

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2019

Present

Tim Jack (TJ)
 Alicia Davies (AD)
 Rosemary Siebert (RS)
 Chris Nutman (CN)
 Neil Rowe (NR)
 Kevin Mentzel (KM)
 Caroline Manders (CM)
 Michelle Herbert (MH)

Tamsin Gilbert (TG)
 Charles Gaisford (CG)
 Grace Burfitt (CB)
 Malcolm Denton (MD)
 Jill Rowe (JR)
 Mary Embleton (ME)
 Viv Cripps (VC)

| Item | | Actions |
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| 1 | Welcome NR welcomed everyone to the meeting and RS shared a Bible reading and prayed. | |
| 2 | Apologies for absence David Burfitt, Cathie Little, Richard Zair, Ruth Atkins | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest None | |
| 4 | Minutes of meeting held on 28th November The minutes were reviewed, and signed following a few minor corrections. | |
| 5 | <p>Budget CL had sent apologies, but had kindly produced some provisional figures for the PCC to look at. The figures to the end of last year look much better than anticipated; Budget at start of 2018: Income - £119945, Expenditure - £136685 with DEFICIT of £16740 Actual figures at end of 2018: Income £152505, Expenditure £124786 with SURPLUS of £27719 The PCC felt this was in large part down to prayer and God's goodness, but on a practical level, it looks as though there had been an uplift in giving as a result of the various appeals. CN expressed thanks to CL for producing figures at a busy time of year. The balance sheet shows that we currently have £61000 in general funds. Neil asked about the reserves policy which is 3 months running costs and questioned whether we should consider moving excess funds into a different account in case of problems caused by Brexit. It was felt that there was still wisdom in transferring out bank account away from Nat West. NR suggested that the vicar and wardens would look into this and bring back some recommendations to the PCC</p> <p>Christmas Collection - £804 was made through our Christmas collections – it was agreed to split this and add an extra £100 to each to bring the total donation up to £500. Since we have been financially blessed in ways we never imagined, the PCC felt it right to share this blessing. Thanks to MH for the suggestion.</p> | <p>Need someone to work with CL to go through figures and work out what is happening</p> <p>CW and vicar to discuss</p> <p>CL to arrange BAC transfer</p> |

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| | <p>At this point we digressed to a discussion of the Christmas services. CM asked if numbers were down. NR responded that numbers probably looked different due to the services being more compressed and there being a huge turn-out for the school service. NR said we need to consider what our aim for such services is – to get people to as many as possible or to make sure the one they attend is good quality. A meeting will be arranged with school to discuss options for Christmas 2019 as we need to make sure we are safe.</p> <p>MH commented that she thought that HC on celebration Sundays like Christmas and Easter was important for church family, particularly families as it offers an opportunity for whole families to participate in the whole service.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Financial strategy</p> <p>A short discussion about the financial strategy took place. KDM was still very keen to have someone holding a plate at baptism/ special services but many felt uncomfortable with this though it was felt a good opportunity to give outside people the chance to make a donation if they wished.</p> <p>The 4th draft of this was agreed with a couple of changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To make it clear that we will intentionally flag up the option to give at occasional services like baptisms and festivals - To change the review date to July 2019 | TG to make changes and strategy can be published |
| 7 | <p>Fabric update</p> <p>Faculties for removal of mismatched pews and grand piano are under way with DAC. Old and broken black chairs are being disposed of.</p> <p>Please keep an eye on the bin area, that it does not get too messy else our volunteer will no longer be willing to put bins out.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Discussion on the admission of children to HC before confirmation</p> <p>The PCC broke up into groups to discuss this and then fed back. The overall view was that admission of children (who have been baptised) to HC was a good thing to start, provided that sensible and practical measures were put in place.</p> <p>Yvonne Morris will be coming on the 12th Feb for a whole church discussion.</p> | PCC members encouraged to keep taking to others in the church about the issue and gathering a sense of where people are at. |
| 9 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Strategy for Youth and Children (CG) – this is nearly completed but is not quite there. Hopefully will go to vicar and wardens soon and be ready for Feb PCC.</p> <p>Parish Profile update – NR & TG had had a meeting with warden of St Mary’s about the future after Richard and the options open to us. Although Richard is not yet retiring, the process of changing the make-up of the benefice is a lengthy one and needs to be started soon. RZ is aware that we are thinking about it.</p> <p>Health & Safety – need to talk to school about Christmas services next year</p> | <p>CG to continue</p> <p>NR/TG will continue to explore options</p> <p>NR/TG to arrange meeting</p> |

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| | <p>Safeguarding issues/ training – some members still need to do their online training please.</p> <p>Offsite activities – none</p> <p>RZ update – Richard is getting much stronger and will be making a gradual return to work. He hopes to be at the next PCC</p> <p>Charles Gaisford finished with some final thoughts about how the PCC can be more efficient and help spread the load of running the church. He is aware that there is lots of activity within All Saints (preaching/ teaching, fellowship groups, pastoral care, youth and children etc) and wonders whether PCC members need to share the burden – could the PCC form subcommittees to look at some of these areas and generally make the church work more strategically and efficiently?</p> | <p>PCC members who have not yet completed need to do so</p> <p>Please pray and consider. V&Ws will also do so.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Closing prayer</p> <p>Meeting closed at 21.40</p> | |