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

**Wednesday 27th March 2024 – 7.45pm All Saints Church**

**MINUTES**

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

Catherine Mentzel (CMe) Sue Lawton (SL) Ruth Atkins (RA)

Carolyn Whiting (CW) Tim Jack (TJ) Barney Stevens (BS)

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

Jonathan Boardman (JB) Tamsin Gilbert (TG) David Lunn (DL)

Caroline Manders (CM)

Hugh Lawton (HL) (Observer)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3. 4.**  **5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and opening prayer: NW** Luke 19 v45-47 21v 37-38 **Apologies for absence – Tony Carter, Chris Nutman, Bryan Eccles**  **Conflicts of interest** – none.  **Minutes of the meeting of 28th February 2024 –** signed as an accurate record.  **Matters arising –** Item 5 - meeting did not happen due to illness, another date to be arranged. |
| **6.** | **Statement by the Church Wardens – CP/NR**  *We as churchwardens felt it necessary to make a statement about the provision of same-sex blessing in the parish, as we are concerned about the toll these ongoing discussions are having not only on Nick’s ministry but also on his well-being.*  *We know that this is a highly sensitive issue for all of us, but we have found it difficult to*  *observe the conduct in some of the discussions regarding this issue, both at PCC meetings and at other times. In addition, it was brought to our attention that a petition has been drawn up to support the provision of same-sex blessings at St Luke’s, without the knowledge of the PCC.*  *We are aware that as a PCC and a whole church, we have differing views regarding same-sex blessings. Regardless of this, Nick cannot in good conscience allow same-sex blessings to be conducted in this parish, whether by himself or anyone else. As Priest in Charge, this is a decision he is allowed to make and he has the support of his churchwardens and the Bishops in this.*  *The aim of the meeting with the Archdeacon and representatives from Garford was to find a way to move forward either in acceptance of Nick’s position or to make progress towards offering same-sex blessings at St Luke’s under alternative pastoral arrangements. We are in the process of re-arranging that meeting in the near future.*  *In the meantime, we ask that if you have any questions or comments about same-sex*  *blessings, you direct these to the churchwardens and not to Nick.*  Support for Nick and his wellbeing was voiced by many members of the PCC. CMe requested we continue to pray for the situation.  CW left the meeting. |
| **7.** | **All Saints Reordering Project Update – NW**  HL has been liaising with the grant funding consultant. He needs examples of community use of the building, many were given. All applications will need to show community involvement.  Faculty application in process.  Pledge day planned for mid-June, will need to produce an info sheet. |
| **8.** | **Flower Festival change of date**  Has been moved from October as likely we will be in the process of the building project. New date will be May 2025, so costings to come out of next years budget. |
| **9.** | **Thy Kingdom Come Prayer event and Night of Prayer**  9th- 19th May is whole event, 18-19th May is night of prayer. |
| **10.** | **Fyfield and Tubney Parish partnership update: NW**  NW, CP, NR and TG have had another meeting with the church wardens, NW will meet the rest of the PCC next week and attend their APCM. NW will also attend to do a baptism, and to take a service. A social event with the two PCCs will be arranged. A discussion of how Sundays will work is ongoing, it will need some changes, particularly the first Sunday on the month. A suggestion is F&T move their first Sunday arrangement to the third Sunday, and they move their service time to 9.30am, and All Saints move their service time to 10.30am. |
| **11.** | **St Luke’s update: CW**  CW no longer here, so update to be carried over to next meeting.  Very positive feedback for the Taize service.  Bell not yet back.  Spotlight has burnt out, requires replacement, options being considered.  Heater has been fixed. |
| **12.** | **Financial update: JS**   * Trustees Annual Report – approval for APCM – this was adopted apart from the financial section which still requires work. |
| **13.** | **Fabric update: NR**   * AS Coping stones and tiles above vestry – coping stones completed, stone tiles and SW corner still to be done. Slightly under budget. * AS churchyard tree work completed 26.3.24 due to Ash dieback disease. * AS projector – Projector is going to be placed nearer to the screen to see whether this would be better, as we could then buy a cheaper projector. * Some oak has come off the door of the Garford church, Ashley Townend is going to look at it. * Quinquennials (14th March 2024) – nothing urgent for either church building.   TJ left the meeting. |
| **14.** | **Safeguarding update: RA**  3 ongoing cases. RA will feedback to PCC meeting via written updates going forward as she is stepping down from the PCC. |
| **15.** | **Health & Safety –** none arising. |
| **16.** | **A.O.B.**  APCM – 5 members of PCC coming to the end of their 3yr term. RA, AL and CN will stand down from PCC. JB, CW and DL happy to continue. BE and TG will no longer be co-opted, but TG will join PCC. Mike Worthing and Vicky Tinkler have applied to join the PCC. HL also needs to join PCC. BS is considering stepping down which would give space for HL.  Deanory Synod reps will remain as TJ, JG and CM.  NR has completed 6 years as church warden, he is happy to do 1 more year, this was agreed by PCC. CP has completed 3 years, she is happy to do 1 more year. |
| **17.** | **Closing prayer - CP** |

**PCC next meetings:** APCM, Sunday 21st April 11.30am at All Saints Church