

## **RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

**Apologies:** David Chaplin, David Gill, Dave Yaroslaw.

Revd Alan opened the meeting with prayer.

**25.14 The Minutes of the PCC meeting** held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 and of confidential agenda item 25.01 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

There were no Matters Arising which are not covered below.

**25.15 Correspondence:** notes of thanks received from Margaret Mellor and Mary Odam for the honoraria paid to them in recognition of their musical contributions to worship. (see Minute 24.55)

**25.16 Ministry Team:** there are no matters which are not covered elsewhere.

#### **25.17 May Festival:**

- Will be launched to the congregation on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>, including a display of posters for all of the events
- An A5 booklet is being produced for delivery within the parish
- There will be follow-on activities this year: Alpha, a Parenting Course and Discussion groups
- Ticketing: will be done through TicketSource. **The PCC agreed** that the booking fee will be included in the ticket price

**25.18 Projection Screen:** Revd Sue Foster had considered this in 2019 and her research was presented to the meeting, with images of how it might work and what it would look like. A screen and projector which would retract up to the ceiling for use in the new end of church had been considered, and an up-to-date quotation from AED was c.£7,900 +vat. A quotation of c.£2,800 +vat had been also obtained from them for an addition to the current sound system which would benefit the music group. **The PCC agreed** that AED should be asked for a demonstration of what was possible, and it was also noted that some rewiring and extra plug sockets might be part of this project.

#### **25.19 Feedback and response to the Alliance meeting:**

Several members of the PCC had attended the meeting of the Suffolk Diocesan Evangelical Network on 6<sup>th</sup> February, with Jago Wynne from The Alliance, but Alan explained the background for those who had not. He described the issues facing the Church of England regarding same sex unions, and the potential for a split within the Church. He proposed that the PCC should write to the Acting Bishop saying that:

- St Andrew's would not be willing to offer prayers of blessing for same sex relationships

- the PCC supports our clergy in seeking Alternative Spiritual Oversight from CEEC if they so desire
- the PCC would consider paying its Parish Share through the Ephesian Fund starting from a date the Diocese will be notified of, unless this issue is resolved beforehand.

**The PCC agreed** this course of action.

(More information can be found at <https://sden.co.uk> and <https://alliancecofe.org>)

## **25.20 Treasurer's Report:**

### **a) Matters arising**

- The 2024 Annual Accounts have been approved by our Examiner
- Charity Commission registration was paused while the 2024 accounts were finalized, but will now be continued. Chris is looking into Zoom training for Trustees offered by ACAT

### **b) Income Jan – Feb 2025**

Donations: include £2,000 bequest from Barbara Green, £145 from contactless and online, £90 from Ipswich Transport Museum for use of hall. Events: £242 from Coffee Morning. Other: £1,262 Listed Places of Worship vat rebate.

### **c) Payments Schedule Jan – Feb 2025**

Includes £1,112 for oak for tower louvres, CCLI Licences higher because of larger congregations, 2 months Parish Share.

### **d) Income & Expenditure to 31/12/24**

Income has stayed as reported at previous PCC, expenditure up slightly, so Surplus marginally down to £5,917.

### **e) Funds Schedule @ 31/12/24**

Overall Funds total as previously reported has increased by 20% on 2023.

### **f) Balance Sheet @ 31/12/24**

Funds side is identical to Funds Schedule with the addition of the Middleditch Endowment which has increased in value by £219.

Assets side shows big increase in YBS due to £20k donation, higher Debtors and lower Creditors.

## **25.21 2024 Annual Report and Accounts**

Sandy Lloyd has signed off the accounts, with a small number of suggested changes to the Annual Report to make items clearer. It was also decided to include the Safeguarding Report to the Annual Report for the first time, due to the high profile of Safeguarding in the CofE at this time.

The PCC approved the report with one minor amendment and pages 4 and 13 were signed and dated as required.

Thanks to Chris and everyone who participated in preparing the report.

## 25.22 Church Projects

It had been suggested that funds raised for the church by Social Panel activities might be put towards specific projects rather than just going into general funds. A fridge/freezer would be useful for Lunch Club and other events. It was felt integrated doors were needed and this would add to the cost and work involved. Kevin to investigate further and talk to Patrick who fitted the kitchen.

## 25.23 Updates:

Eco-Church The application for a Gold Award was unsuccessful, but a further 6 months had been allowed to make improvements. The Churchyard Management Plan needed some additional work and the Carbon Footprint (especially energy/heating/insulation) scores were not good enough. Worship, learning and community activities scored highly. More people need to be involved and the Eco and Fabric Panels need expanding – to be discussed at a future meeting.

Ruth Lloyd has offered to fund a Medicine Blister Pack recycling box, and **the PCC agreed** to try it out.

Health & Safety the Annual Fire, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Compliance meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January, and all Risk Assessments have been brought up to date. Thanks to Tim and the team for their diligent work on this.

Safeguarding 11 people undertook face-to-face training in February, and 3 more will do so shortly. All PCC members are now up-to-date with training, and in all almost half the congregation have some level of training. A recent incident where someone wandered into the Hall when Sunday School was taking place was discussed. Bob offered to contact the Fire Service for advice on what security measures could be put in place without compromising fire safety.

## Deanery Synod

Alan, Robin and Hilary attended Deanery Synod on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The theme was Estates Evangelism, and was related to the CofE's six-point strategy for reaching out to estate communities, particularly in deprived areas. After a brief history of the development of different areas of Ipswich, 3 Ministers spoke about some of the problems they faced on their estates, particularly low aspirations, housing and health problems, literacy and access to computers, and lack of transport, all of which could be barriers to faith and involvement in church life.

It was announced Graeme Knowles has been appointed Acting Diocesan Bishop until Bishop Martin's replacement is announced.

## 25.24 Churchwardens' Report

- Gill Jackson, Deanery Lay Chair, who was involved with Churchwardens' Breakfasts, died very suddenly on 1<sup>st</sup> March
- The clock has been serviced and is working well
- The tower louvres work is ongoing
- Hedgerow saplings donated by the Parish Council have been planted alongside St Andrew's Church Close
- Open Door continues to flourish and it is pleasing to see some visitors have started attending church and the Alpha course

- Parts of the vestry ceiling are very shabby and ought to be replaced when the external roof work is done – Kevin to investigate

## 25.26 Events

March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent course began
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pancakes and quiz
- 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer at Salvation Army, Woodbridge Road
- 9<sup>th</sup> Informal Worship
- 16<sup>th</sup> Concerts series begins
- 20<sup>th</sup> APCM
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Prayer Breakfast
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Messy Church
- 29<sup>th</sup> RTU book and jigsaw sale and refreshments
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

## 25.27 AOB

- Please could PCC papers (printed and electronic) be available at least 1 week before the meeting so people have time to read them?
- A reminder to put chairs and tables away properly in the hall
- Although money raised by Social Panel is usually split 50:50 between the church and a charity, **it was agreed** that all money raised at the Pancake and quiz evening (almost £300) could be given to Open Doors,
- Large print – extra hymn books were needed, and Hilary will purchase 3 more Mission Praise and look out for Hymns A&M (now out of print). Tim will print copies of the Bible readings in large print if required
- Sensor lighting by the hedge at the end of the path nearest the hall and the steps by the garden gate to be investigated
- TV screen in the Hall – all issues have been resolved and the paperwork from Hall users will be filed by the wardens.
- Photocopier users are requested to return any settings they change back to how they found them, as this sometimes causes problems for the next user and wastes paper.

The meeting closed with prayers at 10.15pm.

**The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, starting at 7pm**