



PCC Meeting 27 January 2025
Summary of decisions and action points

Budget and finances

The proposed budget for 2025 was approved.

We currently have a deficit budget for the first time in living memory, due to the fact that the income from the tower is close to reaching the maximum achievable. We will investigate ways to increase traffic up the tower, particularly during the week. We are connecting with all tourism sources to promote it.

The increase in ministry share has had an impact - it is the first time that we are paying the ministry share for two full-time clergy. The PCC was thanked for agreeing to this and thus supporting the building of a team.

The Treasurer reminded us that we would need to watch our spending.

A Stewardship campaign was being planned – Stewardship Sunday was to be on 2 February 2025.

Any suggestions for new ideas to be creative and energetic in fund-raising would be welcomed.

The legacy impact would once more be highlighted in the Stewardship campaign – it was also agreed that the idea of an International Visitors Support Scheme was a good one.

Children and Youth Minister

Revd Rosie Hewitt will be commissioned at the Eucharist on 2 March as the new Children and Youth Minister.

Emergency Procedure and Evacuation Policy

This had been signed off by the SMT. A printed copy of the Emergency Procedure and Evacuation Policy would be fixed to the noticeboard and distributed to all sidespeople.

Environment Group

There is a link on the website which clearly outlines the work of the Environment Group – everyone is encouraged to look at it to see what the group is doing for Great St Mary's.

PCC Away Day, 11 January 2025: summary of priorities and next steps

Priority areas for development:

Music:

We are investing a lot of money, time and energy in our music, therefore are working to develop a strategy to support this.

Welcome and accessibility:

At the heart of what we are about, improving physical space, making Christianity accessible, building up the congregations, helping people to work out how they belong to the church, displaying photographs of postholders, improving the outside space in the churchyard.

Stewardship:

Very high priority – working towards Stewardship Sunday on 2 February 2025.

Digital:

Will need a little group who can identify the quick wins; it is a big area to work on.

Other aspirations will be enabled if we can get the digital aspect worked on/improved/developed. Digital is both using digital media for our outreach and also using it to support what we are already doing, including keeping in touch with elderly and those at risk who cannot necessarily be there in person.

It is equally important with our communication with the young to bring them in; we need to be in the digital space and work out how to do it; think about it and who might be involved.

Building/space:

It was confirmed that the market consultation went to the design concept stage in November and will be considered by the city council in June, so it would be a good idea to follow it up with them to remind them that we have things to offer and can be part of their plan.

Discipleship:

It is at the centre of everything else, with a lot of overlaps; the 'current practice' box will easily identify what is already happening and where.

Michaelhouse:

A committee already exists, so we can build on that.

Connecting:

Ongoing range of ideas.

Initial plans:

To focus on the following four groups – Welcome; Discipleship, Building/Space; Digital (in addition to Music which is already established).

Formation of steering groups (using a steering group template) for each one to establish Terms of Reference.

Working groups would then be identified from the Terms of Reference to take the projects forward and to identify who would be involved.

Anyone from the congregation, or the wider orbit of Great St Mary's, who might be willing to be involved to let the Vicar know.

All plans and vision would be regularly shared with the whole congregations. They would also be outlined in eMag, to invite people to think about how they might be involved.

Michaelhouse Café

Meeting taking place soon with Wilson Vale (the catering company), the Treasurer and the Director of Operations, with a view to renewing their contract, as they are doing a very good job with very positive feedback.

Friends of Michaelhouse

Additional activities over the past year had been welcomed, including Warm Wednesdays and Choral Evensong celebrating the 700th anniversary of Michaelhouse – there were plans for Great St Mary's to expand their use of Michaelhouse for services and music.

A booklet on the history of Michaelhouse had been completed which would complement the exhibition currently on display in the Wren Library.

Michaelhouse Singers continued to flourish, with the conductor's honorarium funded by the Friends. Promotion was underway to recruit more members.

The monthly Saturday lunchtime concerts were very successful, raising useful regular donations to help the Singers. Friends were encouraged to volunteer as stewards.

One of the aims of the Friends was to provide financial support for specific projects enhancing or improving Michaelhouse's fabric and fittings.

Three possible projects had been identified from the recent Quinquennial Report: improved lighting at the east end of the chancel; decoration in the Hervey de Stanton Chapel; improvement of the exhibition hanging system.

Thought was being given to encourage more people to become Friends, with posters with QR codes to be displayed in the café. It was also agreed to promote the Friends on the GSM website and in the eMag.

Safeguarding

Revd Rosie Hewitt, Youth and Children's Minister, will be added to the Safeguarding Team.

Support for victims and survivors – we are in touch with the diocese about how to be a safe place, creating safe spaces and how to welcome people to them; recognizing it as a sensitive area.

Safeguarding Sunday would take place on 2 March 2025.

The Pastoral Visiting Group is now led by Revd Ally Barrett and Revd Clare Stephenson.

Bishop Mariann Budde

It had been suggested that a letter of support should be sent to Bishop Budde for her courageous sermon after the Trump inauguration. The PCC was given time to comment on a draft of the letter before it was subsequently sent to the bishop by the Vicar and the PCC Lay Vice-Chair.

The PCC meeting closed with a prayer written to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust.

Future meeting dates:

PCC meeting: 2 April 2025, 1900hrs, Michaelhouse; **APCM:** Sunday 18 May 2025, 1130hrs, Michaelhouse.