

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31st JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM IN CHURCH**

Present: Chris Gadd (Churchwarden)(Chair), Marian Haughton, Sue Hodgens, Sara Schillemore, June Diaper, Patricia Byrne, Sara Pask (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

Alice Pitney has resigned from the PCC and all Committees she was on with immediate effect due to health reasons.

Co-opted:

Malcolm Brewer (Hon Assistant Treasurer)
Candy Williams (Deanery Synod)
Lynn Winter, Deputy Safeguarding Officer

		<u>ACTION</u>
	Chris opened the meeting with the Leading your Church into Growth Prayer.	
1.	Apologies for absence: Sarah Canham (Deanery Synod), Mo Peters, Anne Morgan, Dawn Hyett	
2.	Minutes of last PCC meeting on Tuesday 19th December 2023 Malcolm asked for an amendment as follows: <u>Page 2, Item 4, No 2 under Expenditure</u> – Malcolm said that the church pays the Hall’s gas bill but the Hall still pays its own electricity. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.	Matters Arising (5 minutes) <u>Page 1, Item 3 – Architect</u> – Chris said that the Architect that we had chosen has now resigned so we need to start the process of finding a new Architect all over again. <u>Page 3, Item 4</u> – Sara sent out a copy of the finalised budget to everyone and has re-sent it for this meeting. <u>Page 3, Item 5</u> – Jane had sent an email to Sonja who replied that it was not a safeguarding issue but an issue affecting the whole Church of England and Jane forwarded Sonja’s email to all PCC members. <u>Page 4, Item 8b) Knit and Natter</u> – Marian had spoken to Patricia who says that she pays £10 each week to have the tables and chairs put away and there is no spare money available to donate to the hall. <u>Page 4, Item 8f)</u> – Jane to ask Mo if she asked John Johnson to promote Eco Church with a copy of our Bronze Award on the front of the website. <u>Page 5, Item 8f)</u> – Car sharing – decided not to offer this in a formal way but people can offer friends lifts on an ad hoc basis. <u>Page 5, Item 9a)</u> – Jane had done a Chalice Assistant certificate for Marian which was presented to her at a 10am Eucharist. <u>Page 5, Item 9c)</u> – Jane has advised Linda Wainwright that the Walsingham trip was discussed and is now covered by the church insurance. <u>Page 5, Item 9c)</u> – Churchwarden to replace Chris. Chris said it is important we start thinking about Churchwarden(s) to replace him and he will stand up in a Sunday service to say what is involved. Jane said that Sarah may be interested and suggested Chris talks to her.	JC CG

		<u>ACTION</u>
4.	<p>Finance Report (10 minutes)</p> <p>Sara gave the following report: “Further to the financial overview reports as at 31st December 2023 sent to you all, we are currently under budget in the following main income areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planned Giving (Standing Orders & Parish Giving Scheme) - £28,709.84 (budget £30,000) 2. Fundraising - £7,029 (budget £10,000) minus outgoings of £1,240 - <u>£5,789 net</u> <p>We are currently over budget in the following main expenditure areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Parish Share for 2023 is £66,200 but we have only been able to pay £16,550 against this and £11,020 relating to our shortfall in our payments for 2022. Our quota for 2024 is £69,425. Last year we budgeted £77,220 for the quota (£66,200 for 2023 and £11,020 for 2022) however, for 2024 it is decided that we will not bring forward any shortfall to the new year as this figure will just continue to rise and rise if we cannot keep up our payments. • Our budget for 2024 estimates a deficit of £47,580. This is a very worrying situation as we will have to find more income streams or default (in part) on our quota. <p>Here are some figures which you may find of interest: In September 2022 our regular giving total was £2,184 (Standing Orders & Parish Giving Scheme). in April 2023 (following our Stewardship Campaign) our regular giving total amounted to £2,531. In December 2023 our regular giving total amounted to £2,104. We are looking at a downward trend in our giving. During 2023 eight people/families have joined the Parish Giving Scheme and seven people/families have left the Parish Giving Scheme. If any of you are still making your regular giving by bank standing order, please do change to the Parish Giving Scheme as this means less administration for us and the quick receipt of the tax refund. A quote for fitting blinds to the windows in the Church has been obtained. It amounts to £11,500 and it is proposed that the Church contribute 50% of the cost and the remaining 50% will be paid by Waterloo Music Festival. The funds will be taken out of our Legacy Account which currently has a balance of £10,136. I, therefore, propose this, would someone like to second it? All in favour?</p> <p>Any questions?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People asked how the Diocese arrive at the figure for our Parish Share and Sara will enquire about this as she doesn't have a breakdown. • Discussion took place about the cost of providing blinds in the church at £11,500. If WMF agree to pay half which is unlikely then would the PCC be happy for the other half to come from the Legacy Account. A vote took place - 4 in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions. Accordingly, the PCC have decided not to use some legacy money for the proposed blinds. 	SP
5.	<p>Safeguarding Report (5 minutes)</p> <p>This report received from Sonja was circulated to PCC members on 30th January 2024. There were no questions.</p>	

			<u>ACTION</u>
6.		<p>PCC Values – discussion (15 minutes) We had a discussion about preparing for Fr Colin’s return concluding with the following unanimous declaration.</p> <p>We are united as one that we wish him to return as soon as humanly possible and tell us what we can do to help him.</p>	
		PRAYER BREAK (5 minutes)	
		This was led by Chris.	
		Committees and Reports <u>ONLY</u> to approve any proposals (20 minutes)	
7.	a)	Charity Treasurer’s Report & Confirmation of 2024 Retiring Collection charities	
		<p>Lynne emailed Jane with the following report: “The December collection for the Children’s Society was £181.80, £85 of which was raised at the Christingle service. There is also an additional £25 which was paid via the card machine but I am informed there will be charges deducted but I don’t yet have that information. Malcolm may be able to tell you. I don’t yet have the January figure”.</p> <p>Malcolm said the card machine charges will be very little around 1 or 2%. Malcolm said he doesn’t yet have the January figure.</p>	
	b)	Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report	
		Not met.	
8.	a)	Pastoral Committee	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 29 th January have already been circulated.	
	b)	Church Hall Committee	
		<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January have already been circulated. Chris said he was asked to bring up at PCC the possibility of selling the Hall as it is losing money every year and lots of people work extremely hard to just break even. People do not wish to use old church halls any more for, for example, children’s birthday parties.</p> <p>If developers bought the plot and built flats we could see if we could use the lower floor as a community café or bookshop to bring income into the church. Chris said most of the churches he visits with High Tide for the young people do not have separate halls. There is no reason why we could not use church for the majority of activities the hall is used.</p> <p>Sara S said she thinks selling the church hall would be very short sighted.</p> <p>This is just a suggestion and needs a lot more discussion before any decision is taken.</p>	
	c)	Mission and Stewardship Committee	
		Not met.	
	d)	Families Ministry and Young People’s Ministry	
		<p>Lynn said the Sunday School is going well. She wonders whether PCC wish to hand out bookmarks on Mothering Sunday as we have done for the last couple of years. After discussion it was agreed to give everyone a bookmark and Lynn will go ahead and order them.</p>	LW

	e)	Social and Fundraising Committee	<u>ACTION</u>
		Minutes of the meeting held on 15 th January have already been circulated. It was thought a good idea to hold a Parish lunch after the APCM on 21 st April and this will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Social & Fundraising Committee on 19 th February.	S&F Mtg
	f)	Eco Church Group Committee	
		Not met.	
	g)	Deanery Synod	
		As requested Jane emailed Andrew Sheard at St James' Church Emsworth to see when we can expect the minutes but has not received a reply. Candy said she has received the minutes yesterday and will send to Jane to send out with these minutes.	CW
9.		Correspondence / AOB	
	a)	St George's Dragons	
		Chris said this started out very informally with the young people from St George's who come to High Tide to meet in someone's house. Rev Liz and Chris hosted the first 2 and a 3 rd took place last week with agreement from the Standing Committee. Everyone who has hosted is DBS checked and if the PCC are happy for this to carry on we will be covered by the Church insurance. The evening usually consists of food – burgers or pizzas, playing games, worship time and singing worship songs from the TV. Age group is 7 to adult. Parents drop them off. Anyone not DBS checked stays out of the way. This needs to be entirely supported by the PCC before any further events can take place. The PCC unanimously thanked Chris for organising this and thought it was a brilliant idea and are very happy to give their backing for it to carry on.	
	b)	Gift Day	
		It was proposed that the best time to do the 2024 Gift Day is September/October and this was agreed unanimously.	SP
	c)	Chairs on the Altar	
		A couple of the celebrating priests had very nearly fallen off the step in front of the altar and it was wondered whether the chairs could be moved down onto the flat. This is a decision for the Incumbent but it was agreed that if any of the Celebrants would feel happier moving the chairs onto the lower level for the service that they are leading that would be fine.	CG
	d)	Resolution B	
		At the last PCC meeting discussion took place as to whether we had discussed Resolution B since 2003 ie that the PCC would not accept a woman as Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge or as Team Vicar and this was carried by 7 votes to 6. Jane was asked to look into this further. Jane phoned the Diocesan Office who advised her to get in touch with the Bishop's Secretary. After a conversation with her she looked into this and told Jane that she could find no evidence to suggest we had discussed it since 2 nd October 2003. Lynn also found the PCC minutes when this was agreed. Chris has also spoken to the Bishop's Chaplain who said a letter had been sent in 2016 asking if we wished to discuss this again but Jane, who was PCC Secretary at the time does not remember any such letter. As we didn't discuss this in 2016 Chris said we are now no longer a Resolution church but we could have this discussion again as a PCC. If we still wished to be a Resolution church this would be known as an Episcopal oversight and would come under the Bishop of Richborough known as a flying bishop who is forward in	

			<u>ACTION</u>
		<p>faith.</p> <p>Chris suggested we park this until such time as the PCC wants to have a vote in the future. The appropriate time would be when we are next in vacancy.</p> <p>Until such time we continue to put the name of the Celebrant at each service on the Bulletin.</p>	
	e)	St George's Ladies Group Programme 2024 for insurance purposes	
		Jane proposed that the 2024 Ladies Group itinerary which Rosemary Monk had prepared be accepted so that they are covered for any activities under the church insurance. This was agreed unanimously. Jane will let Rosemary know.	JC
	f)	Fundraising Training Seminar for Parishes at St George's	
		This is being held at St George's on Wednesday 21 st February from 6.30 to 8.00pm and is being run by David Cain and Catherine Gray. This has not been publicised in church and Chris will speak to David about it.	CG
	g)	African Palms / Palm Sunday / Lent Lunches	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane had received literature from African Palms Ltd and wondered whether any are needed for Palm Sunday or whether we still have enough. Jane was asked to find out from Alex what we have left. Sue asked whether we want Dexter to be employed again for Palm Sunday. This was agreed and Sue will organise this and Alex will be asked to put something in the Bulletin asking for donations. Lent lunches will be held on 5 Wednesdays during Lent. There is a sign up sheet for helpers and people to make soup on the table at the back of church and Alex will be asked to put a note in the Bulletin inviting people to come along for lunch. 	JC JC JC
	h)	State of Remembrance Garden	
		Jane had an email from a member of the congregation regarding the state of the memorial garden which she says is beginning to look like a builders yard and is making her quite upset when she visits. Chris will talk to Glynn about this.	CG
		Date of Next PCC Meeting	
		The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 (to agree accounts) in Church at 8.00pm following the 7.30pm Eucharist.	ALL
		Closing Prayer – The Grace	
		There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.	