



Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on 26th January 2023

Present:

Jonathan Ward, Rector	Sybil Andrew
Marc Bassot	Julia Cernoch
Lenka Ellmann	Sarah Fletcher
Richard Ford	Sally Munns
Annette Pinnell	Martin Pinnell
Jeff Seabrook	Penny Seabrook
Louise Stockdale	Jeremy Tagg
Philippa Tagg	

1. Apologies for absence & prayer - Apologies were received from Jackie Barter. The meeting opened with prayer.

2. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 24th November - approved, proposed by Lenka, seconded by Julia.

3. Vision Priorities 2023 handout - this had been circulated to the PCC beforehand. As this was an operational meeting, Jon said that this would be up for more detailed discussion at our February meeting. He explained that some things had already been set in motion. He highlighted the underlying ethos and explained that there would be three 10.00 am services held in the Assembly Rooms this year to help embed this within the church family. Notice of these would be communicated in advance to the congregation.

Action: In due course Jon to communicate dates of services to be held in Assembly Rooms

4.. Finance update - Lenka took us through her statements which had already been circulated to the PCC. A budget is prepared for 2023.

FY22 preliminary results:

Income £147,230
Expenditure £149,877
Expected loss of £2,647

Budget FY23:

Income £132,411
Expenditure £154,757

Expected loss £22,346

The possible cost of a Families Worker is **not** included in the above expenses.

Lenka confirmed that the church holds £99,000 in cash reserves, enough to cover running costs and we are not in breach with our covenant. She will provide regular updates to the PCC & church family.

The reason for the estimated reduction of 10% in giving is due to cost-of-living challenges and energy costs, resulting in many people struggling with finances. The drop in giving in 2023 is also partially caused by giving reducing in 2022 with full effect being felt in 2023.

The number of people worshiping regularly in church is increasing, however this is not immediately translating into increase in regular giving.

Lenka explained that the only notable increases were gas & electricity costs, the diocesan quota and increase in Church Administrator salary.

Jeremy reported that the heating in the church now comes on at 6.00 am (instead of 4.00 am). It comes on during the week if the temperature drops below 10 degrees.

It was decided that an update re costs be given to the church family just before the APCM in April - hopefully there will be no significant drop in income. Jon reported that a contribution of 7.5% of our income comes from just one church giver.

Comments and suggestions made -

The card reader is not being fully utilised. It is easy to use and Roger is often at hand to explain how to use it if necessary. It is estimated that approx. 25% of church family does not make any financial contribution. There is a possible reduction in income as we no longer pass the bag round (it was felt that is right not to continue this).

To give thanks on a regular basis for those giving by standing order

A reminder that the plate is available for cash or envelope giving

There are people with no giving background (such as tithing) - how best to get the giving message across

There is a card available that explains the various ways of giving, also information on the screen

We need to thank God first for all He gives to us (maybe the person leading the prayers?)

St. Francis and St. Mary's are part of the C of E planned giving scheme.

3 points were stressed -

-Communication re giving needs to be considered at regular intervals so that we communicate effectively but without it sounding like we are always tapping people up for their money.

-To express thanks regularly, but in a way that is genuine and not manipulative, realising that it is amazing that people give nearly £150,000 p.a. to support the church.

-There needs to be a regular structure re giving.

The Finance Sub-Committee's report had been circulated in advance to the PCC - no comment.

5. Basketball Court and Development

Jon provided an update. We are now waiting to hear from Vision as to how their discussions with the Council play out and then in turn, the outcomes of any full application they might make. We may well have monies given to us - keep praying! We will discuss this nearer the time, also how Jon will share this with the church family. It was agreed that prayer in home groups too would be a good idea.

Action: keep praying - everyone + home groups

6. Families Worker

Jon has discussed this with our new Archdeacon, Greg Prior, and has informed him of the Woodland Way house situation. He was amenable to the proposal and confirmed that there was no-one living in the house at present, and the property is set aside by the diocese for ministry purposes. Jon has checked with Hazel that they have nothing currently in mind for this house. The Archdeacon will take this matter further.

Anna Seabrook has had an informal discussion with Jon expressing her interest in the Families Worker post.

The question was asked re financial implications re the house. Jon said that he imagined a similar arrangement to that which was in place with Peter, but these finer details have not yet been discussed with the diocese.

7. Safeguarding

Sarah and Michele had circulated their report in advance to the PCC. The proposed activity (risk assessment attached) may well not happen, nor the proposed crisp packet blanket activity.

Sarah confirmed that it is recommended that all PCC members complete the basic online "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" course - log on details in her report.

8. Wardens' Update

The Wardens had circulated 4 updated reports - Risk Assessment for St. John's, Fire Risk Assessment, Fire Evacuation Plan, Lone Working Risk assessment. These were approved.

It was agreed that there should be a sign for the Assembly Point. The question of a lone worker in the church building was discussed. It was agreed that wisdom should be exercised, a mobile held - and an awareness posted that "you have been warned."

It was agreed that a fire practice should be held (no date specified)

Action: Post sign for Assembly Point, organise fire practice

9. Pews

It was agreed that this should be revisited especially as it would seem that a church hall on the basketball site will not now materialise. It was agreed that we should take a first step and consider the position in the north aisle.

Jeremy will contact Paul Kingman for information as he was very involved some years ago when this previously came under discussion.

Action: Jeremy to speak with Paul Kingman

10. Any other business

The latest position with window cleaning situation in SJs is to be established. Jeremy will ask Margaret.

Action: Jeremy to speak with Margaret

12. Next meeting

This will be a Vision meeting on Tuesday 21st February. Jon raised the offer of meeting at the Rectory after a meal together - to be decided.

Signed Date