

PCC Minutes 22nd November 2023

Item	Subject	Decision/Actions
1	The meeting opened in prayer at 20.13 hrs	
2	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p><u>Present:</u> Bridget Shepherd, Angela Stebbings, Peter Watson, Chris Henriette, Adriaan Goosen, John Murray (JoM), James Murdoch (JaM), Sue Tearle, Pete Burns,</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Conway Tearle, Clare Johnson, Hannah Burns, Louise Grace, Trudi Bramson, Yi Baylis, Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, Mia Hadfield-Spoor</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Sophia Duffy</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>None declared</p>	
4	<p>Acceptance of AOB:</p> <p>None raised</p>	
5	<p>Approval of minutes of meeting of 18th September 2023</p> <p>Proposed by Angela, seconded by JoM</p> <p>Abstention: Yi</p> <p>All others present at the meeting were In favour.</p>	Carried
6	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes</p> <p>There were no new Matters Arising apart from reformatting of Accounts which was noted as work in progress.</p>	
7	<p>PCC Vision discussion</p> <p>Bridget presented a progress summary and a 'Current Operational plan' showing current activities, activity objective (from the 5 marks of mission), leader/co-ordinator, resources used and start/end date.</p> <p>The Progress Summary included</p> <p>a) <u>Our Vision – Who we want to be?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be a hub of spiritual energy focused on the person of Jesus • To be a hub of community activity. reflecting the life of the Kingdom of God • To be outwardly engaged with the 44% of people in our parish who are open to/identify with Christian faith (<i>source census</i>) • To be creative in engaging these new people in ways that enable them to participate in the life of God in Christ <p>b) <u>Model of Discipleship Journey or pathway</u></p> <p>c) <u>Model matching typical stages on a persons journey of faith against the type of activities we organise and arrange</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extra column had been added to the 'Journey of Faith' entitled 'Kingdom – witness – living out the faith'; it was clarified that this was intended to cover e.g. social action and pastoral care. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept is that everything we do should address a specific challenge. • <i>Visually the model highlights that the main hole in our provision is in the areas of initial and ongoing Christian formation.</i> <p><u>The PCC then broke out into groups to discuss and reported back their observations which included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful model to identify gaps (the narrative explanation made at the meeting helped make sense of it). • Interested in bridging discontinuities, e.g., the Eco Group (an internal church group) being visible externally, less churchy more joined up. • Discussion of some specifics e.g. do we need to split out HC and All Age services, is Morning Prayer enough? • Noticing opportunities for engagement e.g. Sides-people welcoming, chatting to uniformed groups/leaders/parents. • Engagement of church people as individuals in groups as Christians, working alongside. • Importance of small nudges. • New activities or refinement/extend scope? We need to understand exactly how existing activities might be modified. Provision of stepping stones. • How in fact do we focus on the 44%? How is activity linked to our market? • Solutions need to be a mix of gap, journey of faith, demographics (i.e. market) and resources. 	
8	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>Peter reported on Finances/LE for 2023 and Budget for 2024 on behalf of Conway.</p> <p>2023 end-year latest estimate shows a deficit of -£8k 2024 base* projection/budget shows a deficit of -£20k *excluding estimated costs for Boundary wall repair (£40k), Weigall Road Repairs (£15k) and other major repairs (£10k)</p> <p>Peter commented that ‘normal’ income and expenditure have both increased slightly less than inflation, but that emerging deficit arises from decision to house a Curate i.e. we incur the full cost of housing (no longer enjoying a free income from Weigall Road for general expenditure) although salary paid by Diocese . Deficit only occurs if we do nothing i.e. we can cut costs or improve income.</p> <p>Peter also explained the balance sheet and reserves; in summary we currently have £65k in reserves of which £55k is available to</p>	

	<p>cover deficit, do the above-named repairs or some combination but there is not enough to be able to do everything.</p> <p>Generally, it was felt that we need to do the Weigall Road improvements as we need to do these to renew tenancy or find a new tenant in 2024 and do urgent church repairs but not commit to the boundary wall repair until we have reviewed income and expenditure and ensured we will have the cash to pay for it.</p> <p>It was proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We note the projection for 2024 - We ask the Standing Committee, advised by a FN working party, to review income & expenditure and come back with proposals to PCC including, but not limited to, e.g. an effort to increase regular giving. - We approve proposals to improve the kitchen and rear standing in Weigall Road and to continue with urgent church repairs. - We continue with the wall process (seeking Diocesan and LA approval, tendering to get a better idea of cost & investigating fund raising) but not to commit until we are confident to being able to pay. <p>Proposed by Adriaan, seconded by Pete B All present at the meeting were In favour.</p>	
9	<p>Fabric Update/Wall Repair</p> <p>JaM reported that we are still waiting for Diocesan approval (application submitted early August). Otherwise, these items covered in Finance discussion.</p>	
10	<p>Report back from Deanery Synod Synod on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at St Stephen's Church, Lewisham.</p> <p>Peter attended (Adriaan and James had sent their apologies) and reported to PCC. Bridget and Chris had also been in attendance.</p> <p>The main subject had been Church Schools and a panel of heads had presented/answered questions. The main issue is that all schools in London are having issues attracting sufficient pupils because of the lower birthrate and that surprisingly, church schools have been disproportionately affected. Some Church Schools in the Deanery feel unloved by their own parishes.</p> <p>The schools ask the parishes for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Involvement e.g. volunteer readers • Advocacy • General support 	

	<p>Bridget reported that Trinity Senior School in our parish was getting enough pupils. James commented that some schools in nearby parishes were open for applications over a wider distance and we should let folk know across the Deanery (e.g. All Saints used to be oversubscribed, hence folk may hesitate to apply, but recently struggled to fill Reception). It was suggested that the Governors write <i>an article(s) for the Parish magazine</i> and that <i>prayer for local church schools be introduced into our liturgy.</i></p>	<i>Actions in bold italics</i>
11	Safeguarding	No matters reported to PCC
12	Health & Safety	No matters reported to PCC
13	GDPR	No matters reported to PCC
14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>1) Good Shepherd Eco Church Group: Letter proposing installation of solar panels at The Good Shepherd</p> <p>2) Statistics for Mission 2023 & October 2023 Count: request for annual mission stats from Diocese</p> <p>3) Bishop's Pastoral letter: re Memorial service for Bishop Karowei, Episcopal support to the Woolwich Area, cover for Archdeacon's Alastair's sabbatical and appointment of Bishop of Woolwich. <i>NB: Bridget will be providing cover for Alastair for 6 weeks from the end of January.</i></p>	<p>To be put on next PCC agenda</p> <p>Bridget agreed to make first draft of return.</p> <p>Mainly for information</p>
15	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	
16	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>Standing Committee: December tbc</p> <p>PCC: Thursday 18th January 2024</p> <p>Memorial service for Bishop Karowei at St. Barnabas, Dulwich at 3pm Saturday 20th January 2024</p>	
15	The meeting ended in prayer around 21.45hrs.	