



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 8pm at the Church**

Present: Jonathan Ward, Rector Jessica Chick
Sally Munns Martin Pinnell
Sybil Andrew Lenka Ellmann
Jackie Barter Philippa Tagg
Jeff Seabrook Marc Bassot
Sarah Fletcher Julia Cernoch
Jeremy Tagg Felicity Mason
Penny Seabrook Louise Stockdale

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Ford. It was noted that Rachel Williams was no longer a PCC member as she and Geraint have moved on from St John's.

2. Prayer

The meeting opened with a short time of prayer.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2023 and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting were agreed with one small amendment. There were no matters arising.

4. Finance

The meeting noted the Finance Sub-Committee's report that had been circulated in advance.

The change to the ownership of the Flat over SJs had been noted. It was agreed that we should re-emphasise the importance of the clauses relating to the flat roof, as the current owners were potentially causing damage to the surface, which might be the cause of the leak. We noted that the costs of works to the flat roof, or replacement of the roof should be shared 50:50.

Since others had started parking in the space allotted to SJs. It was agreed that Jeremy should ask the maintenance team to clearly mark the spaces.

Action: Jeremy to ask maintenance team to mark the parking spaces at the back of SJs

Action: Jon to emphasise via the solicitor the importance of complying with the lease concerning the flat roof, given that a leak had developed.

5. Families' Worker

Jon explained that, following the PCC meeting in November, he had fed back our concerns to Miranda, and clarified the areas where she should be redirecting her energies.

Since Christmas though, he said a number of people in the Church had expressed concerns to him about how Miranda was undertaking the role and whether she was a natural fit.

Following a long discussion, it was felt that:

- i) There were performance issues, most troublingly with some failure to engage fully with some families in the church, in a way that would have been expected;
- ii) A deeper worry as to whether Miranda's natural giftings/inclinations resided with young people – expressing itself in some poor instincts/judgement.

It was decided that if we were forced to make a decision at this point in time about continuing her contract beyond the six-month probationary period, we would not.

It was agreed that Jon would make this clear to Miranda and explain that the PCC will give her a chance to respond to the feedback in the next month and the PCC would make a final decision about her contract in their February meeting.

6. Priorities – Community Engagement

Jon asked if we could get back to him by the end of the weekend on item 3 of the agenda 'Progressing Community Engagement', and how we engage the church with the '3 W's'.

7. Safeguarding

Sarah said there was nothing new to report – essentially business as usual.

8. Pews update

Sarah explained that the review might take some time to produce any proposals. Most recently she and Stuart had made contact with St George's Shirley, which had got rid of its pews, and planned to visit shortly.

9. Churchwardens' Update

Felicity and Jackie had looked through the quinquennial report to determine work priorities for 2024. They would be seeking quotes to strip and repaint most of the guttering and drainpipes.

It was also agreed that we should replace the wall mounted boiler in the kitchen. Jeremy reported that the chosen boiler would cost around £700, with a further £200 to install it. Julia

proposed and Felicity seconded that the work should go ahead. All agreed.

10. Any other business

Jon reported that some people who had attended our Christmas services had been in touch with him and wanted to visit the church – including a couple of individuals who had been bereaved.

Jon was also running a follow up to the Alpha course, and all the attendees of the course were engaged.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 22 February 2024 – Vision meeting.

Signed

Date: