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

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on**

**Wednesday 29 March 2023**

**Present**

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| Ruth Atkins (RA)  Bryan Eccles (BE)  Carolyn Whiting (CW)  John Boardman (JB)  Pamela Carter Moore  Chrystal Poon (CP)  Danni Grady (DG) | Rev’ d Nick Weldon (NW)  Barney Stevens (BS)  Neil Rowe (NR)  Chris Nutman (CN)  Tamsin Gilbert (TG)  Alison Lyndon (AL)  Caroline Manders (CM)  David Lunn (DL) via Zoom |

Actions are flagged in red.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1.  1.1  1.2  1.3 | **Welcome and opening prayer and Bible reading**  The meeting started at 19:46  NW read from Mark 8 v31 – 38 and gave his reflections.  Prayers were shared. |  |
| 2.  2.1 | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies were noted from: Anne Southwell, Tim Jack, Sue Lawton |  |
| 3.  3.1 | **Conflicts of interest**  There were no conflicts of interest. |  |
| 4.  4.1 | **Approval of minutes from the meeting held on 22/2/23**  The minutes were approved, and NW signed them as an accurate record. |  |
| 5.  5.1  5.2  5.3  5.4 | **Matters Arising**  8.5 – succession planning for Kate – she is standing down from her role at the end of June 2023. She has provided a write up about her role. Further discussion to take place at the PCC about the role at the April 2023 meeting.  Same sex church blessings  NW – lots of coverage in the Church press. NW has received many letters/emails with differing viewpoints. We are in similar situation to many churches across the country. Discussions have taken place with Deanery colleagues. Main issue is waiting for the Pastoral Guidance which is due in July 2023. The unity of the church is under threat with this message.  BE: concerned there will be a pause now by NW and the wardens. It felt as if we were progressing well with the Living in Love and Faith course and sharing different viewpoints. BE asked if we can continue in our parish the dialogue during this period of waiting. Respecting each other’s views.  NW agreed this should be considered and clarity and others would like further discussion. With no decisions / practice being made before the guidance is issued.  BE: Would be about understanding where people are coming from.  CM: Echoed BE’s comments and would like to understand other people’s viewpoints.  PCM: Support what BE and CM said.  NW: Understand you would like more discussion.  BE: Asking for us to use this time to understand others.  BS: The Living in Love and Faith course did not give all the answers.  PCM: an understanding of each other’s points of views would be beneficial.  TG: Hear what is being said, worth we all take time before the next meeting to pray about this and what we need going forward. E.g. an open forum with a mediator.  This is for the PCC and church staff at present.  Action: any idea to TG for a discussion forum for the PCC on this. | NW  All |
| 6.  6.1  6.2 | **Women’s and men’s ministry** – TG / NW  **Women’s Ministry Update**  The purpose of our women’s ministry is two-fold: to nurture and encourage each other as sisters in Christ and secondly to reach out to the women in the communities in which we live in love and care and pointing them to Jesus.  Over the past year or so we have done this in two main ways:  A monthly Bible study which is open to all women who wish to join. We have 29 women on the WhatsApp group and an average attendance between 8-15 each session. We have studied the Bible as a whole, Women in the Bible, short books of the Bible and are now looking at the book of 1 John.  A women’s evening about once every half term. This consists of a meal together here in church and a short testimony given by a woman from the church family. We average 30-50 women each time and about 40% of these are non-church women who come time after time.  We are considering a short seeker type course for any who would like to ask more questions.  More recently, Chrystal and Sarah have set up a Mum’s Bible study for those with small children and have about 6 mums  Heather has set up a ladies coffee and chat on a Wednesday morning at Thirsty Café that is open to all  Going forwards, a small team are planning to try a monthly Women’s breakfast on a Saturday morning, catered for by Thirsty. This is aimed at Christian women to come together for fellowship, prayer and worship. 1st one April 15th  NW: Monthly men’s breakfasts are going very well and eight have been held at the MCC. About 30 men attend and 75% are from All Saints, a few from other churches and some at the fringes. Have had one evening event. Focus is supporting and untiring one another. An evening event is taking place at church on 1/4/23. Men’s drinks get together continue.  NR: in the summer often meet in the church grounds for a BBQ. |  |
| 7.  7.1  7.2  7.3  7.3  7.4  7.5  7.6  7.7  7.8 | **Financial update –** BE  Accounting cycle is nearly completed.  The Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 was shared prior to the meeting. Made a surplus of £5k – due to the Genesis One Project funding. Otherwise, we broke even. Retained reserves have increased by £5k and these are now £181,000 in the reserves.  PCC members agreed for NW to sign the annual Report.  Mike Crieg has examined the accounts and BE answered the queries he had.  This has been a year of revival following Coronavirus.  Will need to tighten up on a few things during 2023 – expenditure reporting  (JB arrived at this point of the meeting: 20:25)  Thanks were given to BE, John Scoble and Tracey Hibberd.  2023 budget to be discussed at the April meeting. | BE |
| 8.  8.1  8.2  8.3  8.4  8.5  8.6  8.7  8.8 | **Fabric update -** NR  All Saints church path  Awaiting resin bonded surface which is to still be applied to relevant areas. Its weather dependent so aiming for end of April / May.  Will be discussing with the Parish Council the remaining path being constructed in a similar way.  Gigaclear (Wi-Fi at All Saints)  1st June for the connection.  Genesis One Project  Information was shared at the meeting. Plan is to have everything completed by September 2023.  Completed: outdoor electric supply, above ground pond, hedge hog houses and feeding stations.  Started: bug hotels, wildlife traps, develop child friendly area, bird boxes, bat boxes, owl boxes, improved wildflowers, bird feeders, butterfly / bee feeders.  To-do-list: hedging mixed, trees, raised beds, vegetables, flowers, composting demonstration area, bumble beehive and colony, pond filter and air pump, fire pits and benches, planting old boiler house area, bat detector, swallow nest box and caller, water scrape, outdoor supply tap / hose/ pump, rainwater harvesting, 10 bike rack spaces.  St Luke’s Church yard lighting  Plan has been produced for two lights. Four fobs will be provided for the lights being switched on and off. PCM felt a switch would be better. Further discussion to take place.  TG to check is faculty is needed.  Cleaning and new vacuum cleaners  Agreed for new vacuum cleaners to be purchased for All Saints and St Luke’s.  TG to look at what is available.  PCM has offered her vacuum cleaner.  Cleaning rota: need more people on the rota. Consider homegroups taking it in turns.  DG: need two people for two hours each week. | AL/NR  TG  TG  TG |
| 9  9.1  9.2  9.3  9.4  9.5  9.6  9.7  9.8  9.9 | **APCM**  TAR approval  Approved – as above  Finances  Approved – as above.  New PCC members  Four PCC members coming to the end of their 3 year cycles. AS is stepping down, PCM is stepping down, BS and BE still considering whether to stand again.  Catherine Mentzel and Tony Carter will stand for election at the APCM.  Can have 12 elected members and two co-opted.  TJ and CM Deanery Synod reps are due for renewal. We can have a third representative. TJ has said he is happy to stay in the role.  RA: is considering standing down from the secretary role and PCC role.  PCM: asked for a message to be shared on Friends of St Luke’s WhatsApp group.  TG: people have to be on electoral role for a year before standing for the PCC. | AL |
| 10  10.1  10.2  10.3  10.4  10.5  10.6 | **Re-ordering project update** – NW  Architects survey  Paper shared prior to the meeting.  Waiting to hear back from the DAC following the visit to look at the proposals.  Will look at fundraising and seeking grants for the work to take place.  BE: suggested setting up a team to start looking at fundraising and grants. Potentially £80k from current church finances.  Agreed for Christian to undertake the full survey costing £900.  Invite Christian to the May or June PCC meeting or a separate meeting. | NW |
| 11  11.1  11.2 | **PCC approval** for individual leaders and preachers team members seeking renewed Bishop’s authorisation  Tim Jack and Debbie Flint’s approval to preach ends in the summer and this probably applies to the others (James Allan, James Gilbert, Jill Rowe).  PCC approved this. |  |
| 12.  12.1  12.2  12.3  12.4  12.5 | **Safeguarding update** - RA  There are two on-going cases.  Have recently met with Shae Porter (SP), safeguarding administrator and emails are being sent to people about their training requirements.  Safeguarding Policy: RA and SP are currently reviewing this and would like to share it at a future meeting.  PSO Working group: met on 13/3/23 and topics of discussion included: Safeguarding Hubs (for safer recruitment and people management), PSO handbook, Dashboard reports, online presence, safeguarding reports for PCCs and topics for future meetings.  Parish Dashboard: action plan is being developed and RA would like to share at a future meeting. | NW  NW |
| 13  13.1  13.2  13.3  13.4  13.5  13.6  13.7 | **St. Luke’s –** AL  AL has taken on reporting and supporting for St. Luke’s.  Taize service was well attended and Mothering Sunday had a good number of folk as well. Snowdrop Sunday allowed people to plant left-over snowdrops in churchyard if they wished.  Doug Simmons has taken on looking after the maintenance of the church and churchyard, including checking gas bottles.  Plans are being drawn up for lighting the path and potentially for a potable water tap to be installed in churchyard. *(These will need further planning, discussion and agreement with Neil Walker and a faculty\*).* Plans for a toilet are still on the radar but this is a very large project.  Rotas are in place to ensure church is opened and closed between 11am-12pm on Sundays when there is not a service. There are also people being rostered to help at services.  Cleaning etc being managed. Plans for a spring clean on 8th May. Altar cloth has been mended by Heather Sandiford.  AL suggested an A-frame to advertise that the church is open and some airpots to share between the churches for hot water. PCC approved these. TG and AL to look into and purchase | TG &AL |
| 14.  14.1 | **Health and Safety**  No issues to report. |  |
| 15.  15.1  15.2 | **AOB**  New office computer request  TG requested a new office laptop as the current one is old and very slow at times. PCC approved (budget £400-500)  TG to look into  PCC welcome document – PCC encouraged to read it and feed back to TG or NW please. | TG  ALL |
| 16. | NW closed the meeting in prayer. |  |
|  | The meeting closed at 21: 50 |  |

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 26 April 2023**, **starting at 7:45pm**

APCM: Sunday 30 April at 3:30pm

Future PCC meetings: Wednesday 24 May, Wednesday 28 June and Wednesday 26 July