

St Andrew's Church
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2023

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Debbie McGill, Dinos Kousoulou, Ruth Mackay, Laura Bruce, Louise Sear, Mark Thebridge, Irina Ponizova, Stephen Driver, Olive Cope and Dorothy Kousoulou

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Appointment of Secretary. Rev Dr Steve Griffiths Thanked Dinos Kousoulou for acting as Secretary for the previous year and confirmed that he was happy to continue for a further year. As no other person wished to be considered, Dinos Kousoulou was elected as the PCC secretary.

3. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting considered the appointment of Dorothy Kousoulou as a co-opted member of the PCC specifically to support Olive Cope. **Debbie McGill proposed that Dorothy Kousoulou should be appointed as a co-opted member of the PCC. This was seconded by Mark Thebridge. The PCC voted unanimously to appoint Dorothy Kousoulou as a co-opted member of the PCC.**

Olive Cope, Stephen Driver and Dorothy Kousoulou were welcomed as new members of the PCC. Each member then introduced themselves.

4. Apologies for absence received from: Barry Snelgrove, Paul Edwards, Lekisha Atkinson, Lowri Banfield, Tracey Jenkins, Alison Paing, Sue Saull, and Tony Leach,

5. Declarations of Interests. Dinos Kousoulou explained the need for any member of the PCC to declare a personal interest relating to any item on the agenda where they or anyone known to them might benefit from a decision made by the PCC. They would then be required to leave the meeting for that item.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2023

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

7. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths confirmed that he would not be presenting a separate report as all the issues he wished to raise would be covered through Matters Arising.

7.1 Monuments. It was noted that 2 further monuments in the Church Yard needing to be repaired and that the Council had agreed to meet the cost of these work. A faculty will need to be applied for and this would be undertaken later in the year.

7.2 Holy Communion Assistance. Bishop Rob had not responded to the request to include the 3 new people as Communion Assistance, so a new request would be made to the Bishop of Fulham who is covering the Edmonton Area while a new Bishop is appointed

7.3 Memorial Tree. We noted that a flowering cherry had been planted in memory of Joy Tredennick and a small ceremony had taken place which, her sister, Mary Tredennick, had attended

7.4 Church Opening. Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that the Church was now open twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturday for 2 hours. The volunteers were thanked for making this possible and visitors have valued the opportunity to visit the Church. The Working Group will be reviewing these arrangements and reporting back to the PCC at the next meeting.

7.5 Freedom Corner. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths reported that there had been a couple of issues which have prevented the Freedom Corner being set up. Copyright permission was needed to use material from the Good News Bible and this has now been obtained. However, the display stand that had been ordered had not been delivered and a refund is to be issued; once this has been received then a replacement display stand will be ordered.

7.6. Vicar's Report.

Kate Ladd. We noted the positive impact Kate is having on Children and Family Work. Olive Cope wished to have recorded the work of the Pastoral Care Team who are supporting several elderly members of the Congregation who are now unable to attend church.

7.7 Safeguarding Issues. Ruth Mackay raised concern that not all the Pastoral Care Team had had their DBS checks completed and this was now causing difficulties in visiting people. Rev Steve Griffiths agreed to discuss this with Tracy Jenkins. It was noted that all PCC members needed to have DBS checks completed.

7.8 Children's Area. The meeting noted that a final quote was being sought to enable the necessary work to commence.

7.9 Knitting Initiative. Louise Sear was thanked for the development of this initiative and a further project was now being explored relating to Harvest. Ruth Mackay informed the meeting that 2 residents of the Home she is now visiting have expressed an interest in assisting with the knitting project.

7.10. LLF. Barry Seagrove's email outlining the recent developments in producing guidelines for same sex blessings was noted. Rev Steve Griffiths informed the meeting that ultimately it was the incumbent's decision as to how to respond to the guidelines but he would wish to discuss the issues with the PCC in reaching a decision.

7.11. Accountants' Office. Rev Steve Griffiths confirmed that he has now met with the Diocesan Solicitors and handed over all the documents relating to the lease of the building. There are several staff changes happening within the legal team and it is unlikely that an initial response will be given until later in the year.

7.12 Accounts. The meeting noted that the Accounts for 2022 had been adopted by the APCM and were now on the website.

7.12 Refreshments. Paul Edwards was thanked for his work in supporting the refreshments after the 9.15 service. It is estimated that 60% of those attending the service now stay for refreshments.

8. Safeguarding Policy. The Church policy is based on the Diocesan policy and needs to be adopted each year by the PCC.

It was proposed by Stephen Driver and seconded by Ruth Mackay that the policy as outlined on the church's website be adopted by the PCC.

This was carried unanimously

9. Other Appointments

9.1 Standing Committee. Dinos Kousoulou outlined the role of the Standing Committee which was to make urgent decisions between meetings when these are needed. The membership has traditionally been the Rev Steve Griffiths, the Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

It was proposed by Stephen Driver and Seconded by Irina Ponizova, That the standing Committee membership should be Rev Steve Griffiths the 3 Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

This was carried unanimously by the PCC

9.2 Safeguarding Officer. Dinos Kousoulou confirmed that Tracy Jenkins was willing to continue as Safeguarding Officer.

It was proposed by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Louise Sears that Tracy Jenkins should be appointed as Safeguarding Officer.

This was carried unanimously by the PCC.

9.3. Electoral Roll Officer. The meeting noted that Patience Wilson had stood down as the Electoral Roll Officer at the APCM and a new person needed to be appointed.

Patience was thanked for undertaking this work for a number of years.

Rev Steve Griffiths outlined the plan to have one nominated officer supported by a person from each congregation. The Electoral Roll Officer did not need to be a PCC member. It was noted that the main task was to maintain the register and once every 7 years all people had to re-enrol.

As no one volunteered it was agreed to publishing the vacancy and if no one came forward this responsibility would fall on the Wardens.

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

11. Finance Report. Laura Bruce informed the meeting that there were several issues relating to the accountancy package which has prevented the normal report being produced. Once these have been resolved copies of the reports will be circulated to the PCC.

It was confirmed that the current position regarding the finances of the PCC was healthy with balances in the region of £170,00 across the various accounts.

11.1 Common Fund contribution 2024. The basis of the Common Fund was explained to the PCC. We noted that our present contribution was £72,000. The demand for 2023 was £87775 and for 2024 this would rise to £91300 a 4% increase. Debbie McGill had attended the meeting where the Common Fund had been discussed and was surprised that there was no reported on how efficiencies are being pursued.

The meeting looked at a number of options to determine the 2024 contribution.

It was recommended by Dinos Kousoulou and seconded by Olive Cope that the 2024 contribution should be increased to £75,000 and that in writing to the Archdeacon we should ask for further details as to what efficiency savings the Dioceses is pursuing to reduce the burden of the Common Fund and how other incomes are being maximised.

This was carried unanimously by the PCC.

12. Fabric. The decision made at the last meeting was noted. A second quote for the work should be received shortly. It was acknowledged that only a few firms had the experience to undertake the work required, so a 3rd Quote would not be obtained. The quote from A&R designed had been received.

It was agreed that decisions needed to be made speedily to ensure the work can be undertaken in the Autumn. The PCC agreed to ask the Standing Committee to review both quotes and to make recommendations to the PCC on which works should be undertaken within the resources that are available. The PCC would then decide on the recommendations either vis email or at an ad hoc meeting.

13. A.O.B. Book Stop Resource. Ruth Mackay proposed that a lending library should be set up at the back of Church to enable the congregations to loan appropriate theological and spiritual books. Ruth was prepared to manage the resource and obtain donations of appropriate books. An suitable space needs to be found and Rev Steve Griffiths agreed to see what financial resources could be allocated to the project.

The PCC agreed to the establishment of a Library of appropriate books in Church.

The closing prayer was led by Rev Steve Griffiths.

Date of next meeting: 17th October 2023.

Dinos Kousoulou. PCC Secretary.