

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 8.00PM IN CHURCH**

Present: RevLiz Quinn (Chair), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod)(co-opted), Sarah Canham (Deanery Synod), Mo Peters, Marian Haughton, Sue Hodgens, Dawn Hyett, Sara Schillemore, Lynn Winter, Sara Pask (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

Invited: Rev Sandra Edwards

Co-opted: Malcolm Brewer (Hon Assistant Treasurer)

		<u>ACTION</u>
	The meeting started at 7.30pm with music, reading and prayers led by Rev Liz.	
1.	<p>Apologies for absence: Fr Colin Lawlor, Chris Gadd (Churchwarden), Anne Morgan, June Diaper, Alice Pitney</p> <p>Did not attend: Patricia Byrne</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last PCC meeting on Wednesday 4th October 2023</p> <p>Rev Liz read out the following from Chris Gadd: "On AOB there is an item at point 10(a) concerning putting the names of celebrants on the Bulletin. I would like to add that during the course of discussion I pointed out that we had previously agreed as a PCC to accept a female curate and that to limit Rev Liz to only one of the two Sunday services (or to in any way dictate this) was counter to that decision. As regards the vote (which concerned whether we should include the name of whoever is presiding on the Bulletin), I think it is better to record that whilst we did not note the exact numbers, there were a number of abstentions (and one vote against) but a majority in favour".</p> <p>Nobody at the meeting could remember a discussion at a PCC meeting specifically to accept a female curate and had trouble in understanding what Chris was trying to get at with regard to Sunday services. Jane was asked to look into this.</p> <p>The minutes were then agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>This then led on to the Resolutions (A, B and C) passed by the PCC regarding female clergy and Jane was asked contact the Diocese to check what Resolutions were actually agreed and when was the last time this was actually reviewed. This will go on the Agenda for the next PCC meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Page 1, Item 3 – Architect</u> – Jane has still not received the name of our Architect from Chris.</p> <p><u>Page 4, Item 7e) Gift Day</u> – it was agreed that September/October is a good time to have the Gift Day which was changed from March/April as it clashed with the Bishop's Lent Appeal. As we didn't have one this year this will go on the agenda for the next PCC meeting so we can decide on a date for 2024.</p>	<p>CG</p> <p>Agenda 31.1.24</p>

4.	Finance Report and 2024 Budget (15 minutes)	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>Sara gave the following report: "I hope that you have all received a copy of the November 2023 Financial Overview. The main points are as follows: Income: 1. Green and pink envelopes are over budget at a total of £2,400 2. We have final caught up with our Gift Aid reclaims and have received £12,300 which takes us up to the end of Quarter 3 2023. 3. Loose plate collections are above budget at £3,700 4. Donations are down against budget at £2,000 5. Church hire is over budget at £4,700 mainly due to the hire of the Church by Waterlooville Music Festival this year.</p> <p>6. Fundraising is below budget at £4,400 but this does not include the Christmas Bazaar. Expenditure 1. As at the end of November we had paid £22,000 of our Parish Share which is set at £66,200 for the year 2023. We will be making a further payment of £5,520 in December which will leave us owing £36,680 at the end of the year. 2. Gas and electricity continue to be very expensive and we had to revise up our budget for 2023 to allow for this. The PCC are now paying both the church and the hall utilities due to lack of funds in the Hall account. 3. Church grounds expenditure of £860 is above budget due to us having three visits this year by the pest controller (re Rats) at £180 per visit. 4. Music Support expenditure which, at the moment, covers paying for deputy organists and additional musicians for special services stands at £930 at the end of November but this figure will increase by the end of the year to approximately £1,250 which will be above budget. Although the total expenditure to end of November appears to be well within budget, please bear in mind that we have a liability to the Diocese in respect of this year's unpaid portion of our Parish Share. Film Club As the initial funding and subsequent income of this fund is designated a "restricted fund" and it currently appears in the general PCC current account, we had to find a way to extract this fund from the current account so that we do not appear to have more money available than we really do. Therefore, a separate bank account has been opened with the HSBC bank to hold the current Film Club assets. Any questions? There are a few items that need to be approved by this PCC today as follows: 1. To agree that the 2023 budget for Music Support may be exceeded by approximately £250. <i>This was proposed by Sara Schillemore, seconded by Sue Hodgens and agreed unanimously.</i> 2. With effect from 2024 we will incorporate in the Director of Music's salary, six weeks leave deputy organist cover and payment for ten special services throughout the year. As we are currently paying our Musical Director below the RSCM official rate, it is proposed to increase his payment for playing at a church service to £61 per session and to conduct weekly choir rehearsals to £33 per session which equates to an annual salary of £5,148. We will only allocate costs for additional musicians to Music Support.</p>	

			<u>ACTION</u>
		<p><i>PCC agreed that due to our financial situation any funding for additional musicians should come solely from the money made at David Cain's August concerts. Work on what was made at the 2023 concerts as to what he can spend during 2024. Proposed by Malcolm Brewer, seconded by Lynn Winter and agreed unanimously.</i></p> <p>3. To agree the new Parochial Fees for 2024. You should have already received copies of the draft fees for 2024. The fees which are set by the Bishop's Council for payment to the Portsmouth Diocese will rise by a pound or two. There are a few "in house" fees that it is proposed will rise in 2024 i.e. Organist's fee for a marriage service to £175, flowers for a wedding to £50, funeral travel costs to £154. <i>Proposed by Malcolm Brewer, seconded by Mo Peters and agreed unanimously.</i></p> <p>4. To agree the draft budget for 2024 put together by the Fabric & Finance Committee. You should have all received a copy of these previously by email. With reference to the Music Support cost centre, the committee suggests a nil budget due to our financial situation, and that any costs due in this area should be covered by the funds raised by our Musical Director at the August lunchtime concerts if he plans to hold them again in 2024. However, if this PCC decides that there should have an official budget for Music Support then that is the PCC's prerogative but our financial situation should be born in mind". <i>This was agreed and Sara will send out a copy of the finalised budget to everyone.</i></p>	SP
5.		Safeguarding Report (5 minutes)	
		This report was circulated to PCC members on 19 th December. Sara S said should we think about children who may express a gender preference as this is a big topic in the news at the moment. Jane to speak to Sonja to see if the Diocese/Church of England have a view on this.	JC
6.		PCC Values – reflection on interaction (15 minutes) Due to time constraints we did not do this.	
		PRAYER BREAK (5 minutes)	
		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: "£146.27 was collected for Let the Children Live during October. £70.73 was collected for Age Concern Cowplain during November"</p> <p>The Retiring Collection Charities for 2024 had already been circulated to the PCC for comments. Several people had said they would rather not support the RSPCA so Sue had suggested changing to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. <i>It was proposed we accept the Retiring Collection Charities for 2024 by Candy Williams, seconded by Marian Haughton and agreed unanimously.</i></p>	
	b)	Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 20 th November have already been circulated.	

8.	a)	Pastoral Committee	<u>ACTION</u>
		Minutes of the meeting held on 30 th November have already been circulated.	
	b)	Church Hall Committee	
		<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November have already been circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the meeting it came up as to whether Knit and Natter as a church group are able to make a donation to the Church for heating and lighting in the Hall as other church groups do. PCC voted on whether to ask Knit and Natter - <i>proposed by Dawn Hyett, seconded by Sue Hodgens and agreed with 1 abstention.</i> Marian will have a word with Patricia. • Fiona had been asked whether we would hire the Hall out on Boxing Day. Sara S said it could make us quite a lot of money but PCC agreed that we are all volunteers and should not be expected to do this. Fiona would like it advertised on the website that we do not hire out the Hall on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter Sunday and other discretionary days and this was agreed. Jane will ask John Johnson to put this on the website, 	<p style="text-align: center;">MH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JC</p>
	c)	Mission and Stewardship Committee	
		Not met.	
	d)	Families Ministry and Young People's Ministry	
		<p>This report has already been circulated on 18th December. Mo said that we know about High Tide but she had seen on Facebook that St George's Church Waterlooville Dragons had met for their last meeting of the year at Chris' house. Everyone agreed that this was really good news but has safeguarding issues and has not come through the PCC. Rev Liz will speak to Chris and Sonja about things that need to be put in place – public liability insurance, safeguarding etc. This will be taken to the Standing Committee if the Dragons next meeting is before the next PCC meeting on 31st January.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rev Liz</p>
	e)	Social and Fundraising Committee	
		<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November have already been circulated.</p> <p>A huge thank you to anyone who helped in any way at the very successful Bazaar on 2nd December.</p>	
	f)	Eco Church Group Committee	
		<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November have already been circulated.</p> <p>Mo said there are several things that need PCC approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that we have 2 large planters either side of the lych-gate which Toddlers could plant with herbs, bulbs, fruit and veg etc and the community could also help themselves. Hope to ask John who made the bird/bug boxes. Would like permission from PCC to get these 2 planters – <i>proposed by Sara Pask, seconded by Marian Haughton and agreed unanimously.</i> • Creationtide starts at the beginning of September and goes through to Harvest. Ask Linda Smith to do a talk in the sermon slot on a Sunday on her bees, invite Rachel Houlberg from the Diocese and try and get someone from the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. We would like PCC's permission to try and make this happen. Rev Sandra said anything to do with worship needs to go through the Vicar. Promote Eco Church with a copy of our Bronze Award on the front of the website. Ask John Johnson to do this. <i>Proposed by Sue Hodgens, seconded by Malcolm Brewer and agreed unanimously.</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">MP</p>

		<u>ACTION</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car Sharing – from an Eco viewpoint this would be aimed at using fewer cars as opposed to a pastoral need. Rev Liz had said there are a couple of new families without cars she thought might like a lift. You would need to change your insurance if you wanted to do this in a formal way. You can offer friends a lift on an ad hoc basis. Mo will look into this further. 	MP
	g) Deanery Synod	
	The notes of the meeting had been circulated on 19 th December. Candy said these were only the brief notes she had taken and the official minutes are not out usually until just before the next meeting. Jane to check with Andrew Sheard at St James' Church Emsworth to see when we can expect the minutes.	JC
9.	Correspondence / AOB	
	a) Confirm Marian Haughton as chalice assistant	
	Marian has been trained as a Chalice Assistant and has been doing it on a Wednesday morning and as an Anna Chaplain is also taking communion to nursing homes etc. This needs to be agreed by the PCC. <i>Proposed by Candy Williams, seconded by Sarah Canham and agreed unanimously.</i> It was felt it was a shame that Marian doesn't get a certificate from the Diocese as the Bishop no longer has to appoint chalice assistants so Rev Liz said it would be nice to do an in-house certificate for Marian and Jane was asked to do one.	JC
	b) Linda Wainwright has asked that the trip to Walsingham is covered by our church insurance. <i>Proposed by Marian Haughton, seconded by Lynn Winter and agreed unanimously.</i>	JC
	c) Jane read out the following email from Chris: "Dear All – at the last PCC meeting there was some discussion as to whether it was possible to extend my term as Churchwarden. After discussion with my family and much prayerful thought, I do not think it appropriate for me to continue past the agreed maximum time of this April (even if it is possible and I am not sure that it is). It is not healthy for me personally but also it is not healthy for our church that someone stays in post for too long. We as a PCC really ought now to be considering who might like to take over (preferably 2 people) such that they have a period of shadowing me before April comes around. Can we please give this some thought and start talking to likely candidates? KR C" PCC agreed that it is important that we start trying to identify and talk to people we think may be interested in standing for Churchwarden. It would be useful to have a copy of a Churchwardens job description for anyone who may be thinking about it – does St George's have one?. Sara S also suggested that Chris talks to the congregation one Sunday about "A day in the life of a Churchwarden" as soon as possible after Christmas to try and encourage people to come forward. Rev Sandra said that this is a legal position they are holding but not to dwell on that too much. Any ideas, interest feedback to Jane.	CG CG ALL
	d) Sarah C said as a church we need to know what is going on with Fr Colin particularly as Rev Liz is leaving us so soon. Rev Liz said that all she can really tell us is that Fr Colin has a sick certificate until the end of January but Chris and the Archdeacon are in regular contact with him.	

		<u>ACTION</u>
	Date of Next PCC Meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 , in Church at 8.00pm following the 7.30pm Eucharist.	ALL
	Closing Prayer – The Grace	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.	