

**St. George’s Church, Wilton**

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council**

Tuesday 16thJanuary 2024

**Present:** Nick Griffin (Chair),Peter Joyce, Di Vickery, Hilary McKegney, Ian Pinder (Treasurer), Matt Norman, Paul Cole,Pete Underwood, Mary Carson, Bethan Baigent Rob Cromwell, Hilary Hayes, Laura Willetts, Richard Kelly, Katie Lanchburyand Helen Clegg (PCC Secretary)

1. Nick opened the meeting with Psalm 16 and a time of open prayer.

2**. Apologies**: None

3. **The minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record** after the following corrections were made.

Page 1 Present : Di Vickery and Peter Joyce to be added.

Page 3 Geography of Services Para 1

The small space upstairs for the under 3s was thought to be cramped sometimes, by some people. Kids@11 was thought by some people to be cramped but the leaders say there is plenty of room for growth.

4. **Action Pointsfrom the previous meeting.**

Scout hut.

The junk has been cleared. The scouts have offered to paint it. We have been offered the use of a floor polisher which Rob is sourcing.

Weekend Away

Dealt with later.

Breakout Room rota for school holidays

Not yet done but not needed yet.

Standing Committee report

Peter has distributed the notes from Standing Committee at the beginning of the meeting.

Helen Clegg has asked to stand down as PCC Secretary and Lucy Norris is interested in taking up the role. She could be a co-opted member of the PCC so that she can contribute and vote.

Matt Norman’s 3 year tenure on the PCC is coming to a close but it could be renewed as it is so valuable to have him present. Matt is willing and the PCC unanimously agreed to this.

**Items for Review and Discussion**

5. Christmas 2023

*Christmas Fayre* Around 300 people came and £2,000 was raised.

*Carols on the Move* There were 35 on the first night which was very wet and many of them returned and others joined them on the second night with 60 in all.

It was a strong outreach and well received.

*Contemporary Carol Service* Held on Sunday morning in church. Could possibly be held at another time in future to avoid displacing the 11am service.

*Traditional Carol Service* Great event. The church was filled and people had to be turned away.

*Gingerbread House event* Chaotic with good interaction with families.

*Christmas Eve 10am* A quiet and reflective service.

*Christingles* Around 100 at the first one and 250 at the second.

Some Health and Safety Concerns re fire hazards.

*Midnight Communion*Good service

*Christmas Day service* Church was full.

6. Charity Collection choices

Rob has prepared a list of 17 charities that we would give our collections to in2024.

This will be revised every year.

We now have digital giving stations for both the charity collections and for St. George’s which includes the opportunity to Gift Aid. This isn’t available for the charity collections. One can select to give £5, £10 or £15 or select your own amount. Ian suggested it would be better to change the £15 to £20 and that will be done.

This can also be used for Soup, but the amounts suggested are smaller.

7. The trial of moving the 11am service was planned for after Easter but there is no reason to wait that long and it has been brought forward to Feb 4th.

There was some discussion about the place for coffee and it was decided that for a start we would just move the 11am service to the church and leave everything else where it is at present. This is a trial and can be changed at any time.

There was discussion about the best places for the different children’s groups. Nick noted that our youngest get the worst room (the Winston) and this is not ideal; amongst the parents present there were different views.

This week’s Newsboard will spell out these changes for the congregations.

What was to happen at the end of the service for the children was discussed and the leaders preferred to bring the children back into the church for the last hymn.

Prayer Ministry would be sited in the soft seating area at the back left of the church.

Hilary H offered to email the Prayer Ministry Team to inform them.

Both services will now be live streamed from the church.

8. Review of Health and Safety/ Churchyard policies.

Health and Safety Policy

Although the Churchwardens have day to day responsibility for this it is up to everyone to report any issues to the churchwardens asap.

Paul Cole has agreed to take on the role of overseeing this.

Paul has reviewed the Health and Safety Policy and there is some work still to do in its revision.

Di Vickery will take over the responsibility for the Defibrillator.

Paul, and the churchwardens will work on revision of the HS policy.

**Action Peter, Paul and Di**

Churchyard management policy

and rules were circulated and PCC approved it.

Thanks were expressed to Peter Joyce and Jane for all they both do in this area.

9. Finance

The Treasurer reported that we had paid our Parish Share in full for 2023 and the church’s bank balances were standing at a fairly healthy £88,257 although there were a number of year end liabilities outstanding and the main contractor’s invoice for the parish office refurbishment was yet to be received. The Gift Aid tax reclaims for Q1, Q2 and Q3 of 2023 had been submitted and the tax repayments received. The treasurer thanked Robin Stamp for dealing with this so efficiently. The Q4 claim would be submitted soon.

There is still much work to do on the 2023 accounts but when they are complete they are expected to show that we more or less broke even.  Christian Giving has increased by about 25% compared with the previous year but many of our costs such as the Parish Share, music/worship and heat & light have also increased.

The Treasurer reported the receipt of a legacy of £2,000 from the estate of the late Michael Rourke for which we are very grateful.

Our Parish Share for 2024 has been assessed as £93,986 but would have been more had the increase not been capped at 10%. The PCC agreed to commit to paying this in full by monthly bank transfer and the Treasurer was instructed to complete the 2024 Parish Share option form on that basis.

10. Health and Safety

Peter reported that the Trolley the tables are stored on keeps getting moved about and left in various places. This needs some thought as to where best to keep it.

11.Safeguarding update

Jenny has temporarily stepped back from this role for the present and Hilary McK and Nick are taking up the role for now.

12. Church Weekend Away update.

20 people have signed up at present. It is intended to set up a Bursary Fund from our February collections. Various ways to subsidize people were discussed but no decision made. This will be left to Hilary H and Hilary McK.

It was noted that Nick and Rob would not be there.

**Date of APCM 7th May 2024**

**PCC Awayday**

Either 10th or 24th Feb 2024 (Saturdays)

The 24th was selected and will run from 10am-3pm.

Members were asked to let Bethan know if they were available.

**Date of next PCC meeting March 5th 2024**

**Future PCC Meeting dates**

**May 21st**

**July 9th**

**Sept 10th**

**Nov 19th**