

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2025

Present: Revd Alan Comfort, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Robin Brown, Rachel Daniels, Joan du Boulay, Chris Gibson, Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam, Hilary Platts, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker, Dave Yaroslaw.

Apologies: Gill Ainslie, David Chaplin, Claire Driver, David Gill.

Revd Alan opened the meeting with prayer.

25.01 The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 28th November were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record after the following amendment to item 24.50: it was not Mike Osborne but another organ builder who was interested in the relays.

Matters Arising:

24.49 Retrospective approval has been obtained from the Diocese for the replacement cycle rack

24.52 Projection screen to be discussed at March PCC meeting.

24.64 Clergy breakfast: a simpler range of food and a new rota are now in place. It was felt the name was misleading and it will just be called Sunday Breakfast in future. Many of the 10am congregation may not know about it and a piece will go in Focus in case they wish to come earlier and join in.

24.64 Carols by candlelight: about half of congregation took candles, and the amount of light from window candles and some ceiling lights was ample. Possibly investigate better candle holders for next Christmas.

Notes of a meeting held 11th December are confidential and do not appear in the published minutes. A copy is in the Secretary's file.

25.02 Correspondence: none

25.03 Ministry Team:

- Chris Yule is back on the Ministry Team, although not as a Lay Reader
- 6th February: meeting of the Suffolk Diocesan Evangelical Network at River Church, to which Clergy, Ministry Teams and PCC members are invited. The SDEN is an informal partnership of leaders from networks within the Church of England who hold to the received doctrine and teachings of the CofE. Revd Alan would like as many people as possible to attend.

25.04 May Festival

The planning group is meeting regularly. They are focussing on where the event will lead, and how people who don't currently come to church might be engaged eg Alpha, home groups, other activities. The use of Eventbrite for ticketing is being explored. Upgrading of the sound system may be required for the LCGC.

25.05 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising

- Charity Commission Registration on-going - Trustee Data forms all returned, CC guidance "The Essential Trustee" now issued and needs to be read before signing the Trustee Eligibility Declaration forms which Treasurer will supply.
- Potential Trustee training still under investigation.

- Listed Places of Worship scheme extended for another year.

b) Income November-December 2024

Donations: include £813 from SHCT for share of Ride & Stride; £71 from contactless and £300 online. Events: £710 from Murder Mystery evening, £400 from Patronal Supper. Interest: £1,019 from Lloyds deposits. Other: £721 electricity rebate from Scottish Power.

c) Payments schedule November-December 2024

Nothing particularly exceptional; late payment of Outlook Autumn edition due to printer invoice delay; low payment to Scottish Power for electricity in December due to rebate; early deposit payment for LCGC concert not included in 2024 accounts.

d) Income & Expenditure to 31/12/24

Income: up 7% from 2023; Giving is up 13%; Fees down due to no weddings; Hall Hire down due to loss of regular hirers; interest nearly double due to higher rates.

Expenditure: up 5% from 2023; Parish Share only up 3%; Power costs up due to new costly contracts.

Surplus: nearly £6K, up 50% from last year.

e) Funds schedule @ 31/12/24

Overall Funds total up nearly £23K due to generous Donations, with Designated up £12.3K and Restricted up £10.5K; looking very healthy.

Surplus of £5,987 needs to be allocated; the **PCC agreed** Treasurer's recommendation that £5K be transferred to the Unrestricted Reserve to maintain the PCC's policy of 4 months' expenditure being available, the remainder to the Youth Worker Fund. Figures are provisional at this stage.

f) 2025 Budget

The Treasurer thanked everyone who contributed information to be built into this Budget. Income is budgeted to be £101K, with Giving up 4% but other sources less; Costs budgeted to be £101.5K, up 7% with Parish Share only up £900 (1%); Operating balance is thus effectively break-even; but total expenditure budgeted to be £117K.

25.06 Expenditure authorisation: deferred again

25.07 T.V.Screen user policy

Screen now available. The Parish Council has produced a policy for its use. Kevin to clarify some points with them: wherever it says 'Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council is not liable' add 'St Andrew's Church'; will the Parish Council produce a separate agreement, or adapt the policy document; who will keep the agreement forms; mention users are responsible for their own CCLI Licences if they show films or play music; clarification on insurance cover required for laptops etc that are used with it.

25.08 Safeguarding Annual Report

The report was received and **approved by the PCC**. Local training at All Saints Kesgrave on June 16th, Bob will contact people who might join the session and try to block book places if possible or help people to book individually if necessary. Bob then gave an overview of the 5 basic R's of Safeguarding: Recognize, Respond, Report, Record, Refer.

25.09 Updates

Health and Safety: meeting on Monday 27th to review the past year and risk assessments.

Eco-Church:

Ruth has had to research and supply a lot of supplementary information towards the Gold award. She and Revd Marion have visited Colchester Road Baptist Church, to help them as they start their eco-journey.

25.10 Churchwardens' Report

- Thanks to all who decorated the church, helped with the Nativity trail and served at services over Christmas.
- Permission received from the council to cut back the oak tree in the car park, with Elizabeth Holdings paying half the cost.
- Statistics for Mission have been submitted.
- The tower clock is not working properly – to investigate if needs servicing
- A draft order is coming into force for a 20 m.p.h speed limit on Humber Doucy Lane between Rushmere Road and Playford Road.
- Ruth would like to thank everyone who has helped her since her accident
- Vestry and tool shed roof refurbishment: the Wardens are meeting with Nick Jacob. The quotation to remove the gully and replace the roof covering with a new membrane has been updated. **The PCC agreed to go with the cheapest option**, costing £34,006.50 (£40,807.80 inc. VAT). A faculty and planning permission will be required.

25.11 Panel reports

Mission and Giving Panel: there were no questions.

25.12 Church events

Christmas events had been well attended and much enjoyed.

Forthcoming events:

Jan. 25th Jan. Prayer Breakfast (Tear Fund)
26th Messy Church
Feb. 2nd United service at Colchester Road Baptist Church
9th Informal worship
15th Coffee morning
22nd prayer Breakfast
Mar. 6th PCC

25.13 Any other business

New chairs and refurbishment of the church hall; to be considered by the Standing Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm with prayers led by David Yaroslaw.

**The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 6th March 2025
This meeting will take place in the Vestry.**