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

**Wednesday 24th July 2024 – 7.45pm start, at All Saints Church**

**MINUTES**

Rev Nick Weldon (NW) Neil Rowe (NR) Chrystal Poon (CP)

Mike Worthing (MW) Jonathan Boardman (JB) James Allan (JA)

Danni Grady (DG) Caroline Manders (CMa) Dave Lunn (DL) (8pm)

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| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3.**  **4.**  **5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and prayer:** Jude v 20, 21 **NW Apologies for absence – Tim Jack, Hugh and Sue Lawton, James and Tamsin Gilbert, John Scoble, Vicki Tinkler, Catherine Mentzel, Bryan Eccles.**  **Conflicts of interest** – JB’s employer is bidding for work with C of E in relation to sustainability.  CP item xx  **Minutes of the meeting of 26th June 2024 –** approved as an accurate record.  **Matters arising –** Fyfield and Tubney, St Luke’s – both will be covered in agenda.  Safeguarding policy has been updated. |
| **6.** | **Living in Love and Faith Update following July Synod: NW**  *The General Synod have voted by a small margin to “support” the House of Bishops’*  *proposal:*   * *To allow standalone services of blessing using the PLF for same-sex couples.*   *This is for a 3 year trial period, but the lead Bishop (Leicester) said in the Q&A that once*  *happening they could never be withdrawn.*   * *To provide delegated episcopal ministry to parishes that do not share the theological*   *convictions of their diocesan bishop (Pastoral Reassurance).*   * *To do further theological work on marriage doctrine to allow clergy to enter into*   *same-sex civil marriages.*   * *To replace the current House of Bishops’ guidance, “Issues of Human Sexuality”, with*   *new Guidance.*  *Bishops 22 for, 12 against, 5 abs; Clergy 99 for, 88 against, 2 abs; and Laity 95 for, 91 against, 2 abs.*  *56% of bishops, 52% of clergy and 51% of laity – not enough of a basis for any change let*  *alone one that is splitting the church. Unlawful basis because a doctrinal change should have a 2/3 majority in all three houses.*  *My response:*  *For me, a line was crossed at July Synod. Up until this point there was the slim possibility*  *that LLF might go no further, or be reversed. This is clearly not now the case.*  *So I wrote to +Steven Croft and +Gavin Collins a few days after Synod. I did this purely in my*  *capacity as a priest in the diocese alone, not on behalf of our parish, congregation or PCC.*  *I quote…*  *I am writing to inform you that I have today requested Alternative Spiritual Oversight*  *through the provision made by the Church of England Evangelical Council.*  *For me a line was crossed yesterday at General Synod when the synod narrowly voted in*  *favour of standalone services for same-sex couples, and to work towards the removal of the*  *current restrictions on clergy being in same-sex civil marriages. I consider these moves as*  *running counter to the Church of England’s doctrine of marriage as expressed in our liturgy*  *and canons, and the clear teaching of the Bible.*  *You have both publicly and consistently expressed your support for such changes, and in*  *Gavin’s case you have expressed it to me privately too. Whilst I respect you have come to*  *your views carefully and prayerfully, it is with great regret that I feel I cannot now walk*  *alongside you in the way I would wish as my bishops.*  *I will continue to remain accountable to you in all statutory matters as a license holder in*  *your diocese, especially with regard to safeguarding. And I want to express my thanks,*  *especially to you Gavin whom I am glad to know well, for your encouragement and support*  *throughout my first 3 years in post here. I hope that our friendship and collegiality will*  *deepen in the years ahead, but I accept that may now be more difficult given the divergent*  *paths we now tread.*  *What this means:*  *Steven and Gavin are still my bishops, but I will be linked up with an orthodox bishop*  *(probably one of the honorary assistant Bishops in the diocese) for spiritual oversight.*  *That bishop would be the obvious person to invite for confirmation services and other*  *episcopal functions that do not require a diocesan or suffragan. Gavin has agreed to this.*  *The Alliance: which I am linked up with.*  *The Alliance is an informal partnership of leaders from networks within the Church of*  *England including the Church of England Evangelical Council, Church Society, the HTB*  *Network, Living Out, Myriad, New Wine, ReNew and Forward in Faith; (2000 clergy)*  *“have no choice but rapidly to establish what would in effect be a new de facto ‘parallel*  *Province’ within the Church of England and to seek pastoral oversight from bishops who*  *remain faithful to orthodox teaching on marriage and sexuality”.*  *One very telling affect of LLF… ordinands down by 40% in one year (2023 starters compared*  *to 2022 starters)*  *No secure space in C of E for revisionists, conservatives or not in any camp.*  *Everyone is welcome here. We have to recognise the heart-ache in both sides. The tension*  *weighs heavy on us. We will seek to prayerfully live out the radical Christian inclusion of the*  *gospel as well as the radical Christian holiness that that gospel calls us to as well.*  JA proposed a motion that we support Nick in his decision to seek alternative episcopal oversight for Nick, this was seconded by JB, this was unanimously agreed. |
| **7.** | **Financial update: JS/HL (report attached)**  Report was discussed. Significant shortfall in cashflow of £20K for the first 6 months of the year. Giftaid will offset some of this, but shortfall will be £12,400. Coping stone repair accounts for over £10K of this.  JB praised the financial management of JS and HL, and the churchwardens in achieving savings.  Building project update – £72K in grants, £50k from church funds, £43K from pledge day, so £188k available. |
| **8.** | **New communion distributors for approval: NW**  Martin and Chrystal Poon, Rob and Jay Finch, Hugh and Sue Lawton were approved. |
| **9.** | **Review of services Part 2:**  Gather for worship part 2 – see accompany discussion document  **NW**  Due to the number of apologies for this evening’s meeting this item is carried over to September’s meeting. |
| **10.** | **Safeguarding update: NW**  3 ongoing safeguarding agreements. They are being reviewed on schedule. |
| **11.** | **Health and Safety Update –** holiday club risk register raised by JB. Jill Rowe will be reviewing this next week.  A couple of large services recently – fire instructions to be given from the front, and side door left open when possible. |
| **12.** | **Fabric Update: NR**  Delay to slate replacement, building company cannot find the correct size slates. More stones require replacement than previously thought.  An urn has been purchased for the kitchen at All Saints.  A new noticeboard is needed for All Saints, current one has faded. Cost approx. £30-100. Needs List B application. This was approved.  Quinquennial has found some work is needed on tower roof – it will be expensive, but it isn’t urgent, 5-10yrs.  The record of Vicars needs to be updated, NR is in contact with Carolyn Blackmore regarding this. |
| **13.** | **St Luke’s Update: email report**  *Our first service with Rev. Jan Radford on 7th July went really well. She did it beautifully and it was well received. On 4th August we have a Madrigals and Praise evening and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us. Collection money has been submitted...£116.67.*  *Our traditional, monthly service plans were submitted to Nick at the last PCC and every service will be taken by one of our approved stand in priests. We are organised up until Christmas and encourage PCC members to attend when they can.*  *Churchyard: Our annual churchyard tidy up was organised by Chris Webb. Chris and his son have done an amazing job removing all the ivy and nettles. Our big compost heap has been removed and we thanked Neil Walker and Tim Meadows for helping us...they took it all away in one of the farm trailers.....2 trips actually!!!*  *Our church rotas are working well. If anyone would like to contribute in any way by cleaning, reading, prayers or making a cake...do let Carolyn or myself know.*  *Fabric: The noticeboard has been ordered. Thank you. The light in the East End of the church is still broken and will need attention before the winter for safety reasons. Neil Rowe is in the process of organising this. Please can you keep us updated. Tony and I have had a willow weave fence put round the toilet in Neil Walkers yard to make it more discreet.*  *For clarification of our volunteers list as requested at last PCC meeting, see below:*  *Sally and Andy Viney-refreshments and flowers*  *Carolyn Whiting-admin*  *Gay Campbell-rota lists for cleaning, readers, prayers and Mad News contributer*  *Chris Webb-churchyard*  *Bryan-PCC member and finance liaison*  *Ben Skipp-organist and choir master and notices of services for village*  *Neil Whiting and Tony Carter- general upkeep of Church*  *Pamela Carter-Moore liase with All Saints Vicar, churchwardens and PCC, and Archdeacon.*  Discussion over terms of reference for St Luke’s sub-committee. NW will contact the sub-committee again regarding signing these. |
| **14.** | **All Saints Reordering Project Update: NW**  £188k available, 3 firms have tendered. Classic builders (£98K), Mansbridge (£129) and JG restorations (£178). Christian Randall our architect has recommended Classic builders – he has worked with them previously; they have come in on budget and have done a good job. All 3 companies are ready to start in September if we sign the contract before 1/8, with the hope of completion before the Christmas period starts.  JB asked what the contingency is, it is 10% in each quote.  The PCC agreed to engage Classic builders, subject to faculty.  Work can begin after a wedding on 14/9. |
| **15.** | **Fyfield and Tubney Parish partnership update: NW**  It has been agreed that NW can become interim minister. There will be a welcome service planned. |
| **16.** | **A.O.B.**  CP requested £132 to complete ministry training with South Central Ministry Training. She completed 1 year a couple of years ago, and now would like to complete year 2. The course cost is £660, CP is requesting 20%, as this was what the PCC contributed last time. The PCC agreed to cover 50%, therefore £330.  NW is now vicar incumbent, rather than priest in charge.  JB mentioned general election, constituency boundaries have changed. He suggested we write to our new MP, to congratulate her and invite her to church. NW will do this. |
| **17.** | **Closing prayer**  NW closed in prayer. |

**Terms for AOB**:

Please could members of the PCC notify Nick or Tamsin of any such items **prior** to the meeting.

**PCC next meetings:** Wednesday 25th September