

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2023

Present: Revd Alan Comfort, Gill Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Robin Brown, David Chaplin, Rachel Daniels, Claire Driver, Chris Gibson, David Gill, Margaret Mellor, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Teresa Rose, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker, Chris Yule.

Apologies: Mary Odam

David Gill opened the meeting with prayer.

23.34 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 11th May were approved (with minor amendments) and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters arising: 23.33 – Details of defibrillator costs had been circulated and there was discussion on whether we should purchase one for indoor use or public access. **The PCC agreed** to purchase one to be fitted in the hall lobby initially, while the Standing Committee would investigate the issues around installing it outside at a later date (power source, location, permissions required etc)

Minutes of the Standing Committee of 1st/5th June re the use of Dumbarton Road Scout Hall were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Notes of the special PCC Meeting of 25th June re the use of Dumbarton Road Scout Hall were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

23.35 Correspondence

Letters of thanks from:

- A Rocha UK for a donation of £50
- 4YP for donation of £278.65 raised at the April quiz
- Bishop Martin for our Parish Share contribution of £67,813

From Diocese – information about the project to digitise Diocesan records. Ruth Silburn, Tim Oxbrow and Hilary Platts to meet to discuss what is required.

23.36 Vicar's items

- The PCC wishes to record our thanks to Marion for her loving and enthusiastic service as Associate Minister of St. Andrew's over the past several years. We also note in writing our wholehearted support of Bishop Mike's decision to grant Marion a PTO Licence (Permission to Officiate) for the next two years.

As Marion would no longer be an ex-officio member of the PCC **the PCC agreed** that she would be co-opted.

- Communion: there was discussion about the possibility of returning to a shared cup as in many other churches. Although some felt personally willing to do so we would not want to deter those who were not ready from receiving communion. The PCC was asked to sound out any members of the congregation that they thought might feel strongly about it.

- Children receiving Communion before Confirmation: after discussion of what we currently do and how the current situation came about, **it was agreed** that the Sunday School Group and Revd Alan would look into the question and report back to a future PCC meeting. Anyone with strong feelings on the matter was also invited to talk to Revd Alan.

- St Andrew's Festival: a mission-focussed month of activities and outreach in June or July 2024 was being considered. It would celebrate and incorporate some of the things

we already do, but particularly involve families and children and try to reach new people. Anyone interested in helping form plans to speak to Revd Alan.

- Renewal of the Royal School of Church Music membership: **it was agreed** to wait until we have a Musical Director/Organist.

23.37 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising: The photocopier and gas contracts are still being investigated.

b) Income May-June 2023: Income from various events and donations was highlighted

c) Payments Schedule May-June 2023: It has been a lighter 2 months, and where possible payments have been made from Restricted funds. **The PCC agreed** that the initial hire of Dumbarton Road Scout Hall should be paid from the restricted Mission Fund.

d) Income & Expenditure to 30/6/23: Income is up 6% on 2022, but expenditure is up nearly 9%. The Deficit is up, but lower than expected. Giving (incl Gift Aid), Statutory Fees, Hall hire and Outlook advertising are all up, which is encouraging. Apart from Parish Share and Energy, costs are fairly well under control.

e) Balance Sheet @ 30/6/23: overall funds are down just over £8k

f) Lloyds Fixed-Term deposits: **The PCC agreed** that the Fabric Restricted Fund should benefit from the latest tranche of investment interest.

g) Other: The CofE's Generosity Week runs from 24th September to 1st October. **The PCC agreed** that this would be a good time to thank donors personally for their generosity and let them know how important their contributions are. The Treasurer offered to do this.

23.38 Stained Glass Window

A paper had been circulated outlining the current situation, but the potential donor has since reconsidered and the offer has been withdrawn. Revd Alan and the Wardens feel it is important to have guidelines to help deal with any future requests and ensure due process is followed, and they will draft some initial thoughts.

23.39 Dumbarton Road / Outreach activities

The decisions made by the Standing Committee Meeting of 1st/5th June were put to the PCC for agreement and **the PCC agreed**:

Resolution 1: St. Andrew's PCC agrees a change to the worship pattern with the stopping of our monthly T@4 Service on 3rd Sunday afternoons from July 2023.

Resolution 2: St. Andrew's PCC agrees to the hire of Dumbarton Hall from 5th Ipswich Scout Group, starting on Sunday 27th August 2023, and to include every Sunday thereafter from 3-5pm, on a rolling three-month contract to be paid in advance. The cost is £50 per week with a 25% reduction for advance payment of each three-month agreement. The PCC will review this arrangement every six months.

Preliminary plans - The first activity will be Messy Church, starting on 27th August, 3-5pm. There will then be a rolling programme of events starting at 3 month intervals - in November (some kind of food/warm space activity?), January (Shared service) and April (sport-related activity?). There is much still to be decided, some current activities may need to be dropped, and there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved in whatever way suits them!

23.40 Updates

Health & Safety: no report

Safeguarding: there are still 6 members of the PCC who need to undertake training

- The Contact form for Sunday School attendees was **approved by the PCC**. To be completed by all children and stored securely in the Vestry.
- Insurance for volunteers aged 80+: Tim clarified that they are covered for 'normal activities' but not for driving on church business or working at height, which people undertake at their own risk. The Health & Safety meeting will look into this matter in January.

Eco Church: There has been a good response to the lifestyle questionnaires, and Ruth spoke at the Environment Sunday service and a Parish Council meeting. The Youth Club has undertaken a wildlife survey and Ruth is doing a Churchyard Management Course. Good progress is being made towards a Gold award, although there is still work to be done on buildings and lighting.

23.41 Churchwardens' report

Teresa and David were admitted as Churchwardens at the Visitation at St Helen's Church on 7th June. Thanks to Tim for his ongoing support. The Quinquennial inspection was carried out on 11th May and report is awaited. Also awaiting a 3rd quote for the EICR report and certification. The lightning conductors were inspected on 23rd June and passed, and the hanging cross has also been inspected and deemed safe. The Wardens have made their annual inspection of church lands and churchyard, and a report will be passed to Kevin for the working party to consider. Thanks as always to everyone who helps with Open Door, the Monday working party, Lunch Club, social and youth activities.

23.42 Panel reports

Minutes of the Social and Pastoral Panels were presented. There were no questions.

23.43 Church events

Past events

13th May Parish Away Day: a very good day with lots of discussion and ideas
10th June Deanery Conference: several people attended
15th July Coffee morning: good attendance, including several new people

Future events

22nd July Fun day
29th July Quiz
August Wednesday Treats
27th August Messy Church

23.44 Any other business

Two incidents to be aware of:

- a complaint about noise from the Youth Club; not usually a problem. Revd Alan suggests people contact him if there's a problem in the future
- Rachel was confronted in the car park by someone with an issue about items removed from a grave. This is a Parish Council matter, and they and the police have been involved. The matter has hopefully been resolved and measures are in place to prevent a recurrence.

- Church noticeboard for the north entrance to the churchyard. Some details had been circulated and people were generally in favour. The Wardens will consider and bring to the next meeting.
- Sue Scotchmere has given up her role as hall cleaner, meaning the rota is down to just 2 people. Also she will not be doing the Ride & Stride this year. Please talk to Kevin if either of these opportunities interest you!

The meeting closed with The Grace at 10.05pm.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 21st September