

St Andrew's Church
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024.

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Debbie McGill, Dinos Kousoulou, Ruth Mackay, Lowri Banfield, Sue Saull, Louise Sear, Mark Thebridge, Stephen Driver and Olive Cope

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Apologies for absence received from: Paul Edwards, Laura Bruce, Lekisha Atkinson, Tracey Jenkins, Alison Paing, Tony Leach, Irina Ponizova, and Dorothy Kousoulou.

3. Declarations of Interests. No declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2023

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

5. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

7.7 Safeguarding. Ruth Mackay reported that she had spoken to Tracey Jenkins regarding the outstanding DBS checks for the Pastoral Care Team however these have still not been received. Rev Steve Griffiths apologized for the delay and agreed that he and Dinos Kousoulou would resolve the issue ASAP.

Action: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths and Dinos Kousoulou

6 Safeguarding Concerns. The PCC noted that no concerns had been raised since the last meeting.

7 Advance Notice of services. Olive Cope informed the meeting that in the run up to Christmas she had had several enquiries regarding services that were planned as this information was not readily available. Rev Dr Steve Griffiths confirmed that the services were on the website 3 weeks prior to Christmas but accepted that not everyone had access to the Website. It was agreed hard copies of future service would be made available for distribution. Lowri Banfield reported that the information had been published on the school's newsletter.

Action Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths.

8 All Souls Services. Olive Cope asked why the traditional All soul's service did not take place last year as this was much valued by members of the congregation. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths explained that he had suffered some health difficulties during November which meant that he was only able to cover regular commitments. This had been shared with the Wardens and Dinos Kousoulou. It was noted that the Service would be taking place again this year and remains part of the service calendar. In hindsight the meeting felt that it would have been helpful to have made this information, that the service would not be taking place, available at the time.

9. Vicars Report. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths gave a verbal report on the progress made during 2023. He was very encouraged by a number of developments during the year which indicated that recovery from the Covid pandemic was clearly evident.

The following points were highlighted.

- Development in Ministry particularly the work of Kate Ladd, Richard Bunce and Cherie Embelton.
- Andrea Ali's role in TFG.
- All the new people that have taken up new ministries supporting services in church and online.
- Growth in the number of people attending the bible study group and leading this.

The meeting also noted the healthy and stable position of the Church's finances and that the number of people participating in services both online in in Church had remain stable in 2023 against a background of a national decline in attendance.

Rev Rd. Steve Griffiths thanked Ruth Mackay for all the work she has undertaken in setting up the library in church and it was hoped that this would be launch shortly.

It was planned that a Ministry Co-ordination Team would be set up during 2024 involving representative across the various disciplines to ensure that there was a greater shared awareness of what was happening.

The meeting noted that Laura Bruce would be standing down as Treasurer so a replacement would be needed. Also 2 Wardens needed to be appointed to replace Paul Edwards who has served his 6 year term and to replace Barry Snelgrove who had resigned, also several Lay Representative vacancies would need to be filled. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths asked members of the PCC to encourage people to come forward to fill these vacancies and that any person interested should speak to either of the Wardens or Dinos Kousoulou.

Action: All to note

10. LLF update. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths updated the PCC on the development of the LLF programme during the last year in particular the blessing of gay marriage. The meeting noted that participation in the proposed blessing of gay marriages would need to be integrated into the current services and would be on a discretionary basis. The meeting agreed that before any decision could be made wider consultation and information sharing needed to take place.

Action Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths.

11. Notice of Change on the Parish Centre. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths informed the meeting that a technicality had arisen which required a formal declaration by the PCC. The Kedleston Group wish to count the lease of the Parish Centre as part of their asset portfolio. This has been checked out with the Dioceses who confirmed that is a standard practice.

It was Proposed by Stephen Driver and seconded by Dinos Kousoulou that the PCC agreed that the lease of the Parish Centre could be used by the Kedleston Group as part of the asset portfolio.

This was carried unanimously.

The meeting also noted that there was a proposal for the Parish centre to be expanded to increase the size of the school. The PCC would be kept informed of any development.

12. Finances. The indicative end of year position indicates, once adjustment have been made that the outcome would be very close to the original budget with a surplus of approximately £15,000.

13. Fabric. Dinos Kousoulou update the meeting following the break-in to the Church on the 7th January. The main damage was to the grill and stained glass window in the east of the building. 2 companies have been asked to quote for the repair work. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths had received one quote which was for £6,000. The damage is covered by the Insurance but there is an excess of £1000. The meeting agreed to delegate to the Standing Committee the final decision on how to proceed with the repair. Louise Sears asked if it would be possible to replace all the grills which were accessible. It was noted that each grill would cost in the region of £1000 and we would need to replace approximately 20 of these.

The PCC decided that the decision to agree any repairs be delegated to the Standing Committee.

14. Restoration Project Update. Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that there was no update.

Date of next meeting: 16th April 2024 (This will be the final meeting of the PCC prior to the APCM)

Dinos Kousoulou. PCC Secretary.