



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Thursday 15 June 2023 at 8pm at SJs**

Present: Jonathan Ward, Rector
Jackie Barter
Sally Munns
Sybil Andrew
Penny Seabrook
Jeff Seabrook
Sarah Fletcher
Jeremy Tagg
Richard Ford
Jessica Chick
Rachel Williams
Martin Pinnell
Lenka Ellmann
Louise Stockdale
Philippa Tagg

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Marc Bassot, Felicity Mason and Julia Cernoch.

2. Prayer

The meeting opened with a short time of prayer.

3. Welcome

Both Rachel and Jessica were welcomed to the PCC. Jeremy agreed to send them both the documentation that the Church of England has prepared for new PCC members.

Richard and Jeremy were both formally co-opted to the PCC – proposed by Lenka and seconded by Martin.

Action: Jeremy to send Rachel and Jessica the information for new PCC members

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2022 and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting were agreed. There were no matters arising.

5. Election of Standing Committee

The following were elected to the Standing Committee – Jon Ward, Jackie Barter, Felicity Mason, Lenka Elmann and Martin Pinnell – proposed by Sybil, seconded by Philippa.

6. Feedback from Assembly Rooms Meeting on 14 May 2023

The meeting at the Assembly Rooms had looked at “Everyday Church”, and people had been asked to assess what were the biggest changes going on around, and what impact these were having on the Church at St John’s. Feedback was that it had been a very positive meeting, such that a follow-up should happen before any momentum was lost. That said, the next meeting at the Assembly Rooms would be taking place on 17 September.

Jon said that he planned to provide some written follow-up to that meeting, especially for those who were unable to take part.

The Assembly Room event and the Musical Fundraiser held at St Francis Church on 12 May had raised the issue of closer working with St Francis and St Marys. If Hazel and/or Jon were to move on, it was unclear whether or not the three Churches would be expected to continue exactly as they were, or if the diocese would expect some integration. Jon had met with Hazel since then, and agreed that while we might do more things together, nothing more should be forced as far as integration was concerned.

Action: Jon to provide written follow-up from the Assembly Rooms meeting.

7. Families’ Worker update

Four applications had been received to the latest advert, and three had been shortlisted for interview on 21 June.

We recognised that as things stood, the finances at St John’s meant that while we could just about fund the post over three years, it would have a significant impact on our reserves, virtually wiping them out over the period. Therefore we needed to look for other income streams and funding arrangements. Also, although it was good to be generous, we might need to consider reducing our Parish Share - a necessary trade off to be able to invest in the future of St John’s.

It was interesting to note that Southwark diocese was now offering a Children and Youth apprenticeship programme for two successful candidates to work within a parish for three years, with teaching and support from the Diocese and Ridley College; 21 hours a week with the local church providing £7k. So, even if we had no successful candidate from our own interviews, this is something that might be offered.

8. Finance

The Finance Sub-Committee’s report had been circulated in advance (as attached). No questions were raised.

It was agreed to transfer £25k from the CAF account into an interest-bearing account.

Action: Lenka to transfer £25k into an appropriate interest-bearing account.

9. Churchwarden's Update

Jackie circulated the attached report in advance of the meeting. No questions were raised. It was noted that Felicity Mason had agreed to fill the vacant Churchwarden position since the APCM.

10. Pews

Following the report that Jeremy had made following the March meeting, only one PCC member had volunteered to take matters forward to produce a costs and benefits assessment. Therefore Jon would look to put a group together, drawn from other church members from outside the PCC.

Action: Jon to consider putting a group together to consider full or partial reordering.

11. Safeguarding

Sarah reported that everything was in hand. There was nothing specific to report.

12. Basketball courts development

Jon had spoken to Giles Underhill, the developer from Vision Homes, who had reported that his contact at Bromley Council had been rather negative about their amended plans. He was uncertain whether to adapt the plans further, or to formally apply and be rejected. Either way, it is clearly going to take some time before there is any development.

13. Any other business

Following the various press reports on Mike Pilavachi, his subsequent resignation, and the National Safeguarding Team's investigation, Soul Survivor Watford had now suspended its Senior Pastor, Andy Croft and Assistant Pastor, Ali Martin. It was noted that given the profile of Soul Survivor in the lives of many of the former youth of St John's, some of them might be struggling with the fallout. While Jon did not propose to make any announcement from the front of the Church, he asked if we could let him know if we became aware of anyone who was particularly struggling with the reports.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11 September 2023.

Signed

Date: