***The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford***

**Wednesday 24th January 2024 – 7.45pm, Marcham Centre Small Hall**

**MINUTES**

Rev Nick Weldon (NW) Chrystal Poon (CP) Ali Lyndon (AL)

Catherine Mentzel (CMe) Carolyn Whiting (CW) Sue Lawton (SL)

Bryan Eccles (BE) Chris Nutman (CN) Tim Jack (TJ)

Danni Grady (DG) Neil Rowe (NR) John Scoble (JS)

Ruth Atkins (RA) Tony Carter (TC) Hugh Lawton (HL)

Caroline Manders (CM) Jonathan Boardman (JB) Tamsin Gilbert (TG)

James Gilbert (JG) David Lunn (DL) Barney Stevens (BS)

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| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3. 4.**  **5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and opening prayer: NW Apologies for absence -** none  **Conflicts of interest** - none  **Minutes of the meeting of 29th Nov 2023**  **Matters arising –** item 9.1, projector trialled and decided it isn’t what we need so a solution hasn’t yet been found.9.2 – piano has been purchased and has already been well used. |
| **6.** | **Christmas services and events report: NW**  Numbers attending Christmas services across both All Saints’ and St Luke’s were good, in many cases the highest we have had for many years which is really encouraging. More services are being offered at St Luke’s. At All Saints the numbers attending the Midnight service have been reducing for many years, but the numbers at the crib service and Christmas morning are much higher than previously. The Carol service numbers were declining but are now increasing again.  We discussed how we use these services to encourage people back, and the timing of the Hope explored course is good. |
| **7.** | **All Saints Reordering Project Update – including grant applications**  Awaiting advice/faculty from DAC, due in spring. Build cost from Hillsdons quoted at £120,000. This doesn’t include architect’s fees or contingency. Architect fees will be approx. 12%. Awaiting further quotes from Mansbridge but they have requested further information before they will quote. Also awaiting quote from Church Restorations.  NR to give JB the builder’s ROMS to pass to his work colleagues for credibility assessment.  Three grant making bodies that we are in the process of applying to - Oxford Historic Churches Trust, Anson Trust, Matthew 25:35 . They all want to know what figure we can contribute. NW suggested 1/3 from funds, 1/3 from grants, 1/3 from raising funds. TC asked whether there are models that other churches have used that we can copy. JB advised that the 1/3 model is used by military charities.  JS suggested minimum needed as reserve is £45k. Current a/c £62k, deposit a/c £86k.  NW advised that we may be able to default on parish share during the building project, our obligations to our employees are more important.  HL advised that we have a congregation that is regularly giving, so we will not suddenly have no income.  TG explained that we have a reserve policy, and it is 3 months expenditure (£45k).  NR advised that the money we have in the bank is because people have backed previous redevelopments projects which have not happened, and we need to get on with this.  It was agreed by the PCC that we would allocate £50k from church funds, aim to raise £50k and apply for as much as we can get from grants.  AL and CN left the meeting. |
| **8.** | **Financial update including 2024 budget: JS**  Provisional shortfall for the year is £16k.  Discussed whether St Luke’s toilet and lighting and the coping stones at All Saints should be included in last year’s budget, or this year’s.  Thanks were given to JS for all his hard work on the budget and finances.  NW mentioned that alongside the church wardens he will write to the congregation thanking them for their giving and providing an explanation of how the money is being spent, and that there is a deficit.  JS is producing a simplified set of accounts to help the congregation understand the situation.  Claims for Small Donations – we have reached our limit on this. Limit is £8k per body, or can claim £8k per building, so could claim for All Saints, MCC, St Luke’s, providing more than 10 people at 6 events during the year. Need to pay £4/month per building, starting from April. This will mean we can claim £24k. JS will apply for this. |
| **9.** | **Fabric update: NR/CW**   * AS Coping stones and tiles above vestry – to be completed in March. * St Luke’s church yard lighting – completed. * St Luke’s toilet, tap and bell (updates) – toilet has been delivered and it has been secured to the ground. A water pipe will be run alongside the wall to fill the tank, and in time this will be buried to avoid it freezing. It will be emptied as/when needed, but CW will look into whether this will be cheaper if this is on a contract for regular emptying.   An application for the bell has been put into Oxfordshire Historic Churches, this will be reviewed on 13/2. Whites is collecting the bell on 16/2. Fundraising is going on to raise money to contribute to this.  Quinquennial to be completed 16/3/23.  Clock has been serviced this week.  CM left. |
| **10.** | **St Luke’s: CW**  23 services planned for the next year. Looking at more provision for children. |
| **11.** | **Safeguarding update: RA**  Training has been completed with the diocese and with the Trussell trust. RA concerned we don’t have a clear log of our cases. She is going to look over this and update so that this can be handed over as/when needed. |
| **12.** | **School Foundation Governor vacancy update**  Patience Brace is going to become a foundation governor, transferring from a school governor to fill our Foundation Governor vacancy. |
| **13.** | **Health & Safety**  None arising.  TJ left at this point. |
| **14.** | **A.O.B.**  **Flower festival –** Jenny Allen and Jenny Pam would like to organise a flower festival for the weekend of 6/7/24. They would need £600 funds but this will very likely be recouped in donations. Profits over this will go to reordering project. This was agreed by the PCC. |
| **15.** | **Closing prayer - CMe** |
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