be a “bottom up” process and the current version has been changed to take these points into account. PCCs were asked for their feedback and it was agreed to run with the current version and all PCCs to keep on their Agendas.	PCC's Agendas
12	Safeguarding Is there anyone we wish to appoint to a position who will need to be subject to our safer recruitment procedures and/or DBS checks? No. Is there anyone or any situation that is causing us concern from a safeguarding point of view? No. Are there any training needs for new members or others in the congregation or refresher training for existing appointees? No. AT noted that Phil Knight continues to inform all when training is required. AT noted that he is still the Safeguarding Officer but it doesn't take a large amount of his time as the admin is being done elsewhere and this was 95% of the work. On whether to appoint someone else to enable AT to be more “hands off”, at least this way he is kept informed of any safeguarding concerns within the community.	
13	AOB Palm Crosses will be ordered by the MCC. £20 for 100. Each PCC gave AL numbers: Yelverton 95, Meavy 5, Walkhampton 5, Horrabridge 10, Sheepstor 10 and Sampford Spiney 25. EH noted a quiz to be held on the 1 st of March. CJ asked about in person Safeguarding Training and AT agreed to raise at Deanery Synod. AT gave a brief update on the Deanery, vacancies and boundaries.	AT/AL order Palm Crosses AT Training at Synod
	Next Meeting APCM – 1 st May 2025, 1900, St Paul's Church. MCC – 29 th May 2025, 1900, St Paul's Church/Church Hall.	
	Meeting Closed After saying Grace at 9pm.	