



Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 18th July 2023
6.30pm – supper at the vicarage
8pm – PCC Meeting in the Hall

Present: Howard Wright, David Duffin, Andrew Walters, Rich Gillard, Pauline Hughes, Timothy James, Claire MacPherson (Treasurer), Frank Maloney, Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums, Doug Titheridge, Jill Williams, Jane Hughes (guest), David Williams (secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the 4th meeting of 2023.
Apologies were received from Janet Foster.

2. Worship & Prayer

PCC reviewed recent activity in groups of 3-4, and after report-back, several members led prayers of thanksgiving. Howard concluded this time with a reminder that all we do is to further the phrase of the Lord's Prayer – "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done".

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – meeting of 16th May 2023

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved *nem con*.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
 - i. Diocesan Team has corrected reference in the submission to Church Commissioners on the parish merger to the number of primary schools in the proposed benefice.

5. Review Leaders' Retreat

Discussion on Actions

Howard presented the various group discussion charts generated at the retreat.
Several issues about strategic planning were identified:

- Do 4 things well, not 10 things indifferently.
- Make the vision clear to everyone.
- Encourage corporate prayer in gatherings specifically arranged and in small groups.
- Further part-time administrative support is needed, particularly if/when St Andrews and COGS are joined in one parish.
- Distinguish clearly between leadership and conduct of Children's work and Youth work.
- Encourage new joiners to get involved in supporting various ministries.
- Make use of preaching and teaching resources available from within and outside COGS.
- Issues to help the transition to a wider parish:
 - Explore "Communion by Extension"
 - Make opportunities to make friends across the two historic parishes.
 - Consider the possibility of "whole church Alpha".

6. Finance.

- a. Claire presented Financial Statements and commentary for the period 1st January to 30th June 2023, documents:

- i. *PCC Report May 2023.xlsx*
This showed anomalous values relating to an HMRC rebate for Lorna's maternity leave, corrected in the next (June) document.
 - ii. *PCC Report June 2023.xlsx*
After the correction and adjustment for payment from HMRC and noting the substantial one-off donations at the beginning of the year offset by an estimated monthly deficit of about £1200 for the second half of the year, Claire's forecast is for "break-even" against the budget for 2023.
 - iii. *PCC Report Commentary May and June 23.pdf*
Claire thanked PCC for its support. There followed a brief discussion about reinstating some or all of the tithe that was suspended last year. This will be discussed fully at the September meeting of PCC. DW
- b. A collecting box containing a sum of money believed to have been donated from Kid's Church for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) had been discovered. Andy proposed and Jill seconded that we make the collection up to £150 and send it to MAF as soon as possible. CM

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

- a. Any response from the Church Commissioners?
Nothing had been received. Concern was widely expressed about the effect that lack of progress was having on
 - our inability to plan strategically,
 - the wellbeing of our vicar who is stretched across two existing parishes with no additional support (see also item 8).
 We do recognise the enormity of the task that faces the Diocesan Team with so many schemes concurrent across the diocese, and indeed the Church Commissioners who may have to deal with hundreds of schemes across the country. But both PCCs feel frustration that the lack of progress is hindering the work of God in this community. We propose to write to the Diocesan Team expressing our concerns. Timothy and Rich are asked to prepare a letter on behalf of PCC and under guidance from Howard. The letter is to be sent to the Church Commissioners, copied to the Bishop-designate of Winchester, the acting Bishop of Winchester, the suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke and the Archdeacon of Winchester. RG/TJ
- b. St Mary's Andover have published a booklet which we could consider as an example of how we keep parishioners in both current parishes informed of the process of joining together, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1--d2fbr2_vHNFGPxnKACLxYt1oBrjHtS/view?pli=1

8. Clergy Wellbeing

- a. Documents from the Diocese
The following documents had been received:
 - i. *Covenant on clergy wellbeing.pdf*
 - ii. *Wellbeing clergy Deanery Richard Brand copy.pptx*
- b. Discussion
PCC noted a certain irony in the light of the previous agenda item when a six-month process had extended to 2½ years, with all the pressure and distraction had fallen in particular on Howard.
Among other issues, he had not had opportunity to complete his sabbatical, which had been cut short at the start of the pandemic in 2020. It has not been finished at least in part due to the uncertainties caused by the proposed merger of parishes and the additional responsibilities he had taken on at St Andrew's as unofficial 'vicar'. Howard thanked PCC for their support and in particular Andy and David D for their prayerful care at the early Monday morning meetings.

9. Teams

- a. Personnel:
 - i. Lorna now proposes to take a full year of maternity leave. After adding statutory holiday, she will not return to work at COGS until at least January 2024.
- b. Building.
 - i. Quinquennial Review – nothing further to report.
 - ii. Progress on solar panels. The installation has finally been agreed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in principle and subject to certain conditions. In view of the delay since they were initially proposed, an updated quote will be obtained from the installer. Offers previously made to cover the cost as originally quoted will be confirmed with the donors. The whole project will be brought back to PCC at its September meeting. The earliest that work could begin will be November 2023. **DD**
- c. Ministry Leaders.

Of the four ministries – Worship, Small Groups, Prayer, Mission – nothing to report.

10. Safeguarding

Checking currency of PCC members' Safeguarding certificates – David W is to check with Matt as acting Safeguarding officer about any that may be close to expiry. **DW**

11. Health and Safety.

Bi-monthly report: Frank had provided document:
22.09.05 Health & Safety Rpt.docx.
No action was required following the matters reported.

12. Any Other Business.

Nothing notified before the meeting.

13. Date of next meeting:

PCC, Tuesday 19th September 2023

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 10.13pm.
