

St Andrew's Church
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2022

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Paul Edwards, Barry Snelgrove, Debbie McGill, Dinos Kousoulou, Emma Oppong-Addai, Ruth Mackay, John Tanner, Alison Paing, Louise Sear, Tony Leach, 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: Laura Bruce, Lekisha Atkinson, Lowri Banfield, Tracey Jenkins and Sue Saull.

3. Declarations of Interests. No declarations were noted.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by those members who were in attendance.

5. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

5.1 Safeguarding. It was noted that Tracy Jenkins had agreed to continue as Safeguarding Officer

5.2 Accountants' Office. Barry Snelgrove reported that he had contacted the Diocesan Solicitors who had offered one session without charge to explore the issues linked to the lease of the Office situated in the corner of the car park, which is currently occupied. by the accountants

5.3 Living in Love and Faith. It was noted that the 3rd session of the course had been completed with 10 participants. The online course will be rescheduled as there were insufficient numbers to make this viable.

5.4 Monuments. Barry Snelgrove confirmed that a faculty had been obtained to make the vandalised monument safe. This had been carried out very efficiently by the contractors with the Council funding the costs. As there were several other monuments in the Churchyard that needed attention, it was suggested that a further faculty should be obtained to deal with these as required.

This was proposed by John Tanner and Seconded by Mark Thebridge. The PCC voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

6. Vicar's Report. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths highlighted the significant points of his report that had been previously circulated. We noted that the Nation Heritage Lottery Fund have decided not to pursue the Expression of Interest. This has given everyone an opportunity to pause and rethink how to achieve the objectives, accepting that this would now take longer than planned. The re-costing of the various items of repair and maintenance is being undertaken to assist in prioritising the work. It was noted that Rev Steve Griffiths would be meeting with the Wardens and Dinos Kousoulou the next day to explore priorities.

The PCC acknowledged the significant amount of work that had taken place, involving extensive surveys of the building and also the research covering the monuments within the Church and thanked Rev Steve Griffiths for the work undertaken in preparing the 2 Expressions of Interest. It was also accepted that the restrictions that were in place as part of the Lottery Bid were no longer an issue and so there could now be a greater sharing of information with the congregation and local community.

Ruth Mackay asked if this was the appropriate time to revisit the Mission Action Plan as the pandemic has had a major impact. It was agreed that the MAP should be reassessed and this should be undertaken through the PCC.

7. Safeguarding Issues.

Ruth Mackay asked what progress had been made in relation to DBS checks. It was noted that procedures have now been agreed with Tracey Jenkins to ensure all DBS Checks would be completed by the end of the year. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths will be setting aside 3 dates for documents to be presented and copied so that the DBS checks can be completed. DBS Checks are required for all PCC members and those who could have unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adults.

8. Financial Matters. The Management Accounts to date had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been a greater level of surpluses for each of the first 3 quarters. The level of donations from the congregation has show a slow but steady decline which reflects the uncertain economic times everyone was facing. The issue of increased utility costs was raised and it was noted that in addition to any Government help, the Diocese has indicated that they would be providing some assistance.

9. Restoration Steering Group. The had been covered through the Vicar's Report.

10. Holy Communion Assistants. The names of the 29 people who wish to be Holy Communion Assistants were noted and these have been passed to Bishop Rob for approval and for certificates to be issued.

11. Memorial Tree in Garden of Rest. A request to plant a memorial tree in memory of Joy Tredennick in the Garden of Rest had been received. The planting of the tree needed to be approved by the PCC. **It was proposed by Emma Oppong-Addai and seconded by Louise Sear that permission to plant a memorial tree in memory of Joy Tredennick should be approved. This was agreed unanimously by the PCC.**

12. Opening of the Church building. The paper outlining the proposal to open the Church outside service times was discussed by the PCC. The issues that need to be addressed before the building is opened were noted.

It was proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Barry Snelgrove that the idea that the Church should be opened following the Communion Service on Wednesday and for a period on Saturdays be agreed in principle. This was carried unanimously by the PCC

13. The Boddington Monuments. The PCC was reminded of the history leading to these 2 monuments being temporarily covered. It was recommended that the Monuments should now be uncovered - this will present an opportunity to devote that corner of the Church to information about the impact of historic and modern slavery.

It was proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Mark Thebridge that a small working group be formed to explore developing that corner of the Church as an anti-slavery/people trafficking education area with the Boddington Monuments playing a role in that. The PCC agreed to the proposal unanimously.

14. A.O.B.

Confirmation of Sunday Service Times. Rev Steve Griffiths asked the PCC if the current arrangements of having an 8.00 am and 9.15 am service on Sundays were acceptable for the future. This would enable the notice boards to be updated. Rev Steve Griffiths was asked if the current arrangements worked for him. The only concern was the lack of time after the 9.15 service for him to speak to individuals. However, there was a growing tendency for people to arrive early if they needed to speak with him.

The PCC Agreed that services on a Sunday should start at 8.00 and 9.15 am.

The closing prayer was led by Rev Steve Griffiths.

Date of next meeting: To be decided

Dinos Kousoulou. PCC Secretary.