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

**Wednesday 28th February 2024 – 7.45pm Marcham Centre Small Hall**

**MINUTES**

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

Catherine Mentzel (CMe) Sue Lawton (SL) Hugh Lawton (HL)

Chris Nutman (CN) Tim Jack (TJ) Barney Stevens (BS)

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

Tony Carter (TC) Jonathan Boardman (JB) Tamsin Gilbert (TG)

Caroline Manders (CM) 8.05pm

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| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3. 4.**  **5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and opening prayer: NW Ephesians 4 v7 Apologies for absence – Ruth Atkins, Bryan Eccles, James Gilbert, Carolyn Whiting, David Lunn**  **Conflicts of interest** - none  **Minutes of the meeting of 24th Jan 2024**.  **Matters arising –** flower festival moving to early October.  Matters arising from November meeting – CW requested same-sex blessings to begin in Garford at the November meeting. NW advised he would update at this meeting, after another meeting of Synod. Prayers of blessing have now been released for churches who want to use them. NW has met with Archdeacon and is arranging a meeting with Archdeacon, TC, CW, NW, Church wardens. TC requested more people attend that meeting, including PCC members and/or Garford members. NW explained that this is what the Archdeacon has offered, and it would be helpful if the group was smaller. TC will take this back to Garford and see whether they are happy to attend this meeting.  SL asked whether anything has come out of Synod, which finished yesterday. NW summarised. |
| **6.** | **Staff team report – what we have been up to so far this year: NW**  **Report below from NW:**  Aside from the usual week by week ministry including:  1. preparation for services/sermons, Friday Club and Sunday kids (Jill), school assembly (Nick and Jill), youth sessions (Rob), school class visits (Jill), Men’s Min (Nick), Women’s Ministry (Tamsin – but in her capacity as a volunteer not as administrator)  2. Standard admin and operational matters around rotas and church bookings (Tamsin)  3. School governor matters (2 meetings, 2 monitoring visits for Nick)  4. Pastoral load… hospital visits (Nick), private meetings (Nick and Jill)  **Lots of year ahead planning over January and February…**  Easter services and events  Baptism preparation (Jill and Nick)  Weekend away planning (Tamsin and Nick)  Moldova trip (Jill and Nick)  Holiday Club 2024 (Jill)  I asked the staff…  1. Since the start of 2024 what 2 or 3 ministry activities have been your main foci and  consumers of your time.  2. In that time what area(s) of ministry has been the most rewarding?  Nick:  1: Preaching preparation and services, getting some grant funding, Hope Explored, a couple of specific pastoral matters.  2. Preaching and Hope Explored.  Tamsin:  1) church weekend prep, rotas and trying to update website  2) seeing the results of admin - eg services running smoothly with people involved and  seeing people connected into church family.  Jill:  1. Not one in particular, but more juggling everything alongside Neil’s mum needing more care and attention and spending more midweeks in Dunstable on grandparent duties than normal.  2. ⁠COG - the girls are very enthusiastic, Tiddlypeeps - lovely to be able to welcome so many families into the church building, the panto trip ran very smoothly, Friday club - tired at the end of each week it’s a joy to see the smiles on the children’s faces as we sing about Jesus.  Rob:  1. Preparation and delivery of youth sessions and activities.  2. ⁠Seeing growth in Christ-centred youth friendships and welcoming new members to our youth family. Great shared times with wider connections such as CCA on the youth weekend.  CMe asked whether the staff have a ‘proper day off’. TG and NW agree that they do.  TC asked if the morale of the team is good, NW feels that the issue of Living in Love and Faith has been a real challenge, but generally it is good. |
| **7.** | **All Saints Reordering Project Update – including grant applications and Heritage Lottery Funding: NW**  £50,000 grant from Oxfordshire Historic churches trust (OHCT). £5,000 from Matthew 25:35.  No objections to applying to Heritage Lottery Fund. JB suggests we apply for all 3 phases of the project.  JS asked how the fundraiser will be paid – will it be a % of all grant funding or just the grants that he obtains for us? NW confirmed it will be for just the grants he obtains for us, so not the OHCT grant.  AL asked about starting to request funding from the wider community. NW said we will have a pledge day. SL feels there are people who have fundraising ideas and they need to know who to approach.  TG, NR have been to a professional catering kitchen design company and now have a list of everything they would like in the kitchen, which is coming in on budget.  Letter on understanding between thirsty and church on using church for some events.  TJ requested update on Anson trust application, this has been made and they have sent a holding letter.  Fundraiser has identified 12 grants, this is going to be narrowed down to 6 to apply to.  TC asked about money from housebuilders who are building the new developments and it is a community building. NR explained that this is controlled by Parish council, and he is in discussions with the parish council about it. |
| **8.** | **Fyfield and Tubney Parish – potential partnership: NW**  NW updated the paper that was sent around prior to the meeting, KB are offering a 0.5 stipend rather that a house of duty.  JS/CN asked about whether NW feels he has the energy to cover this. NW feels he does, and his previous appointment had 5 parishes. Team will need to be bolstered, NW has spoken to Kevin Mentzel, Mark Newman and Campbell Paget who may be able to support. F&T have a strong team themselves – they have a licenced lay minister, and a link with St Ebbes in Oxford.  JS asked about timescale, this isn’t clear yet.  TJ asked about a cross-licensing arrangement – does this mean each church needs a communion service every week? NW will check but he thinks it is one in the parish.  AL asked about how it affects NWs time. NW explained it will need careful consideration.  CM said she felt uncomfortable with joining with F&T due to the reason they have split from KB. NW explained we will not be a united benefice; it will just be a cross-licensing agreement.  JB wanted to ensure that there would be separate PCC, and separate financial arrangements. NW reassured that there is no cross-over, they are a separate parish.  Financial benefit to us will be around £15,000/year.  *TJ/CN left the meeting* |
| **9.** | **St Luke’s update: CW**  Toilet is installed and working.  Bell has gone for repair, donations of £700, £2,000 from OHCT.  Singalong fundraiser for the bell 11/5/24.  Candlemass service recently.  Taize service this Sunday evening, Mother’s day the following week. |
| **10.** | **Financial update including 2024 budget: JS**  Figures similar to last month, £15,500 deficit. |
| **11.** | **Fabric update: NR/CW**   * AS Coping stones and tiles above vestry – scaffolding has been secured, will be present until April. Stonemason attending for some repairs. Some slates and stones need to be replaced. Need better weather.   AL suggested we need to advise congregation of what is going on, TG will put in notices.   * 5 year electrical surveys have been completed in both churches. * Taps will be placed to monitor the cracks in St Lukes. * Need to renew DNA marking on valuables in both churches, approx. £150/church * Quinquennials (14th March 2024) |
| **12.** | **Safeguarding update: RA**  RA not present but advised via email that there is no change to the safeguarding situation, still 3 ongoing cases. |
| **13.** | **Health & Safety -** none |
| **14.** | **A.O.B. -** none |
| **15.** | **Closing prayer -** HL |
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**PCC next meetings:**

Wednesday 27th March 2024, 7.45pm at All Saints Church

APCM, Sunday 21st April 11.30am at All Saints Church