

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, READING STREET

### Minutes of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church

Item		Action
1	<p><b>OPENING PRAYER</b>                      Revd Musindi opened the meeting with prayer.  <u>Present:</u> R. Collins, S. Flory, M. Gerrard, J. Graham, J. Hills, L Kerton, S. Kerton, J. Lambert, M. Hawthorne, Rev Musindi, G. Silsbury, B. Wilson</p>	
2	<p><b>APOLOGIES:</b> S. Gough, F. Pearse</p>	
3	<p><b>MINUTES:</b> The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved, proposed by R. Collins and seconded by M. Hawthorne.</p>	
4	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b>  <u>Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting:</u> This had not attracted many people and at the Mission Committee meeting it was proposed and agreed that the Bible study groups would end with group prayer, as a start towards increasing the prayer life of the church. In the meantime, the Sunday morning prayer group would continue to be scheduled at 9.30 a.m. Philip to give new wording to Richard for the newsletter. Sharon also to be alerted for the website.</p>	PM/RC SG
5	<p><b>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b>  <b>Worship:</b> The Christingle Service is getting ever more popular and last year's was crammed. Suggestions were made of making this a ticketed event, or relaying it into the Community Hall. The latter suggestion had more support, and experiments with a laptop and camera would be tried.                      It was agreed that 17<sup>th</sup> March would be Stewardship Sunday, with Gift Day again in the autumn.  <u>Confirmations:</u> Philip is very pleased with the way the candidates have responded. The Confirmation Service will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, Bishop Rose presiding. Candidates will be given Bibles and Sue Flory will do the lettering on the labels. Pauline Jackson is willing to help organise and advise with provision of refreshments and a small group will meet with her and Philip next week.</p>	GS  SF PM
	<p><b>Mission: Succession Planning:</b> Various people as mentioned in the Minutes have been approached without much success. M. Rodd will be asked if she would consider being a member of a sub-committee and attend PCC meetings when she is able to. There is a pressing need for another Churchwarden – the high profile role may put people off and there may be a case for re-imagining the role. Everyone was charged with approaching people with regard to volunteering/PCC membership.</p>	JG  All
	<p><b>Fabric:</b> The proposed budget for 2024 has been passed to the Finance Committee and work has now been budgeted for. The Fabric Committee meet next week. In the meantime, work has begun on finalising the kitchen; contractors obtained to do the work, projected</p>	

	<p>for April. A specification and price with a flooring contractor has been agreed and it looks promising that the kitchen will come in within budget. Voluntary effort will be required for decorating, minor plumbing and electrical work, etc. The system of defect management is working well; hand dryers in the toilets have been replaced, plumbing leaks repaired and the blinds in the upper room repaired and tidied up. The internal fabric of the noticeboard outside the church has collapsed and it is now redundant. An offer is in progress from the Thanet Shed Team to make a new one.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>Julian took the meeting through the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and highlighted the following:</p> <p><u>Parish Giving Scheme (PGS):</u> Following a presentation by the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor and assistant, the recommendation was that St. Andrew's did not join the PGS at this time. Reasons were that this was done by Direct Debit on 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and it may not be convenient for people to pay then, depending on when people received salaries, etc. Also, annual increases could be applied automatically in line with inflation, taking away from the prayer and personal choice in paying the right amount for each individual. The money would be paid directly into the church's bank account monthly, and that, apart from getting us to sign up for this scheme, the Diocese will have no part in this scheme. (The Dioceses currently "own" the Parish Giving Scheme, but there is a proposal for the scheme to be taken over by the National Church), whereas the Standing Orders are paid directly from the individual into the church's Bank Account, thereby putting control with the congregation. The decision not to join at this time was approved unanimously by the PCC.</p> <p><u>Stewardship:</u> The Finance Committee wants to revitalise regular giving. The amount had become stagnant for some years and Stewardship Sunday on 17<sup>th</sup> March would be used to ask people to review their giving in light of their circumstances and to encourage people who were not yet regular givers. The Finance Committee agreed that the current Welcome Pack should be revised to include a section on giving and how this can be done.</p> <p><u>Contactless Card Giving:</u> The Diocese has given parishes the opportunity to purchase contactless card giving machines at a heavily discounted price. "Open churches" would benefit the most and if, as has been suggested, people could be given the opportunity to come into the church via the office, when this is manned, it would help our application. It would have to be sited well and have good signage. We have a problem with unreliable wi-fi and this would need to be tested first. Initial pick-up is slow and if this led to queues, it would put people off. A CCTV system would be beneficial, also to protect lone workers (office staff) as well as protecting items in the Church when open.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u> Julian took the meeting through the budget document, which he had pre-circulated. Last year had ended with a surplus of nearly</p>	

	<p>£21,000 and he acknowledged a real team effort which had achieved this. Income forecasts were a bit of a “stab in the dark” and the best estimates had been made. He pointed out new expenditure lines, including Vicar’s security (£200) and the kitchen refurbishment (£33,843). The Parish Share for this year was £75,265 which included the grant of £3,000 from the Diocese. £10,000 of our existing loan is repayable to the Diocese by 2026. Julian commented that some amendments to the budget still need to be made, <i>e.g.</i> choir and Messy Church.</p> <p><u>Hall Marketing:</u> Lee is planning marketing/relaunch of the Community Hall and it was agreed that to support him, this initiative would come under the Finance Committee.</p> <p><u>Hall Hire:</u> Hall users had been informed that hire rates would increase from 1<sup>st</sup> January but because the updated figures from energy providers came in right at the end of December, it was agreed to postpone the rate hike until 1<sup>st</sup> April. Richard will let users know.</p>	<p>RC/JH</p> <p>RC</p>
7	<p><b>SAFEGUARDING:</b> DBS checks are being renewed where necessary. Sue is attending a Safeguarding meeting on Zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> January.</p>	SF
8	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b> Authorisation from the Bishop to assist with holy communion was updated at the end of December, 2023, signed by Philip as her representative and by Janet to signify PCC approval. This was done by email on 5<sup>th</sup> December and those re-authorised are:</p> <p>R. Collins – Chalice Administrator  J. Graham – Chalice Administrator  M. Rodd - Chalice Administrator  G. Silsbury -Chalice Administrator  D. Springett-Chalice Administrator and home communion  P. Springett- Chalice Administrator and home communion  J. Vince - Chalice Administrator and home communion  J. Hefford - Server  S. Pritchard – Server  B. Wilson - Server</p> <p>With no other business the meeting closed with prayer from M. Hawthorne at 8.45 p.m. Next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, last before APCM.</p>	