

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, READING STREET

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday, 12th July, 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall

Item		Action
1	<p>OPENING PRAYER Revd Musindi opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Julian Hills, Finance Chairman, to the meeting. <u>Present:</u> R. Collins, M. Gerrard, S. Gough, J. Graham, M. Hawthorne, J. Hills, G. Silsbury, B. Wilson</p>	
2	<p>APOLOGIES: S. Flory, L. Kerton, S. Kerton, J. Lambert, F. Pearse</p>	
3	<p>MINUTES: The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 31st May were approved, proposed by M. Hawthorne and seconded by B. Wilson.</p>	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING: <u>Guatemala Family:</u> The “bucket collection” towards the cost of medical treatment for a young member of this family had amounted to £413.62. All appeals had been successful and the \$11,000 cost of treatment had been paid.</p>	
5	<p>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS: <u>Worship Committee:</u> Clarification on item 3: There will be a Family Service in October. <u>Item 4b:</u> Rogation Sunday: possible procession from the Church to the Farm. This had ceased earlier, because of the safety issue but the thinking was that this would be an Act of Witness for the village. <u>Future Services:</u> it was noted that there would be two consecutive Sunday evening Services on 24th September (following Gift Day on 23rd September) and 1st October (Sung Evensong). <u>Mission Committee:</u> <u>ACTS Funding:</u> It was proving difficult to obtain regular funding from the Church Commissioners, although individual churches had been very generous. Maggie Paddison’s ministry will not close at the end of this month but it is not known how long she will be able to continue. Bottom line is that the Commissioners want clear outcomes and will be looking for professional people to appoint. <u>Mission Action:</u> Meetings of the informal group are continuing. Plans for the first half of this year have been executed, with the consensus that this has been partially successful. The group are now planning some events that will look more like the old Voyagers events. The logo competition went reasonably well, with two winners, junior and adult. The “cuddly rabbit” will be presented to the junior winner in church this Sunday. Funds to the end of June now total £2,019 (which is an updated figure of £1,959 reported at the meeting). Mission Sunday will be on 10th September with lunch in the Community Hall following the Service, with the family from Guatemala. Special emphasis must be given on planning the event so that we engage properly with them and make them feel welcome. Advertise now to the congregation.</p>	PM

	<p>Messy Church: This has proved an excellent outreach activity, with more volunteers needed. The next Messy Church will be on 13th October.</p> <p>Welcome Pack: This had now been completed and copies will be in church from Sunday. They are intended for new, regular people.</p> <p>Fabric Committee: A verbal report was given by G. Silsbury. The fabric is being maintained in good order and the proposed new membership of the Fabric Committee will include people with practical skills. The boiler is now fully functional and the kitchen tap repaired. The Parish Office team will be asked to keep a log of problems noticed or reported to them, so that these can be quickly attended to. A small team continued to clean the Hall every Monday and there is a need now to re-paint the walls. Thanks were expressed for new chairs which had been given to the church.</p> <p>Phase 3: an estimate had been obtained for the kitchen but this was not satisfactory as the contractor was only interested in installing a commercial kitchen. The estimate was in the order of £25,000. A user group will be put together to see what kind of kitchen was needed according to how we want to operate. It may be better to buy a basic well-made kitchen rather than one which will “look nice”. A commercial dishwasher is however planned. There is some urgency now to show progress after having the Diocesan loan deferred to enable Phase 3. This will be on the Fabric Committee Agenda.</p> <p>Replacement vertical blinds in the Upper Room: M. Gerrard was thanked for obtaining a favourable cost, with free fitting, but this had still come in at £1,000 which was difficult to justify at this time, especially as the blinds can be re-furbished. It was thus agreed not to proceed with new blinds.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>GS</p> <p>GS</p>
6	<p>PCC AWAYDAY, 8TH JULY</p> <p>Revd Musindi thanked Hilary and Julian Hills for their hosting of the Awayday at the Living Well, Nonington. However the purpose of the Awayday had not been made clear and this needs to be better explained in future. Outline slides and flipchart summaries were circulated to those who had been unable to attend and members asked to inform Janet Graham or Revd Musindi of any ideas or comments they had. The outcomes will be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Mission Committee and will become part of the Mission Plan in due course.</p>	<p>JG</p>
7	<p>SAFEGUARDING: In S. Flory’s absence, it was understood that some people were awaiting checks and that Sue had had trouble in some cases in getting details. It was noted that the Diocese is currently offering training for Safeguarding.</p>	
8	<p>FINANCE: The Finance Committee Chairman, J. Hills, took the meeting through his report. The main item for discussion had been the Parish Share. The increase of £9,000 from 2022 to 2023 was a lot of money and a letter of concern had previously been sent to the Diocesan Secretary, Stephen Taylor. A new system of assessment proposed by the Diocese for 2024 would link the amount of Parish Share to the amount of money the church received; the more people gave, the more the church would pay for the Parish Share, in effect</p>	

	<p>acting like a tax on generosity. In practice, this would mean that money given towards, say, the kitchen upgrade, would be taxed equivalently. Another letter has been sent pointing this out, but no response has yet been received. A reasonable increase needs to be set; the Parish Share review by the Diocese in 2020 had agreed that the Parish Share should not increase by an excessive amount, with a cap for 2023 of 6%, which seems to have been ignored. The new formula for implementation next year had been discussed by the Diocesan Synod and had been voted out, so as far as we are aware, the 2020 revision still stands. (There will still be a review of Parish Share but will take time). Consequently, the original amount of £7,000 which the Treasurer had intended to pay in June will be reduced to £4,000. If there is a surplus, the Finance Committee felt it should be for St. Andrew's, and not given to the Diocese. The church is needing funds for urgent items such as replacing/repairing the heating, and servicing the organ.</p> <p>R. Collins then updated the meeting on the current status of accounts as follows:</p> <p>Current account: £16,510 Deposit account: £14,081 Hall: £ 9,272 Cash in hand: £ 177</p> <p><u>Quota</u>: Half-year payment of £35,000 has been made. If we pay the Quota at the 6% increase, this will take us up to £70,000 for the year, which can be justified by the motion to cap at 6% agreed in 2020 not having been rescinded. It was agreed that whatever we don't pay to the Diocese will be ring-fenced.</p> <p><u>Gift Day</u> is scheduled for Saturday, 23rd September and the purpose was decided on as being for the Phase 3 upgrade.</p> <p><u>Gift Aid</u>: the first payment under the direct HMRC system has been received and the last payment via the Diocese expected in September.</p> <p><u>Finance Committee Terms of Reference</u>: Acceptance was proposed by M. Hawthorne, seconded by G. Silsbury and passed unanimously.</p>	
9	<p>SUCCESSION PLANNING: This item was looked at during the Awayday and will form part of the Mission Committee's review (see item 6 above). There are currently four PCC vacancies - it was also noted that people don't understand the role of the PCC and communication needs to be improved. A presentation on what the PCC does and why it is important was suggested, along with getting people to speak to us, especially if they have a particular skill.</p>	
10	<p>COMMUNITY HALL: Doing well. The number of hirers is steady although storage is still insufficient, with other storage possibilities being explored.</p>	
11	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wi-fi issue reported in the Hall has now improved. • Mission Action: Peter Gough's sponsored run on 19th August: agreed to set up a "Just Giving" account to enable electronic sponsorship. • Next meeting: Wednesday, 13th September 2023. 	SG/RC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 8.50 p.m.	
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