



## Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on 12th September 2022

**Present:**

Jonathan Ward, Rector	Sybil Andrew
Jackie Barter	Marc Bassot
Julia Cernoch	Lenka Ellmann
Sally Munns	Annette Pinnell
Martin Pinnell	Jeff Seabrook
Penny Seabrook	Jeremy Tagg
Philippa Tagg	

1, **Apologies for absence and prayer.** Apologies were received from Sarah Fletcher, Richard Ford, Louise Stockdale. Jon opened the meeting with verses from John Ch. 15 and we had a time of shared prayer.

### 2. Follow-up of previous meetings - 24th May/19th July

**Minutes of 24th May meeting** - "Sunday Club" should read "Journey Together".

We then had a discussion on the notes of the **19th July** meeting and focussed first on the need to improve **Communication** at St. John's.

Current situation - there were now information slides on screen in church and at SJs - Marc is happy to continue updating these. We have not been praying for the offering on Sunday mornings - it had been agreed that this would happen every so often. There was currently no Communication Team - non-digital communication needs to be addressed too. The notice board in the carpark was currently empty/more could be on facebook/the website was tired (a big job to update).

**Jon** will post a message about the Queen's death, also details of the next Churches Together service. He stressed that the emphasis should be on **connection**. Should we pay someone to help with communication? **It was agreed to follow this up at our October meeting.** The **Welcome** cards need updating. It was agreed to ask **Lenka** to speak in church re the different ways of giving and we need to keep thanking God re our giving/resources.

**Action - Jon to post messages**

### 3. Sabbatical catch-up

**Jon** told us that this was a mix of rest and family issues - he asked us to pray for the health of his mother (Mary), also for Naomi. He thanked all for their hard work during his sabbatical. He felt we

managed well during his absence but the PCC agreed that we should now be careful not to overburden him. Jon would like to open up the Rectory more now, depending on movements with his children.

#### 4. Families Worker

There was no discussion on this during Jon's absence. Jon had the opportunity to talk with Keli Bolton at the recent Diocesan Conference and she suggested that we go back to the Diocese and discuss arrangements about the house where Peter lived. If this could form part of the package we were offering it would mean that we would be drawing on a wider net of potential applicants.

**Action - Jon to go back to the Diocese to discuss**

#### 5. Autumn/Christmas planning

**\*Mother & Toddler group** - Raina was very keen but it was emphasised that she could not do this on her own - a team would be needed. It was agreed that this would be a Mother & baby group as SJs is not a suitable venue for toddlers (should we rent something for this?). Wednesday am would be available at SJs.

Penny agreed to make contact with Raina to ask what exactly she has in mind.

**Action - Penny to talk with Raina and Sarah Fletcher be informed re Safeguarding**

**\*Alpha** - Jon felt that the New Year would be the best time to start a new course  
**Bereavement course** - Sybil & Penny have been asked to organise another course this autumn - details will be circulated and they are liaising with Hazel on this.

**Action - Sybil & Penny to circulate details when they are available**

**\*Digital presence** – we need to reconsider our strategy regarding digital engagement.

**\*Light the night** - we had a long and helpful discussion on this. It was eventually agreed **not** to continue with the event this year. On Sunday 30th there will be teaching in "Journey Together" on this theme

**It was agreed** to hold a half-term event for primary age children (church & beyond) on Monday 31st October.

A team needs to be formed for the half-term event - suggestions to Jon please. Annette, Penny & Julie L. were suggested. Re a possible venue, Jeff will make enquiries re the Assembly Rooms (large hall & kitchen).

A decision needs to be made fairly soon re the **Christmas lunch**. **A provisional booking has been made at the Assembly Rooms for 3rd December**. Sue Blair and others need to be consulted and it was suggested that we check with Coney Hill Baptist re their activities in this area.

**Action - Jeff Seabrook to enquire re availability of Assembly Rooms for half-term event. Suggestions to**

**Jon for team. Jon to speak to relevant people re Christmas lunch. Enquiries to Coney Hill Baptist.**

**\*Christmas services** - it was agreed to hold the 2 **Christingle** services once again. Re the **Carol Service** Jon will speak with Paul to see if he was able to form and lead the choir. The question was also raised about musicians (this has involved a cost in recent years).

**Action - Jon to speak with Paul re Carol Service.**

**\*Harvest service** (2nd October) - Jon didn't yet know if uniformed organisations would be present. Re the Harvest collections it was agreed that food would be donated to the Bromley Foodbank. A suggestion was made for monies to be donated to floods in Pakistan - Sarah Morgan to be consulted re appropriate charity.

It was suggested that on this day we hold a Bring and Share lunch. Would Wickham Court be available? Felicity will be asked to make enquiries.

**Action - Consult Sarah Morgan re possible charity for Pakistan floods. Felicity to be asked to make enquiries re venue for Bring & Share lunch.**

## 6. Cost of Living Crisis

**\* Warm Bank** - The local ministers are meeting soon to discuss this initiative of Emmanuel Church, W.Wickham for those seeking warmth this winter.

**\* Finances** - It is estimated that there may well be a 10% drop in income over the next 6 months.

## 7. Finance update

**Lenka** reported on the current financial situation -

**\* Current giving** is behind on expectation for the 2022 financial year. The actual figure for January-July is £78K, expected figure August-December £60K, totalling £138K, versus Budget of £165K, giving negative £27K for current financial year.

**\* Expenses** are behind on expectation - actual January-July £84K, expected August-December 49K, totalling £133K versus Budget of £171K, giving saving of £38K.

**\* Based on the above FY22 expects to close with Giving £138K v Expenses £133K giving net positive balance of £5K**

**Comments from Lenka -**

**\* General giving** is already approx. 10% behind on expectations with further reduction expected due to cost of living increases.

**\* Expenses** are behind on budget for FY22, this is mainly due to not having a Family Worker in place. General bills for utilities are likely to increase in FY22 & FY23. The PCC needs to take this into account for the future.

**\* Whilst FY22 is likely to end in a neutral position in terms of profit, should the PCC decide to**

readvertise for the Family worker position and attract a suitable candidate, the PCC will need to find extra funding to financially secure the new position.

Current financial reserves stand at £62K in CCLA deposit account and £36K in CAF bank accounts.

**Finance sub-committee report** - Carroty Wood was around £300 over budget. There will be a meeting soon about the financing of this activity.

**Parish Pledge** - it was unanimously agreed to increase our Parish Pledge for 2023 - £87,000 - an increase of £2,000 over our pledge for 2022. We are currently the only church in the Deanery to pay our full parish share.

## **8. Wardens' update**

4 quotes have been sought for work needed following the Quinquennial - will be emailed to PCC when received. Work requiring immediate attention has been carried out.

Livewire has been asked to replace 44 spotlight fittings in SJs - £1220 as agreed by PCC.

The boiler will soon be serviced at a cost of £250 and for Lightening Conductor to be tested - £130 plus VAT.

The belfry carpet will be replaced on 22nd September at cost of £425 - already agreed by PCC.

Jeremy expressed appreciation to Jackie who has met with many of the different church groups over the summer.

**Action - email to PCC re quotes for works following the Quinquennial**

## **9. Safeguarding**

Sarah reports that all is up to date and she is continuing with her DBS checks.

## **10. SJs Report**

No report submitted

## **11. Inclusion/Diversity Team update**

This had been circulated to the PCC.

## **12. Any other business**

The question of a **Verger** will be considered when the Churchwardens have met to discuss with Jon.

**13. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in church on Tuesday 11th October

Signed .....

Date .....