

**Parochial Church Council for the Parish of
St David with St Michael and All Angels Exeter**

Minutes for the PCC meeting for the parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels Exeter held in St David's Church on **Thursday 26 January 2023 7:30pm**. Those **PCC members present**: Laura Casimir, Robert Mitchell, Maggie Draper, Clive Wilson, Belinda Speed-Andrews, Sue Wilson, Sarah Black, Jonathan Johns, Richard Johnson, Richard Parker, Charlotte Townsend, Glynis Harflett, Barbara Allin, Dave Allin, Paula Lewis, Natasha Goldsworth, Nigel Guthrie (Chair), Helena Walker (minutes). Those observing: Roger Beer, Hilary Todd, Howard Friend, Barry Mather. Also present Mike Williams (facilitator) and Alison Stock (Diocesan Registrar).

1.	NG Chair welcomed PCC members, observers and guests and thanked HW and MW for preparing paperwork. Apologies for absence: Ash Leighton Plom	
2.	Declarations of interest: none	
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2022 will be scrutinised at the next PCC meeting convened.	
4.	The sole business of this meeting was to discuss the future of ordained ministry in the parish. Mike Williams (facilitator) led the discussion having circulated ground-rules beforehand. These were to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen attentively and openly 2. Allow the speaker to speak - please don't interrupt 3. There will be a time limit of two minutes per person to allow a range of voices 4. Speak for yourself 5. Speak thoughtfully, holding back the urge to criticise or dominate the conversation 6. Please respect the process that seeks a balance of voices 7. Value everyone's perspective and feelings <p>Alison Stock, the Diocesan Registrar, was present to give advice if needed.</p>	
5.	Resolution 1 had been proposed by Laura Casimir (Chapel Warden) and Richard Parker (elected PCC member) seconded this. LC was invited to speak to this resolution which she did. <p>"1. In order to continue its Anglo-Catholic witness, the integrity of its position in support of the historic Apostolic Succession is respected until such a time as the congregation at St Michael's agree to such a change.</p> <p>2. The Church of England's Five Guiding Principles are the starting point for any consideration of this request and should be applied in the context of any legal issues arising around structures and governance because of the exception in the Equality Act Schedule 23 para 9.¹</p> <p>3. Before any binding decisions are reached by the Diocese about the future of the parish, which includes the churches of St David and of St</p>	

¹ The Exception reads:

The strongly held convictions are— (a) in the case of a religion, the strongly held religious convictions of a significant number of the religion's followers;

	<p>Michael & All Angels, there is a full and transparent process whereby the available options can be assessed by all those affected in both churches.</p> <p>4. Particular heed is paid by the Diocese in the first instance to some specific concerns we are raising about the nature of the relationship between the two churches, exemplified by recent interactions.</p> <p>5. Finally, the overriding priority should be that the numbers of worshippers across the two churches are maintained at as high a level as possible and that decisions are not taken prematurely which would alienate the congregation of St Michael & All Angels.”</p> <p>The facilitator opened discussion to the floor and NG timed these contributions to a maximum of two minutes. A spectrum of views was expressed and PL (PCC member representing St Michael’s) particularly asked for it to be minuted that she welcomes female priests. We have a duty of care for all our clergy and the passing of this resolution may restrict some men from applying for the incumbency. We need to give clergy trainees full training in both traditions across the parish. Concern was expressed about the quality of relationship between the two church communities.</p> <p>PCC members were invited to vote on the matter of this resolution. There were 2 votes for it, 15 votes against it with no abstentions and the resolution was not passed.</p>	
6.	<p>Resolution 2 was proposed by Glynis Harflett (Church Warden) and seconded by Robert Mitchell (elected PCC member). GH was invited to speak to this resolution which she did.</p> <p>“1. The PCC notes that the Diocesan Registrar has given advice, including that, "Unless a PCC has passed a Resolution in accordance with the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops & Priests, it would be discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010 to prevent women priests from ministering in the parish". The PCC also notes that other lawyers may not agree with the whole of the Registrar’s analysis.</p> <p>2. No such Resolution has been passed.</p> <p>3. The PCC accordingly affirms its commitment to promoting the full ministry of male and female priests throughout the parish and to work with both churches to promote mutual flourishing.”</p> <p>The facilitator opened discussion to the floor and NG timed these contributions to a maximum of two minutes. A spectrum of views was expressed. The pain and hurt and need for healing were acknowledged. The need for the churches to flourish together was expressed. The ministry of women is valued as highly by some at St David’s as that of the ministry of men by some at St Michael’s. Women priests have sometimes felt unwelcome at St Michael’s.</p> <p>PCC members were invited to vote on the matter of this resolution.</p>	

	There were 15 votes for it, 2 votes against it with no abstentions and the resolution was passed.	
7.	<p>NG thanked all for listening/speaking and their attention to the detail. He expressed his hope that this decision will enable good decision-making going forward. He will endeavour to provide the best range of ministry for both churches. Rotas will be published so that people can make other provision for worship should they choose. A pastoral letter will be circulated tomorrow (Friday 27 January 2023).</p> <p>CW thanked NG and the rest of the ministry team for helping us to come to this decision. NG thanked Mike Williams and Alison Stock for their help with the process.</p>	
8.	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1 March 7:30pm at St Michael's	

The meeting closed at 20:22 with a blessing by MW and the Grace.