

Minutes of PCC meeting
19 January 2022

Present: Malcolm Macdonald, David Dronsfield, Michael Smith, Sylvia Lambden, Carol Hartley, Julie Huff, Richard Milne, Sylvia Williams, Pauline Manning, Jon Brown, Julie Lee, Paul Curry, Natasha Poraj, Amanda Hart

	Action
1. Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest Hugh Taylor, Brenda Miller, Peter Blake, Sam Clayfield	
2. Encouragements, Worship & Ministry Psalm 65 Be thankful for what we are provided with. Many great encouragements were shared.	
3. Minutes of the last meetings (3 November 2021) and matters arising 9. Richard and Malcolm will meet up to discuss the finance for the Church Weekend as prices have been published on the booking leaflet.	
4. Finance a) Management Accounts: Total Balance: £175,492 The total of the gift day will be shown on a line separately what has been spent. Some will be spent shortly but some may be a bit longer before items are purchased. It would be good to know how much is left until all items purchased. Standing orders are down – we are short just under £7,000. versus budget for the year 2021. 4 congregation members have moved away and we have lost £3,000 a month donations.	Richard will look to see the best way to track this simply.

We have received a legacy which hasn't come through yet. January's figures will hopefully be clearer.

Expenditure – we have spent about £2,500 less than we would have expected to have spent. Over the year £13,000 less spent.

We have over-spent on utilities, phones, Church Weekend Away deposit, sound proofing in Little Lambs.

b) Finance trends and giving review & legacy:

Standing Orders, Giving via Standing Order (non-gift aid) and gift aid – we are down £15,000.

We have received a legacy from Elna Green - £8,000 and have been notified that there will be another £30,000 (total of £38,000).

24 people have moved away over last 2 years.
10 people deceased.

Beginning of 2021 - 86 regular givers
End of 2021 – 87 regular givers.

Thanks to Zach Cook for getting these figures together.

God has provided for us and we have healthy reserves. We can't keep losing £8,000 per month. Standing Committee will discuss this as well. Proposals will be brought in March.

Helpful for people to understand how much it costs to run the Church. It's good to inform and encourage people to give.

Communication is key. Perhaps it could also be spoken about in Lifegroups as well. A lot of people don't know what Parish Share is for example, which is a large amount that we give.

People may think that we have a pot from the Church of England that is given to us.

It would be good to have teaching on giving. The joy of giving that God can use the giving and multiply and use it for the Kingdom. It's discipleship and biblical.

<p>c) Parish Share 2022 £103,000 was set aside in budget for Parish Share for 2022. Email was received from Diocese in December that this will now be arranged between each MMP to come with a figure between us. Chigwell churches (5 churches), St John's Buckhurst Hill and St Michael's and us. Malcolm has had a discussion with the MMP and with the Diocese. Our figure may be higher – as would be St John's but the Chigwell churches and St Michael's are hopeful of giving a slightly higher amount so they begin to balance.</p> <p>d) Increase in Hall Hire charges £5 increase In hourly rates for hall hires £10 increase on birthday party hires Proposed by Richard All agreed.</p>	
<p>5. Staffing (a) Curate We have appointed a curate – the Diocese haven't been through their process yet so we are unable to announce his name. He is currently in Bristol. They will move in the summer and move into the house in the Lindens. Ordination will be in September.</p>	
<p>6. 150th Anniversary Celebrations (a) Church Weekend 21-23 October 2022 Malcolm would encourage PCC to book for the church weekend and would ask that PCC encourage others to book too. This is part of our year of celebration.</p> <p>(b) Other Events May/June 2022. Church was consecrated 5 June 1872 (11:30am). It's Pentecost Sunday and Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Saturday 4 June – cream tea out on the front lawn for the community. Sunday 5 June – celebration and thanksgiving – church BBQ for the church to celebrate. Lead up during May – looking at going out shortly to the community asking people share memories – bringing in photos/objects, writing and then having a small exhibition in Church. It would be great if this can help people re-connect. We will do some press releases and social media posts about this. Open days – for people coming in from the community.</p>	

<p>7. Communion Assistants - Fay Curtis and Pauline Manning 12 people are available for communion at 10:30am. Fay and Pauline are willing to help at 8:45am. All agreed.</p>	
<p>8. Children & Communion It can be a little unclear what is expected for children at communion. So parents can understand, Malcolm will bring something back to PCC in March.</p> <p>Would be good to link this in to some teaching for the young people.</p>	
<p>9. Living in Love and Faith Feedback Some people from PCC did this course in November. This is feedback from several people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course was well presented • Interesting to hear from people in the LGBTQ community and how they felt • A couple of people shared that they became celebrate to live in a way right with God • A few others shared that they had transitioned or be in a same sex relationship as they loved God and knew God would have liked them to be happy • It's a conversation that the Church needs to have and it's so difficult. • Also it had limitations as it was trying to give a balanced view – some choosing to be Biblical and living a single life • It was left for PCC to discuss • Conflicting – two different ways of looking at it – God's intention for creation but also how God wants us to live • How do you treat people in your community who have different ideas about what is in the Bible or what is acceptable to God. Complex issue which the course was a springboard into us as a church being loving and much bigger and more nuanced. • Churches across the country are saying that it hasn't changed their view but opened up the pastoral principals – checking ourselves and making sure we are not judgmental or prejudice • How to hold onto scripture and love the person in front of you? 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of wisdom, courage, kindness and love going forward • A lot of people expressing hurt they had experienced which is painful • Safe spaces • Brave space – so people can be honest 	
<p>10. CEEC Church Culture</p> <p>Church of England Evangelical Council are a great group that talk about biblical marriage, prejudice and this one on Church culture.</p> <p>There were two high profile cases of church leaders who were abusive. A culture was created where it was hard to expose the abuse that was going on.</p> <p>This is to help us to ask questions of ourselves and able to address things that aren't helpful in our culture.</p> <p>This is for bigger questions which would cover a wide area. Perhaps some of this may come under safeguarding but also diversity training etc.</p> <p>This will be brought back to another meeting.</p>	
<p>11. Buildings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Flooring for toilets, kitchen, flower cupboard will start on 31 January. b) Lighting – still looking at quotes and looking to see a sample. c) Worktop in Café Hope kitchen – we have been offered some offcuts but they won't match our existing counter tops so looking at other options d) Boundary hedge – delayed again and won't be planted until September. This still has to go through DAC e) There is an issue with the roof on the Parish Centre part of the building. It's made of zinc and stainless steel. There is water ingress through the box guttering. Michael is meeting with someone from the company who fitted it – who are in Abridge – next week. It may be a complicated job. Water is coming into the upstairs room where Little Lambs is. 	
<p>12. Policies</p> <p>Change in DBS period – used to be 5 years and is now 3 years.</p> <p>Safeguarding while Michelle on leave:</p> <p>Acting Safeguarding Officer: Amanda Hart</p> <p>Acting Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Eleni Constantanou</p> <p>Sam Clayfield will step in if Amanda unable to carry out duty.</p>	

All agreed.	
13. AOB 'Wardens' needed for 10:30am service Carol Hartley Dave Dronsfield Michael Smith Many thanks to them for offering to serve.	