**The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford**

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on**

**Wednesday 25 January 2023**

**Present**

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| Ruth Atkins (RA)  Bryan Eccles (BE)  Carolyn Whiting (CW)  John Boardman (JB)  Tim Jack (TJ)  Chrystal Poon (CP) | | Rev’ d Nick Weldon (NW)  Barney Stevens (BS)  Neil Rowe (NR)  David Lunn (DL)  Chris Nutman (CN) | |
| **Item** |  | | **Action** |
| 1.  1.1  1.2 | **Welcome and opening prayer and Bible reading**  The meeting started at 19:49  NW read the Church verse of the year Psalm 32v8 and gave his reflections. Members of the PCC followed with prayers. | |  |
| 2.  2.1 | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies were noted from: Anne Southwell, Tamsin Gilbert, Alison Lyndon, Pamela Carter Moore, Sue Lawton, Caroline Manders and Danni Grady. | |  |
| 3.  3.1 | **Conflicts of interest**  There were no conflicts of interest. | |  |
| 4.  4.1 | **Approval of minutes from the meeting held on 30 November 2022**  The minutes were approved, and NW signed them as an accurate record. | |  |
| 5.  5.1 | **Matters Arising**  CW apologised for the aggressive tone of what she said at the November meeting. Her apologies were graciously accepted by PCC members.  . | |  |
| 6.  6.1  6.2  6.3  6.4  6.5  6.6  6.7  6.8  6.9  6.10  6.11  6.12  6.13  6.14  6.15 | **PCC / staff team and wider governance structure** – NW  NW shared that we do not seem as at peace with ourselves and functioning well as a council  We are one PCC for All Saints and St Luke’s. We are a single parish with two churches. Two Churches which service Marcham, Garford and Frilford with their different needs and expectations.  St Luke’s and All Saints are at different stages of where they are and both do things differently which is a good thing. What each church needs is different and this is probably how it will be and there is some overlap. This is fine – this is church life. It can be tricky as both are managed by the same team. Our leadership together cannot pass at times without tension. There is bound to be friction as steering two ships from one harbour control with one captain and differing support roles.  What is required of us is understanding, lack of assumptions, with us being good team players, flexible, bringing the best out of each other from each of our vantage points.  Primary mission: to build God’s kingdom here across our parish.  TJ shared Ephesians 4 1-5 and led in prayer.  NW shared his thoughts on how to make the governance clearer across the two churches:   * PCC meeting to appreciate and review across both settings. * Other settings may not be as clear – leaders/preachers, music and worship, kids, Permission to Officiate clergy, staff team, vicar & wardens, youth and finance and admin. These all feed back to NW as vicar. * The staff team are employed by us to lead the operational side of things. Tamsin, Rob, Jill, Kate. * We have a St Luke’s team who manage the operational aspects of St Luke’s – CW, PCM, Ben and Debbie Flint. * As a PCC we periodically hear back from Jill and Rob. At each meeting we hear back from the finance team and PCM and CW for St Luke’s.   Need a bit more reporting from some of the other cogs – leaders and preachers team and staff team. NW to produce an annual cycle of reporting to PCC from various church groups: specifically Leaders and Preacher Team, Staff Team, staff members,  Look at having a Friends of St Luke’s group for maintaining the building and fabric of St Luke’s. CW to discuss with BE, and assess options.  JB: Will the Friends of St Luke’s be set up as a charity/ community group? NW responded this is being looked at. There would need to be a clear Memorandum of Understanding.  TJ: supports the general direction proposed and a Friends Group for St Luke’s and even for All Saints’. It would be good to have a system of periodic reporting from other group as long as it does not overload the PCC agenda.  NR: suggested having the minutes of the PCC and other meetings shared on the noticeboards of both church buildings.  TJ: both churches complement each other which is good.  CW: see both churches as one and the building of St Luke’s can be used for people of Marcham.  NW: need to be realistic and not too focused on the buildings, but be aware of how other people will view All Saints and St Luke’s. they are distinct entities, but we want to develop the complimentary partnership.  **Action: please think and pray about what has been shared.**  **Leaders and Preachers Team report**  Meets monthly on 3rd Wednesdays. The L & P Team consists of:  Nick, Jill, Rob, Kevin, Debbie, Tim, James G, James A, Martin.  L & P Team sets the preaching material and has done through to Easter:  Genuine Faith, discipleship in the Letter of James  Close Encounters of a Jesus kind… Mark’s Gospel  Over the last 6 months L & P Team have conducted the following in-house training…. Study to Sermon (tips for talks) and Contextualisation work…. who is listening and what are they like?  Sermon feedback and service leading feedback is always given. L & P Team have discussed the essays about Living in Love and Faith by Bishop Steven and Vaughan Roberts. | | NW  CW |
| 7.  7.1  7.2  7.3  7.4  7.5  7.6  7.7  7.8  7.9  7.10  7.11 | **Financial update –** BE  Christmas Giving income (after expenditure for items for some events): £1,088.76. The Christmas craft session had the largest financial contribution. Christmas tree festival did not raise any funding, although it was positive in many ways.  All Saint’s Christmas charities: Asylum Welcome and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Agreed the split would be a third each with church.  The Christmas Giving report will be shared with the minutes.  TJ: queried how much does All Saint’s and St Luke’s promote the charities. NW they are promoted but we could be clearer.  2022 year end – closed the accounts in December and balance everything. Now reviewing January figures.  Thirsty café: PCC committed a few years ago to give Thirsty £5,000. Had an initial £1,000 and are now asking for £1,900 for a better coffee machine. This was approved by the PCC.  MML winter project funding: we have sent £2,000 to Nicu and Lili. They have come up with a programme asking for £3,400. MML bank balance is £3,500. The Safari lunch should raise some additional funds. PCC approved the £3,400.  NW shared that him and NR are going to Moldova in April.  2023 budget – looking at a £10k-£15k deficit. Aim should be to raise more money and not rely on personal donations. Amazon Smile is stopping.  JB: suggestion to advise church members who have signed up to Amazon Smile that it is stopping.  NW: Friends of St Luke’s may be a possibility. | |  |
| 8.  8.1  8.2  8.3  8.4  8.5 | **Fabric update -** NR  All Saints church path  Path is in place and final part of putting in the resin is being planned.  Genesis One Project  Planning continues for this, and approvals awaited – hopefully will not need faculty. Electricity is in place and working. Planning to apply for an Arocha eco award. The school may also use the area for Forest school.  CW: St Luke’s would like to join where possible.  St Luke’s Church roof  Some of the wooden batons have failed and need to be replaced. A scaffold tower will be needed. The work has been approved (£618 including VAT). This will be completed by the end of February 2023 and is about 2 days work.  JB: suggested pre-ordering 10 tiles just in-case they are needed. This was approved by the PCC  Vaulted grave in the churchyard  A vaulted grave has opened up and the coffin can be seen. It has been made safe and in discussions with Parish Council for resolving. The proposal is to fill in the hole with soil and lay the two broken slabs back in place.  Reordering Project  NW: been in discussions with Christian the architect.   * Upstairs: an option for one toilet upstairs (by the office space) * Have looked under the stage and there is a Victorian wooden plinth so this increases the potential to reduce the size of the dais. * DAC visiting 23/2/23 – planning visit to review the plans. Also producing a statement of need. | |  |
| 9.  9.1  9.2  9.3  9.4  9.5  9.6 | **St. Luke’s**  - CW  Christmas was a very productive and positive time. 63 attended the carols by candlelight service. 32 at Christmas morning.  A baptism is planned for May 2023.  Looking at installing a toilet – the farmer at the neighbouring farm is ok running a water supply to the church boundary and having a water meter. Looking at fund raising opportunities for the toilet.  Church bell will need lifting and turning in the next five years.  Looking at a light for the church yard.  Looking at a programme of services for the year. | |  |
| 10.  10.1  10.2 | **Christmas Programme feedback**  **Action**: Please share any comments with NW.  JB: what are the plans for Easter and what can we learn from Christmas. NW will reflect on this. | |  |
| 11.  11.1  11.2 | **All age services at MCC**  Survey sent to church members - 45.6% said carry on there and 27.9% on special occasions.  NW shared a resume of the feedback:  I love the idea of the monthly all age service at the Marcham Centre.  Strengths: I believe it is important to be a light in the community. It's a great building and the seats are comfy. Parking is better, particularly for the disabled. Toilets are better. Refreshment serving is better.  Weaknesses: There is a lot of setting up and putting away. Sound and tech is not as good as in church. It's a bit small for what we need, and can be very noisy. You feel a bit crammed in. It costs to hire. I feel a bit of pressure to be out by a certain time. I don't believe we've had as many families joining us from the community as we had hoped. No space behind all the main seating for a unsettled child to be taken to like there is in church  Opportunities: It could be better advertised and communicated to the village. They services could be better tailored to the tech set up. I'm not quite sure where I'm going with this, but I think if we simplified the music /tech it might work better. There have been a few/a families/family who have been only been to services at the centre. I wonder if there would be greater opportunity to combine the services at the centre with community lunches/BBQs/picnics more infrequently. This could be particularly beneficial at the moment when some families are struggling financially.  Threats: Stopping doing the services in the MC could miss out on good community opportunities. Not stopping the services could find people becoming exhausted. Thank you for asking my opinion.    RA: suggested having a banner outside – church service and welcome to join. | |  |
| 12.  12.1  12.2 | **Safeguarding update** - RA  There are two on-going cases.  Shae Porter is now carrying out the safeguarding admin role and a separate email account has been set up for this purpose. | |  |
| 13.  13.1 | **Health and Safety**  No issues to report. | |  |
| 14.  14.1 | **AOB**  Foundation School Governor Vacancy  NW reported that Gordon Brown is standing to fill this vacancy. Approved unanimously. | |  |
| 14. | NW closed the meeting in prayer. | |  |
|  | The meeting closed at 21:35 | |  |

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 22 February 2023**, **stating at 7:45pm**