

**St Andrew's Church**  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Paul Edwards, Debbie McGill, Dinos Kousoulou, Ruth Mackay, John Tanner, Laura Bruce, Lowri Banfield, Tracey Jenkins, Alison Paing, Sue Saull, Louise Sear, Mark Thebridge and Irina Ponizova

1. Opening Prayer

1.1. The Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received from: Barry Snelgrove, Emma Oppong-Addai, Lekisha Atkinson, and Tony Leach,

3. Declarations of Interests. Alison Paing made a declaration regarding the agenda item concerning the restoration project and agreed to withdraw for this item.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by those members who were in attendance and would be signed at a later date.

5. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

5.1 Monuments. It was noted that the monument in question had been made safe and that the Council had agreed to fund the necessary works. Barry Snelgrove was thanked for his work on this initiative.

5.2 Holy Communion Assistance. The PCC agreed that 3 additional names should be submitted to Bishop Rob for approval.

5.3 Memorial Tree. Two options had been identified as suitable trees. A flowering cherry or crab apple tree. Irina Ponizova raised some concern over the longevity of these trees; however, it was noted that the plot was very shallow and would not support other varieties.

5.4 Church Opening working group. It was noted that the first meeting of the group was taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

5.5 Freedom Corner. The first meeting of this group was scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

6. Vicar's Report. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths presented his report. The PCC noted the personal affect the level of pastoral care needing to be offered by Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths was having on him personally. This was accepted as part of the important role priests have in supporting people through difficult times and challenges and the PCC agreed to continue to pray for him. It was hoped that through the opening of the Church building others might be able to pick up some of the workload from residents presenting themselves in Church on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The impact that Kate Ladd was having on children's and families work was noted and her limited time working whilst undertaking her studies was noted.

The PCC noted the continued work on researching the past priests of the Parish and the increased participation in Digital Ministry.

Tracy Jenkins was thanked for progressing the DBS checks and particular thanks was noted for the work John Tanner continues to undertake on maintaining the Roll of Honour, which has recently been very helpful for the Grammar School in tracing the founders of the Budgie Trust Fund at the school.

7. Safeguarding Issues.

Tracey Jenkins confirmed that the majority of PCC members have now obtained their DBS certificates and all others were being progressed, Other key Volunteers will be going forward and it was agreed that Tracy and Ruth Mackay would discuss checks for the Pastoral Care Team.

8. Development of Children's Area. The PCC Considered the papers that proposed utilising the St James Chapel as a permanent Children's Area. It was noted that no faculty would be required as there would not be any permanent alterations to the Chapel. The issue of noise during services was raised, however it was not anticipated that there would be a significant change to the number of families attending the 9.15 service as the majority of families now attend the TFG services.

**John Tanner proposed that the St James's Chapel be made a permanent location for Children and family work. This was seconded by Louise Sears.  
The PCC voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.**

- 8.1 Knitting initiative. Louise Sear updated the meeting regarding the Knitting initiative and the involvement of Kate Ladd. Ruth Mackay thought that there might be a possibility of involving housebound members of the Congregation in the project and it was agreed that Ruth and Louise would explore this.

**Action Louise Sear and ruth MacKay.**

9. Update LLF. The recent discussion on blessing of Gay Couples by the General Synod was noted and that a further discussion would take place in July. The meeting acknowledges that there was a deep division in the Anglican Communion on this subject and that individuals on both sides of the debate are bound to feel deeply hurt, confused and alienated by the discussion. The PCC noted Barry Snelgrove's comments on the subject and agreed that until there is a recommendation from the General Synod to debate and decide on it would not be helpful to discuss the subject at this moment in time but that we should continue to pray for all those affected by the discussions.

10. Update on the Accountants' Office. The paper circulated prior to them meeting was discussed and John Tanner asked when it was likely that this matter would be progressed. It was confirmed that once workloads allowed the matter of the lease would be actioned.

11. Financial Matters. Budget 2023. Laura Bruce introduced the proposed budget for 2023. The meeting noted that this was based on the projected outcome for the 2022 accounts which are broadly in line with expectation. The issue of Charitable giving was discussed and the PCC reaffirmed it's commitment to give to charities in line with any budget surplus in future years.

Laura Bruce and Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths were thanked for all their work on the Accounts. Laura Bruce was beginning the work on the annual accounts and will be contacting individuals to obtain the necessary information to allow the external examiners to complete the annual verification of the Accounts.

**It was proposed by Paul Edwards and seconded by John Tanner that the proposed budget for 2023 be adopted by the PCC. This was unanimously agreed.**

12. Standing Committee Decisions. The role and membership of the Standing Committee was clarified. Decisions that were made since the last PCC meeting were noted as.
- a. Establishment of a refreshment area at the back of church.
  - b. Engagement of Kate Ladd
  - c. Redecoration of the inside of the Church and replacement of Lighting
  - d. Not to take up the Diocesan Grant for Utilities.

Restoration Steering Group. Alison Paing left the meeting for this item. The PCC noted the escalating cost of decorating the inside of the church and the replacement of the lighting due to need to erect scaffolding in all areas to safely rewire and fit the new light fittings and decorate the higher levels in the central aisle. The potential cost of the scaffolding was noted as £25,000. The PCC agreed that we should maximise the opportunity of having scaffolding in the church and decorate all areas that needed attention and possibly clean the monuments and windows.

Although the PCC are happy to use A & R design to undertake this work, it was agreed that due to the level of expenditure additional quotes should be obtained to ensure the congregation that Value for money was being obtained.

13. A.O.B.

The closing prayer was led by Rev Steve Griffiths.

Date of next meeting: To be decided.

Dinos Kousoulou. PCC Secretary.