



St. George's Church, Wilton
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council
 Tuesday 25th April 2023

Present: Nick Griffin (Chair), Michael Yardley (Vice Chair), Peter Joyce, Hilary McKegney, Ian Pinder (Treasurer), Chris Michell, Matt Norman, Paul Cole, Pete Underwood, Mary Carson, Bethan Baigent (via Zoom) and Helen Clegg (PCC Secretary)

1. Nick opened the meeting with a reading and a time of open prayer.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record and signed.
3. Apologies: Katie Lanchbury
4. Matters arising from the previous meeting.
These will be dealt with later in the meeting.

Items for Information

5. Financial Update

The Treasurer reported that for the first quarter of 2023 the Christian Giving income was £30,933 which was a £5,000 increase compared with the equivalent period in the previous year and that was encouraging. The church bank balance currently stands at approximately £76,000 which includes the money received for the Church Office Building Appeal.

The funds donated, so far, to the Office Building Appeal will be about £23K once Gift Aid tax and the Diocese grant are added. This is considered sufficient to place contracts for the initial phase of the building work at a cost of about £13K. The appeal will officially end with a giving day when it is hoped that further funds will be donated to bring us nearer to the target of £30,000.

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 to the meeting. The Treasurer explained that although the figures in the accounts were complete, the Independent Examination was still in progress and the words of the Annual Report and the notes to the accounts would be added as a part of that process. The Treasurer explained what would be in the sections which

needed to be added, much of which would be the same as previous years. The complete version would be circulated to the PCC as soon as it is ready and before the APCM.

The Treasurer explained the key figures in the accounts. Gross income was £192,269 which was a considerable increase compared to £139,808 in 2021. A legacy of £30,000 had been received from the estate of the late Brian Underwood. The Parish Share of £83,767 had been paid in full. There was a surplus for the year of £13,752 before investment revaluation losses. Unrestricted funds at the year end were £50,581 which is almost 4 months expenditure and is in accordance with our Reserves policy.

The accounts were approved by the meeting subject to receipt of the full version prior to the APCM.

6. Vicars Report

This has already been circulated to the PCC

Extra points

a) Our safeguarding is not where it should be and PCC members are reminded that the 3 C of E Safeguarding Training Modules are mandatory. **Action PCC Members who haven't already completed the 3 modules.**

Nick suggested that we ask the Safeguarding Officer to give a regular update to PCC and to attend the meetings as an Ex Officio PCC member. PCC unanimously agreed and Jenny Norman will be invited to the next meeting.

b) Rob Cromwell will be coming as our curate in June with his ordination on the 25th June.

c) Rev. Richard Kelly has been appointed as Chaplain to Queen's College which is a Methodist Foundation School. To maintain his licence as an Anglican Priest the PCC were asked whether they would be happy to receive his ministry at St. Georges. The PCC unanimously agreed. Nick noted that we needed to choose a title and after some discussion, 'Assistant Minister' was the clear favourite.

d) Nick outlined his position on the new proposed Anglican Church service to bless same sex marriages and partnerships. This is a service of conscience and so would not be mandatory to use it. Nick noted that he would not be able to take this service. The PCC expressed their support for him.

e) The children's work has grown considerably and there is some confusion as to the leadership. It was proposed that Briony Griffin should be given the clear role of 'Family and Children's Lead Co-ordinator'.

The PCC agreed.

7. Health and Safety

The few small issues that Peter Joyce is aware of are all being dealt with. He has arranged for a local firm to give a quotation for partial re-surfacing of the hall car park, including dealing with the potholes which are a trip hazard. Peter reported that a handrail had now been installed beside the steps into the Vestry.

8. Christian Giving Scheme

a) Future Management

Michael Small is ill at present and needs to stand down from managing the CGS. Pete Underwood has agreed to take the role on.

b) Annual review timing.

It was proposed to change this from February to the APCM for this year. This was agreed.

9. Buildings

The Terms of Reference for the Building Project Steering Group had been circulated. One role remained unfilled which is that of Fundraising/marketing/publicity. If anyone knew someone suitable they were asked to let Paul know. A part of the role would be finding and applying for grants.

The Terms of Reference were approved by the PCC.

Update on progress.

Approx. £22,000 has been raised for the first stage. Target is £30,000.

The Steering Group are now looking towards putting in an order for the external work with Graham Murray, who wouldn't be available to start until August and we need the work done during the summer weather. This will cost around £13,000, payment being on completion.

The PCC agreed to this proposal.

Community Fridge

It is to be accommodated in a shed in the Car Park adjacent to the entrance to the churchyard. It will require a section of hedge to be removed and an overhead electric supply installed. It is planned to have it functional by the end of June 2023.

Following conversations and agreement with the Scouts, we are reviewing the whole site around the Hall to consider how to optimise its use. Paul Cole is now reconsidering his conceptual plan for improving the use of the Hall, and is looking at the whole site including the driveways, car park and huts at the back with a view to better use of the space. Initial consultation is taking place with users, and the PCC will be consulted once this first round has taken place.

Reports and questions

10. The action logs of the Standing Committee meetings on Feb 27 and Mar 20 have been noted.

11. Safeguarding progress update.

Several PCC members have not done their Safeguarding training. It is essential, not optional. For those who are unable to complete the on-line training there will be a training day on 4th June 2023 but the Basic Awareness module must be done on-line prior to this.

Hilary had some issues with the wording on the Responding to Concerns document (Recruitment of ex-offenders policy) and offered to work with Jenny on this. **Action Hilary McKegney**

The 3 policies Jenny circulated some months ago will be re-circulated as some hadn't seen them. They will need approval by the PCC.

Action Helen

Thanks were expressed to Jenny for all her hard work on this.

12. Charitable Giving Policy proposal

The Draft Policy for Donations to Charities had been circulated previously. This proposed that St. George's should give to just 12 charities per year rather than the much larger number currently given to. This should give them each a bigger sum, making a bigger impact on their work and cutting down on their administration and ours. It would also give Nick a better chance to introduce the charity and its work during services.

There was some concern that we might collect less money for them as people might only give once rather than every week. Figures over the last few months don't bear this out.

It was proposed that Christian Concerns Group should try the new regime for a year and then the matter could be reassessed. This was agreed. The Christian Concerns Group were asked to compile a list of 12 charities for this year and bring it to the PCC for approval. Then information about the 12 charities could be prepared and this could be used in Newsboard.

13. Transport

Mary Carson pointed out that some people required a lift to church on Sundays. Nick pointed out that if anything is arranged officially by the church, we are then involved in all kinds of responsibilities for safeguarding and health and safety issues. Pastoral Care would discuss this at their meeting.

14. Social Events Co-ordinator.

We need someone to take responsibility for the many social events that require organisation and refreshments. This would avoid a last minute ‘scramble’, which has tended to happen recently. The Co-ordinator would need to draw together and lead a team of volunteers who were willing to help. A job description would need to be written. **Action Peter Joyce**

15. Date of APCM will be on 15th May 2023, 7pm in the hall.

Date of next meeting 11th July 2023.

Signed.....

Date.....