



Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.30pm
In person and on Zoom

Present: Howard Wright, David Duffin, Andrew Walters, Janet Foster, Rich Gillard, Pauline Hughes, Timothy James, Claire MacPherson (Treasurer), Frank Maloney, Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums, Abi Mezzullo (on Zoom), Jill Williams, David Williams (secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the 1st meeting of 2023
Apologies received from Jonathan Rooke, Howard Short, Jane Hughes, Lorna Littlewood (maternity leave)

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard W led sung worship – “Mighty to Save”, “What a beautiful Name” and prayer. We reflected thankfully on the fullest congregations since before the pandemic with a number of new faces, a Toddler group attracting 38 from 18 families, an encouraging Alpha course just finishing and the prospect of two more (one daytime and one evening) to begin soon with attendees already signed up to both.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – 15th November 2022

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved with one amendment and one small addition to circulated draft, *nem con*.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
 - i. Alternatives to Holiday at Home over Christmas/New Year. A pre-Christmas Party had been enjoyed by over 30 regular attendees of Tea & Chat/Bowls and Coffee and Questions. Because of a resurgence of COVID and other seasonal illness in the community, a planned New Year film party in early January had reluctantly to be postponed.
 - ii. QR codes: still a work in progress. The Giving page on the COGS website must be reworked to allow the PayPal/BACS systems to function on all fixed (computer) and mobile (tablet and smartphone) platforms.

5. Finance.

- a. Financial Statement, January 1st to December 31st 2022
Claire presented a summary *PCC Summary December 2022.xlsx* and commentary *PCC Report Commentary Dec 22.pdf* to the meeting. There is still difficulty in monitoring accounts and preparing reports as she has still not been granted access to the Bank accounts and must rely on communication through Tori (bookkeeper). PCC agreed a vote of thanks to Claire and Tori for coping while this is dealt with.
- b. Update for current year
Through the generosity of a small number of donors, the deficit for 2022 was smaller than expected. When the issue of access to Bank accounts is settled, Claire intends to produce monthly summaries. These might then be included in the “Look Back...” monthly publications that we circulate.
There may be significant saving of about £20k because it has proved impossible to recruit someone to cover Lorna’s maternity leave.
As PCC and congregation we must continue long term to ask how we should express

our generosity and to be good stewards of the resources we have, particularly bearing in mind the money held over and above the £46k that our reserves policy entails.

- c. Thank-you letter to donors
A letter is to be sent shortly.
On two consecutive Sundays as part of the current Teaching Series, the Church will consider known needs we have to support the active ministry of COGS.
- d. Monthly giving to Karamoja (min. 5b, PCC meeting 15/11/2022)
Claire reminded PCC that £100 per month was already included in the Budget for 2023. There were also gifts made at Harvest and Christmas. Deanery had committed £7k. It was disappointing to note that of the 22 parishes in the Deanery only three had contributed to support the Karamoja DCT. Of those, COGS made the most significant contribution, but even so only half the total had been raised in 2022. Howard **proposed** and Janet **seconded** that we continue to support Karamoja, while keeping the matter under review.
- e. Energy Grant to Parishes
Finances had been augmented by a significant grant to COGS from the Diocese to help cope with the rapidly rising winter fuel costs.

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6. Update on Discussions with St Andrew's, Medstead

Howard had had informal conversation with Bishop David. It is clear that the Diocesan office is stretched.

Although at the previous meeting we were looking for feedback from the Church Commissioners on the proposal, we now know that for now it has not yet been submitted. A process begun in March 2021 and expected to take six months is still incomplete, while Howard finds himself taking practical responsibility for much of the ministry of both parishes.

He is meeting with St Andrews' PCC for further discussion on how to proceed.

Meanwhile Jonathan Rooke has reached the end of his formal training and is awaiting a conversation with the bishop after which his own future availability to this parish will become clear.

7. Teams

- a. Personnel:
 - i. Update on Maternity Leave cover. After two rounds of advertising the post, no significant enquiry has been received. Lorna has planned Children's work to the end of March. Others have stepped in to implement the plan, and PCC saw the need to give recognition to these. But in the absence of an appointment, Howard finds himself having to think of plans beyond Easter. The good news is that enough helpers have come forward, so that it has been possible to split the children into more age-appropriate groups.
 - ii. Personnel team is scheduled to meet to discuss staff salary increases for 2023.
- b. Building.
 - i. Quinquennial Review still not formally reported. Wardens are acting on some of those issues informally notified to us.
- c. Ministry Leaders.
 - i. Worship – Chris McGrath has organised a "Worship Matters" gathering for 27th January to encourage present and potential contributors to musical and technical activity for Sunday services.
 - ii. Small Groups – Val Lucas coordinating.
 - iii. Prayer – David Duffin leading on regular whole church prayer meetings, encouraging more members to become involved.
 - iv. Mission – Howard leading.
- d. Mission Team.
Nothing to report.

8. Safeguarding

No issue to report. Matt needs to be freed from this additional task. Howard and Matt are preparing a list of tasks in this category that might usefully be delegated to others.

9. Health and Safety.

Bi-monthly report: Frank had provided document:
23.01.11 H&S Rpt.docx; received and noted with thanks.

10. Any Other Business.

Timothy reported that he is making good progress on the Diocesan 'Bishop's Permission to Preach' (BPP) course and assessments and enjoying the experience.

11. Date of next meeting:

PCC, Tuesday 21st March 2023

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.20pm.
