

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council**

**held on 23rd November 2021**

**Present:** Jonathan Ward, Rector Sybil Andrew

Marc Bassot Lenka Ellmann

Sarah Fletcher Sarah Morgan

Sally Munns Martin Pinnell Jeff Seabrook Penny Seabrook

Louise Stockdale Jeremy Tagg

Philippa Tagg

**Apologies** were received from Bill Derham, Richard Ford, Annette Pinnell¸ Karen Williams.

**1. Prayer –** Jon opened the meeting in prayer and read some verses from Psalm 85.

**2. Minutes of the meetings held on 4th September and 4th November** were approved and signed. A reminder re Covid was not yet up on the screen.

**3. Finance –** the Finance Committee Report, the draft Budget, Allocations and Fees update had been circulated to the PCC in advance of the meeting.

**\* Finance committee report** ­– **it was agreed that the Harvest collection of £158 be donated to the Refugee Centre.**

**\* 2021 update –** Lenka talked us through Forecasted 2021 Accounts which showed an **Income** of £180,903, including Gift Aid of £22,592 and interest of £887. **Expenses –** overall savings of £11,000, main areas of savings arePayroll £7K and Missions & Charities £4K.

Lighting project cost has been partially offset by grants and specific donations of £25,000.

Plate giving, envelopes were still being collected. 2 giving units were no longer able to support the church.

**Cash -** £126,000 in cash available. Expected cash balance as of Dec 31st will be approx. £106K.

**It was agreed to transfer £30,000 from our current account to deposit account.**

Current Account balance £86K, SJ’s bank account £8K, Deposit Account £32K.

Overall Lenka felt that while the Lighting Project was a significant expense in 2021 and the final Accounts for 2021 will show overall loss, there were no immediate significant concerns around the church finances for 2022.

A discussion then followed & the following issues raised –

Ideally gloves should be worn when counting money.

Currently the plate was at the back of the church which meant that we no longer prayed over financial gifts. **It was agreed that there would be a place for praying over our giving, including those made by standing order, during the service.**  This would also highlight the opportunity to give after the service.

It was recommended that we start to use the card reader and Lenka will look into the possibility of having this embedded somehow in the church.

We then had a time of discussion. Re **Allocations –** currently there were 8 regulars on the list and £10,800 was committed so far this year. It was confirmed that Krupa’s was sent via Charlotte to his church. Giving will be lower next year. Cost of Families Worker will be for 6 months (£16,000). Income for next year will be lower – it is not easy to speak to new people re giving which makes it difficult to assess possible new sources of income. £165,000 had been budgeted for **Expenses.**

Other works will need to be undertaken next year. The Quinquennial is due in 2022 and, due to the lockdown some earlier works had not been carried out. The Faculty system slows everything down. We do have cash in hand for other works plus ongoing maintenance. £5,000 - £10,000 is in the Budget for other works.

The Diocesan Quota for 2022 is £85,000.

There was general discussion about Draft Budget for 2022, PCC decided to do final approval in Jan 2022. Lenka expressed her thanks to the Finance Committee for their hard work and support.

We then gave thanks and prayed that God would help us to be wise and faithful stewards.

\* **Allocations**

With regard to Sara and Alyssa – **Jon will check with them regarding the end time of their allocations.**

There was no burning desire currently for a new allocation – it was agreed that we need to be flexible in this regard.

**It was agreed:**

**“one off” 2021 allocations:**

* Bible society £1,200
* Krupa £1,700
* Link To Hope £1,700
* CHCU £500
* **Allocations for 2022**
* UCCF £1,200
* Reach Across UK £2,000
* OMF Jeggo £2,000
* Operation Mobilisation £1,700
* Football S Read £1,500
* Amber CPC £1,200
* Wycliffe T Gaved £1,500
* CUI S Blackburn £600

\* **Fees**

**It was agreed** that the amount paid to the Bellringers be increased to £120 per Wedding.

**Christmas giving –** Jon will email the PCC – it was agreed that it was important to have the card reader ready for this.

**4. Families Worker**

Jon reiterated that the main reason for a zero response to our advert was that very few courses had been held so there was no new blood in the pipeline. The London Diocese has initiated an apprentice scheme with on-the-job training and Southwark Diocese had approved this initiative just before Covid 19. For our post, however, we need someone with more expertise.

A discussion was then held. Should we change the role? Kirstyn has expressed interest and Jon will have further discussion with her. It was confirmed that we do not have to re-advertise if a suitable candidate appears. Kirstyn saw the original advert. If this does not materialize then we need to re-think. It was stressed that face to face interaction with young people is very important. Currently we have fewer mid-week meetings and fewer Sunday groups. Is the current job description still relevant? We need to bring in more youngsters of primary age, also in the `14+ age group. We need to attract more young families. Currently there is nothing for the under 5’s in church or in the community.

It was agreed that the job description is OK but that the Families Worker needs to be actively involved in the groups rather than simply facilitating, so proactive first, then enabling others and the candidate needs to understand cultural shifts. Outreach is very important. Journey Together is a strong group shaped by Amber. There is no new life coming in and people are exhausted. Does there need to be a new missional approach? Perhaps the new person needs to be more dynamic than Amber?

**5. Wardens’ Update**

There was no update from the Wardens.

**6. Eco Church**

Eco Church is an initiative supported by A Rocha, a Christian charity committed to supporting churches to care for the environment. Southwark Diocese encourages all churches to make use of the charity’s action plan which provides a framework for environmental action. This was also discussed at Deanery Synod. Other churches have already signed up. Philippa is prepared to complete their questionnaire, so we can see what we are already doing well and get a clear sense of what steps to take next. She asks if St. John’s can register to be part of this initiative .

**It was agreed** that St. John’s should register and that Philippa should form a small group (including one from teenage years if possible) to focus on this issue.

**7. Safeguarding**

Sarah Fletcher presented the Safeguarding report on behalf of herself and Michele. DBS checks are ongoing, also risk assessments for the new CYP groups and one off events such as the 14+ sleepover and proposed Christmas celebrations. They thank all those involved in these ongoing tasks and referrals and enquiries continue to be made to the PSOs. Contact is maintained with the Diocese directly for specific cases. Records continue to be kept and any instructions or advice from the Diocese is followed through and acted upon if necessary. A short presentation was made to the congregation on Safeguarding Sunday in October.

**8. Inclusion/Diversity Team update**

In view of the possible building of a hall with accessible toilet near the church, plans about a toilet on the St. John’s site are in abeyance for the time being, but might well be pursued in due course. The church architect did look at this possibility but his observations were not particularly helpful! Thought is being given to a resources cabinet, also obtaining a supply of small cards with ideas for Welcomers re caring for any who might have any sort of additional need. Penny has followed some Torch Trust seminars on issues such as looking after people with sight loss before and after church, also lighting. She will collate notes sent out by Torch Trust to inform us as welcomers and members of the congregation. Maybe in the New Year some sort of training session around these issues?

**9. PCC dates for 2022**

**Jon will circulate these** – it was agreed that alternate business/missioner meetings should continue. These with take place on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday nights.

It was agreed to accept Jon and Bron’s kind willingness to host the PCC Christmas party at the Rectory on 13th December. **Jon will request preferred cuisine,** Chinese, pizza or fish and chips – not curry. He requests that we take a lateral flow test on the day.

**10., Sabbatical**

Jon will be taking a 3- month sabbatical, possibly May through to the summer. Details are being discussed with the Diocese. There will be a new Churchwarden at this time as Bill’s term comes to an end in April and he does not wish to continue.

**11. Any other business**

Could the Welcome cards be updated please**? Jon will speak with Alexandra**. There is currently no Communications Team.

Jonny will video the Carol Service, 7.00 pm on 19th December. It will not be live- streamed but the video will be available soon after. A booking system will be used.  **It was agreed** that we should we allow time for the community to book first.

Details of all services will be circulated round the parish.

**12. Next meeting –** operational on 27th January**.**

The meeting concluded in prayer

Signed …………………………………. Date ……………………………………….