

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2022

Present: Revd Sue Foster, Gill Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, David Chaplin, Rachel Daniels, Chris Gibson (on Zoom), Paul Hesketh, Bob Mellor (for item 22.32), Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Russell Scates, Sue Scotchmere, Chris Yule.

Apologies: Robin Brown, Gill Crisp, David Gill, Teresa Rose, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker.

The PCC was asked to approve the attendance of Margaret Mellor and Mary Odam as 'Invited to attend' representatives of the music-makers within church, in the absence of a Director of Music. Also that Penny Braybrooke, Families and Youth Worker, should be invited to attend the Vacancy and Parish Profile meetings. **The PCC agreed.**

Revd Sue opened the meeting with prayer.

22.22 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 3rd March 2022 and Standing Committee Minutes:

10th March: Shelving in the Hall lobby loft

15th March: Replacement of self-closing mechanism on Hall door

28th April: Fee for ringing bells at weddings

The minutes were all approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no Matters Arising.

22.23 Correspondence

- Certificate and letter of thanks from the Diocese for our contribution to the Parish Share
- Letter from Rugby Club apologising for poor stewarding of car park at event on 27th February; they will try to do better in future.

22.24 Administration of Holy Communion and Pattern of services

The following people were proposed for a 5-year period to administer the chalice at Holy Communion: Ros de Lapeyre, Margaret Mellor, Bob Mellor, Jill Pryke, Jim Ainslie, Dianne Davey, Meg Mateer, HilaryPlatts, Tim Oxbrow, Robin Brown, Ruth Silburn, David Chaplin, Keith Salmon. **The PCC agreed**

The Pastoral Panel is to reconsider re-starting Home Communion (Revd Sue has continued to offer this throughout the pandemic).

Pattern of services: the Ministry Team and Wardens have discussed having the option of changing the 3rd Sunday HC service to a Worship for All Service or Service of the Word, and the 10am Thursday service to Morning Prayer, to make best use of our Readers and Associate Priest. **The PCC agreed.**

22.25 Platinum Jubilee

The Working Group has held 2 meetings and another is planned. Celebrations on Friday 3rd June, 10-4, will include traditional games, historic vehicle display, local history display,

bacon butties and afternoon tea. There will be a quiz on Saturday 4th, and a special Jubilee service.

22.26 Prayer Tree

Maureen Reynel would like the money collected at Widge's thanksgiving service to be used to purchase a prayer tree (in wrought iron?), to go in the west end of church near the proposed new window. **The PCC agreed in principle** to replace the current prayer trees.

Also Mary Barnes would like to offer something in memory of Roger, and a replacement Gospel or Common Worship Lectionary were suggested.

22.27 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising

Energy Audit initial fee paid and data is being collated to send for audit; date awaited.

b) Income March-April 2022

- Appeals responses: £700.
- Donations: £300 from Lunch Club; £80 miscellaneous; £60 from Baptisms; £55 from Contactless payments plus £12 from on-line & car park.
- Roof Appeal: £7.5k from Weston Foundation; £40.9k from National Churches Trust (plus £8.8k in May); £1.2k from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.
- Events: £117 from Coffee Morning; £385 from Quiz.
- Gift Aid: £4k to general funds & £1.3k to Roof Fund.

c) Payments schedule March-April 2022

- £53.4k on Roof repair with final invoices from Maguire and Jacobs to come;
- £675 for window repair, with £425 claim payment from Ecclesiastical to come; otherwise, nothing exceptional.

d) Income & Expenditure to 30/04/22

- Deficit of £700 flattered by £3,000 donation from Ray Bell legacy, without which income would be £600 lower than 2021;
- changes across income categories, including loss of £3k PG;
- changes across expenditure categories, all down v 2019 except Parish Share & Insurance, increases v 2021 reflect greater activity;

e) Funds schedule @ 30/04/22

- Brown, Smith & Frost Fabric Designated now zero as used to cover 2021 Deficit.
- Toddler Group funds now included as per PCC's agreement.
- Organ & Music Fund reconstituted as per PCC's approval at last meeting.
- overall level of Funds has deteriorated by £3,589.

f) Hall hire charges

The standard charge is now £20 per hour, but for regular users (eg HOPE and Art Class) charges are much lower, as much as 50%.

The Treasurer would like to review these regular charges with a view to negotiating increases, particularly to cover greater energy costs; and also to review the RSPB session charge as lower numbers mean they are struggling to cover their costs.

The PCC agreed to the Treasurer re-evaluating Hall Hire charges for regular users and reporting back to the July PCC.

22.28 Updates:

Health and Safety:

The capacity for seating in the church and hall, which had been reduced due to Covid, has now increased to 270 for the church and 50 (plus event organisers) for the hall. Mask wearing is encouraged but not mandatory.

Safeguarding:

There are no safeguarding concerns. DBS checks are in hand, and there has been no further news about face-to-face training.

22.29 Churchwardens' report

- We are now very happy to have David Chaplin as Deputy Warden and he is shadowing the wardens at the 10.00 am service for the next few Sundays to 'learn the ropes'.
- The Archdeacon's Visitation is on June 22nd at 7.30 p.m. in our church when Tim and Teresa will be welcomed as the Church Wardens at St Andrew Rushmere. Hopefully a good number of our congregation will be able to attend.
- Since our last report we have received the news that sadly Rev Sue and Anthony will be leaving us in July for Sue to take up the post of Rector in Warminster. We have met with Archdeacon Rhiannon and the Area Dean and there will be a special PCC meeting to put plans in place for advertising the post as soon as we are able.
- All Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are up-to-date.
- The east window has now been replaced.
- Two vacancies for church hall cleaners have been advertised in Focus. If no one is forthcoming then we will have to seriously consider employing a paid cleaner to do this very necessary work. The hall and toilets have a lot of use and must be kept to a high standard of cleanliness. Thanks to Joan and Bob Batchelor and Anthony, who are stepping down and Kevin and Sue for doing this job over the years.
- Thanks to everybody who works so hard to keep the church, churchyard and car parks in excellent condition.

Thanks were proposed to Gill, who will be retiring as Warden at the Visitation.

22.30 Panel Reports

The following were confirmed as chairs of the PCC sub-committees (Panels)

Growth: Chris Yule Education: David Gill Social: Sue Scotchmere
Pastoral: Dianne Davey Parochial Giving: Tim Oxbrow Youth: Paul Hesketh

PCC members are encouraged to join at least one panel to facilitate collaboration between Panels and the PCC and to ensure Panels do not duplicate activities.

Outlook Group: The last 2 issues of *Outlook* have been well received and the content of interest to the wider community, but there was less advertising and costs were not covered. A support group is needed to keep it going, and Ruth has been approached to convene a meeting (Ruth, Kevin, Teresa and Andrew and Mary Duncan). **The PCC agreed** *Outlook* is a worthwhile outreach effort and should be continued.

Technical/IT group: A demo of live-streaming has been offered at a charge of about £40 to cover costs. David Chaplin would be interested in forming a group with Chris Yule, Kevin

and Claire to look into this and other matters around wi-fi, internet access and playing recorded music.

Former Music and Organ Panel:

- **The PCC agreed** the RSCM membership be cancelled, in the absence of an Organist/ Director of Music
- Sandy Lloyd has agreed to oversee the Music at Rushmere finances
- Chris Yule agreed to be link person between the PCC and Simon Clark

Youth Panel:

A 'Youth Alpha' course is being considered for older Sunday School/Youth Club members

Growth Panel

Lent courses and Eco-group had run successfully. Parish Away Day is on May 14th.

22.31 Church events

Thanks were recorded to the Platinum Jubilee planning group for their magnificent efforts.

22.32 Any other business

- ECO Church: good progress is being made towards the silver award. The Youth Group are enthusiastic supporters: they have made bird boxes and will undertake a Wildlife Survey during 'Churches Making Nature Count' week in June. Thanks to Penny and her helpers for their encouragement, and to Revd. Marion and Gilly for supporting the Climate Change course. We now have 4 team members registered with St Andrew's on the A Rocha website but would welcome some support and knowledge on completing the Buildings section as this is our weakest area.

Discussion took place about planting a tree for the Platinum Jubilee under the Queen's Canopy scheme. It was pointed out a faculty may be needed and it was agreed Ruth Silburn would be asked to research this and make a proposal to the next PCC.

- Church Directory: it was noted this is now very out-of-date, and the Pastoral Panel will discuss a revised edition
- Bob M. informed us that a leak has been discovered in the hot water tank in the hall loft. **The PCC agreed** that up to £1,000 could be spent on repair. Jean Yule will inform hall users that there will be no hot water for a short period.
- Friends of Rushmere Church scheme: Paul Hesketh has researched ideas for a scheme and his paper will be circulated for discussion at a future meeting.

Gill Ainslie pointed out that this was Revd Sue's last PCC meeting, and thanked her on behalf of the PCC and the congregation for all that she and Anthony have done for St Andrew's in the last 3+ years.

The meeting closed with prayers at 9.50pm.

There will be a meeting of the PCC (Section 11 Meeting) on 21st July 2022 at 7.30pm, and a full PCC Meeting on 28th July 2022 at 7.30pm.