

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

Wednesday 28th April 2021 on Zoom

Present

Neil Rowe (NR) Tamsin Gilbert (TG) – Chair for the meeting Kevin Mentzel (KM) Tim Jack (TJ) Caroline Manders (CM) Charles Gaisford (CG) Chrystal Poon (CP) Mark Newman (MN)	Barney Stevens (BS) Ann Southwell (AS) Chris Nutman (CN) Danni Grady (DG) Bryan Eccles (BE) Carolyn Whiting (CW) Alicia Davies (AD) Jill Rowe (JR)
Item	Action
1. Welcome and opening prayer MN opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2. Bible reading MN read from Deuteronomy 10 v 12-22 and gave some thoughts.	
3. Apologies for absence Ruth Atkins (RA) Pamela Carter Moore (PCM)	
4. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting The minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 24 March were approved as an accurate record.	
6. Matter Arising Covered on the agenda.	
7. Finance - BE BE did not have any new financial data this month as he has not been able to finish it, but he explained that he had been in contact with the deanery and diocese as he was concerned how much our current budgetary deficit might prejudice our chances of making the interim post full time. Both the deanery and diocese are confident that the parish is financially well managed and aware and that we should be able to use our reserves for discreet capital projects without being penalised. With this knowledge, BE is happy that the PCC then uses the built up reserves to do necessary projects (whether practical or missional) and stressed that we do not need to be pushing the congregation for more money. There remains the need to increase our annual regular income to meet our expenditure, but we can work carefully on this over the next year or so rather than taking any drastic action. BE said that donations are currently holding up and reminded the PCC about making use of the Amazon Smile initiative.	

	<p>TJ asked whether we could use our reserves to help balance our deficit if needed and BE said that there was no problem doing this. CG was concerned that we do not allow this position (of having a deficit between in year income and outgoings) to go unchecked and BE said that we would continue to work to increase those donations and would look at how we were doing at the next budget point. NR commented that the most vulnerable part of our budget are our two staff salaries. He also wanted us to make our reserves policy clear. NR wanted to know if BE felt that use of funds to hire the community centre could be seen as a 'capital' project. BE replied if we were planning to use the centre regularly this would need to be seen as a regular outgoing and would need to be covered by regular income. That did not need to stop us using it but he stressed that we would need to find ways of increasing our income to cover the costs long term.</p> <p>Action: BE would look to write a reserves policy for next month. BE and TJ were also working on ways of encouraging our congregation to review their giving in the light of God's generosity to us.</p>	BE & TJ
<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>8.4</p> <p>8.5</p> <p>8.6</p> <p>8.7</p> <p>8.8</p>	<p>Children and families update – JR</p> <p>Jills sabbatical had not gone as planned due largely to the pandemic and ongoing pastoral care that she is giving. She was able to move house and to have a break from children's work.</p> <p>School – MN had represented the church at school and the school are keen to have JR back in to interact with the children and also for her and MN to help with assemblies</p> <p>Sunday kids had carried on with either online or delivered resources and had been well received. Jill would be meeting with parents this week to discuss the future of Sunday kids (what is good, what they would like to change etc)</p> <p>Friday Club paused over JRs sabbatical but is scheduled to restart this Friday (30th) outside in the churchyard.</p> <p>Toddler group (now Tiddlypeeps) had been going really well, headed up by Lucy Stevens who had been encouraging and resourcing parents through a Facebook page, with activities and ideas. She had also done a survey to see what people wanted to do going forwards and had a really good response.</p> <p>COG (8-11yrs old) had been continued by Julia N and Will J> This would be restarting in the churchyard this Sunday.</p> <p>Jill's management group had met and rejigged her job description and contract.</p> <p>JR continues to have a heavy pastoral load.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Mission update - MN</p> <p>MN had provided a summary of the responses from the homegroups and congregation to his questions on mission. HE summarised some key points:</p> <p><u>Encouragement</u> – a lot was said about what we do well and people thought that we generally think about and do mission well.</p> <p><u>Education</u> – it is clear there are a wide variety of approaches to mission and some misunderstandings about various things. The information will</p>	

	<p>help to think about how to approach the need for education and better communication about mission and mission partners</p> <p><u>Engagement</u> – there are clearly a variety of perceptions and thoughts about how we should be engaging, but it is clear that there is an appetite for a discussion on mission but particularly on how we give as a church to mission. The PCC needs to make sure that it addresses this soon.</p> <p>KM said that he felt this needed to be discussed as a PCC first and that we need to be clear to distinguish between God’s mission (as in commission) and our mission partners.</p> <p>CG also felt that we needed to talk as a PCC first and then reach out to congregation.</p>	
<p>10. 10.1 10.2 10.3</p>	<p>Fabric – NR</p> <p>Quotes for the roof have been obtained – one from a local builder and one from a specialist roofing company. Following a discussion with the architect we will plan to ask the local builder to repair the main slate roof at All Saints’ and to fix the tiles on St. Luke’s roof but book the specialist company (Heritage Roofing) to replace the stone tiles on the porch and vestry roofs of All Saints’. (costs are approx. £800-£1000 for the repairs at St. Luke’s and £600-£800 for the All Saints’ main roof – will need adjusted quote for stone roof)</p> <p>DAC had visited to look at pews and we are awaiting their response (but are hopeful that we will be able to remove two pews from the balcony)</p> <p>Boiler repair/ replacement – NR explained that the boiler requires repair but that this was looking costly with no guarantee that it would actually work. Rather than put increasing amounts of money into repairing an old boiler the CWs and treasurer feel that it is sensible to look at replacing the boilers with new, more efficient ones.</p> <p>Now is a key opportunity to look t more carbon neutral sources of heat but due to the limitations of the building this is probably impractical at present. BE had spoken to someone who has experience with air source and ground source heat pumps and felt that it could take a long time and a lot of money to install this kind of technology in the church.</p> <p>CG has spoken to NR extensively about this (CG has professional experience of eco-friendly options) and commented that there is not likely to be a quick, low coast alternative to a gas boiler at present as the technologies are not readily available yet. The pragmatic approach would be to install an efficient new boiler with better controls but to continue to look for a more carbon neutral solution for the future. More impact would be had by the church encouraging all it’s members to make changes to their own homes and heating systems!</p> <p>BS asked whether we should consider temporary heating systems to prevent the church being too cold on Sundays – this will be looked at. CW felt that a warm church was much more welcoming and that it was important to seek a solution fast. MN felt that it was bad management to keep repairing a failing boiler and that we should replace with a modern and efficient system. AS also agreed.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>St Lukes – CW</p>	

	<p>CW updated the PCC on activities at St. Lukes. The Easter morning sunrise service went very well with 44 people attending (1/2 from Garford and ½ from Marcham). She thanked TJ for stepping in for MN to take this service</p> <p>The church continues to be open on Sundays between 11am-12pm and on 9th May they would be having 'Hymn Sunday' where people would be able to choose a favourite hymn to have played.</p> <p>They were awaiting new kneelers for the communion step</p> <p>The churchyard needs a strim so CW asked if anyone had a petrol strimmer. NR agreed to lend one to them.</p>	NR
12.	<p>APCM – reminder that this is on the 6th June. We do need a couple of new PCC members so please do pray/ ask people!</p> <p>The TAR had been distributed prior to the meeting and the PCC were happy with it pending a small correction and Bryan inserting the correct financial figures for the year.</p>	
13.	<p>Safeguarding update</p> <p>MN & TJ are in contact with the diocese about a couple of ongoing safeguarding issues.</p>	
14.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>The fire escape plan had been read in advance and the PCC were happy to accept it.</p> <p>CW asked if BS could please complete the PAT testing at St. Lukes.</p> <p>Action: BS to complete PAT testing asap.</p>	BS
15.	<p>Eco church – PCC members were encouraged to look at the ECO church website if they hadn't already done so. We are also looking at options like 'Forest church or Sunday school and installing a raised bed and sensory garden on the site of the old boiler house.</p> <p>PCC members were encouraged to think of ways we could continue to become more 'eco-friendly 'as a church</p>	ALL
16	<p>Appointment update</p> <p>We have had a number of enquiries about the job.</p> <p>Dates to remember:</p> <p>Closing date 9th May</p> <p>Shortlisting 12th May</p> <p>Interviews 26th May</p>	
17	AOB	
17.1	Chris Nutman has asked to step down from doing the pensions and payroll. TG thanked him for doing this faithfully for so many years. Please do pray/ think of someone to take it over.	
17.2	MN asked whether we would consider topping up the amount raised for MANNA by the Miles in March initiative. NR suggested that we should top the £8200 up to £10000 once all donations had been received. CG asked that this is clearly communicated to the church family once it is done, including where the money is going.	
17.3	MN left the meeting	
	TG explained that Mark's contract is due to expire on the 30th May and asked if the PCC would be willing to continue his employment on a	

	monthly rolling basis until a new incumbent is appointed (he would resign at least a month before a new incumbent started). The PCC agreed.	
18.	KM closed the meeting in prayer.	
19	The meeting closed at 21:35	

The next meeting is on Wednesday 26th May 2021