

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2024

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

Apologies: David Gill, Chris Yule.

Revd Alan opened the meeting with prayer. He then welcomed Joan du Boulay as newly elected PCC member and also thanked Teresa Rose for all her hard work as Warden over the last 3 years.

24.21 The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 21st March were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising: Bishop Mike has given Paul Hesketh, Rachel Daniels, Kate Theobald, Penny Braybrooke and Jill Comfort 'permission to serve' Communion to our young people.

Minutes of the Standing Committee of 12th April re. Grass cutting in the closed cemetery were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minutes of the Standing Committee of 7th May re. Emergency lighting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. A quotation of £360 inc. vat had been received to proceed with replacements for the 2 original emergency lights and **the PCC agreed** this should be done asap.

24.22 Correspondence:

- Letter of thanks from FIND for the gifts of 'Real Easter Eggs', and for our ongoing support
- Certificate and letter of thanks from the Diocese for payment in full of our Parish Share in 2023
- Letter of appreciation from Roy Goulding for all the cards and support he has received from the church and thanks to Alan and Marion for the service, together with a donation in memory of Margaret – Treasurer has responded.

24.23 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising: Changes to the 2023 Report & Financial Statements as requested by the PCC were made prior to their display and presentation at the APCM.

b) Income March-April 2024

Donations: include £15,000 from an anonymous donor for "Local Evangelism"; £400 from Lunch Club for use of facilities; £188 from contactless, on-line and carpark; £240 for "Big Weekend" tickets - final cost £420.

Events: £506 from Quiz for Defibrillator housing - final cost of Defib. £556; May Festival: £4,085 from Concert tickets so far.

c) Payments schedule March-April 2024

Heavy Mission expenditure for Messy Church and May Festival; monthly cost of phones and wi-fi increased by £4/month; cost of Youth Club table tennis table covered by donations.

d) Income & Expenditure to 30/4/24

Excluding May Festival income and costs, Income is up 6% and Expenditure up 2%, giving a lower than expected true Deficit of £500.

Giving incl. Gift Aid up nearly £5k (27%); all other income lower than 2023 at this stage, apart from Interest, which has doubled! The Parish Share is up nearly 3%; Mission costs are mostly due to Messy Church; other costs mostly higher or similar to last year. The May Festival is breaking even at this stage, with more costs to come; the Tyler Designated Fund is unused so far, but Tricia wants it to be used for this purpose if needed.

e) Funds Schedule @ 30/4/24

Overall Funds are up £11.6K. An extraordinarily generous anonymous donation of £15K for Local Evangelism has been received. It was proposed by Tim Oxbrow, seconded by Ruth Silburn and **the PCC agreed** that the Mission and Messy Church Funds should be combined into a new Local Evangelism Fund. Chris will write to thank the donor on behalf of the PCC, and the PCC would like the donor to be informed periodically about how the money is being used.

f) Other matters

- Chris would like to write and individually thank those people who have increased their giving recently, and **the PCC agreed**
- Our electricity deal ends in Sept/Oct and Chris will be investigating new deals; the PCC may need to consider if we should choose a 'green deal' even if it costs more
- **The PCC agreed** that Chris should reinvest deposits at Lloyds Bank which are due to mature soon

24.24 Appointment of Sidesmen and women

The PCC approved the following list: Gill and Jim Ainslie, Joan and Bob Batchelor, Rachel Daniels, Dianne Davey, Joan and David du Boulay, Graham and Lorraine Leach, Meg Mateer, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Sue Scotchmere and Gloria Woolner.

24.25 Updates:

Health & Safety: New wind-up torches for emergency use have been purchased.

The PCC agreed that temporary Fire Exit signs will be displayed near the 3 main doors during the LCGC Concert. Risk assessments had been carried out for this and the Hope for Creation concerts, and Tim reminded everyone that assessments should be carried out, especially for church bookings. He also reminded that Performing Rights Licences were required for concerts and ideally church hirers should deal with the matter or else they would need to use one of our 6 licences.

Safeguarding: there will be a Safeguarding drop-in session at St Francis Church on 19th June – please let Bob know if you are interested. He is planning to organize face-to-face training later in the year (September at the earliest) and is hoping that at least one third of the congregation – particularly those doing Open Door, Toddler Group and Youth Club - will take part.

Lone working –we have a Lone Working Policy which people should be aware of and adhere to, especially those unlocking and locking the church, cleaners and

flower arrangers. The policy needs to be better promoted to those likely to be alone in church, and Bob will look into how to do this.

Eco-Church: A report on the work of the Net zero/Eco-Church group was presented. A trial plan for grass cutting in the 1856 churchyard has been devised, a meeting has been held with Revd Liz Fox re heating systems and Cathy Smith from SWT visited and suggested a trial cutting plan for 2 areas of the 1925 churchyard.

Two items require a PCC decision:

- The long-term implementation of the 1856 churchyard new grass cutting plan, use of church land adjacent to The Street/St Andrew's Close for wood/habitat piles, compost bins and hedgehog houses.
- To negotiate with the Parish Council and Norse re. the proposed change in grass cutting in the 1925 churchyard during May/June.

The PCC agreed to both proposals, although concern was noted about the possible visual impact of the 2nd. Signs to explain how the churchyard is being managed are to be produced, and the situation will be reviewed in September.

24.26 Churchwardens' Report

Heating: now the heating is off Bob will be speaking to the heating contractors regarding the small leak in the manifold. Any repair will be delayed until after the LCGC concert in case the heating is needed.

Memorial bench: a request has been received for a memorial (a bench or tree). There is a space for a bench in the 1925 graveyard which would replace a previous memorial bench which fell into disrepair and was removed. A Faculty wouldn't be required to replace like with like.

The PCC agreed for the wardens to make contact and suggest a bench, stipulating that it needs to be of appropriate quality and the Vicar would need to approve any wording to be placed on it.

Vestry/lobby/tool shed roof repair: an initial response and plans had been received from Nick Jacob with 2 options - a pitched zinc or tiled roof with some storage space. Other possibilities suggested were to replace the existing roof with similar materials or completely reconfigure or extend the parish room/tool shed/west door area. The point was made that longer-term considerations around making the building more energy efficient or installing solar panels should also be part of the discussion on the best way forward. **The PCC agreed** that a preliminary meeting between the Standing Committee and the DAC Secretary should be set up to discover in broad terms what might be possible.

24.27 Panel reports

Proposed Mission and Giving Panel: a meeting of representatives of various church groups and panels had been held to discuss combining the resources for prayer, mission and charity giving into one panel. **The PCC agreed** with the proposal and the remit and activities of the new group, and it was suggested that the fund-raising activities of the Social Panel could also be co-ordinated with this panel.

Standing Committee: It was suggested the terms of reference of the Standing Committee needed to be clarified.

24.28 Church events

The May Festival has been very successful so far and many people have attended a wide range of activities with more to follow.

Forthcoming events -

June

4th	Archdeacon's Visitation
8th	Coffee morning
11th	Alpha course begins (for 3 weeks)
15th	Sports Ministry Breakfast
17th	May Festival review meeting
23rd	Messy Sports begins (for 4 weeks)
29th	Prayer breakfast

July

13th	Fun Day
25th	PCC
27th	Prayer breakfast
27th	Quiz

24.29 AOB

- Date of APCM – 27th March 2025
- Martyn's Law – a new piece of legislation re safety in public venues: Mary Odam to find out more
- Parking outside church – there is still a problem with double parking and use of disabled spaces. PCC members are reminded to please use main car park if able to do so, bearing in mind personal safety at night. Road markings, use of cones and improved signage will be looked at.

The meeting closed with prayers and The Lord's Prayer at 9.40pm.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 25th July 2024.