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

**Wednesday 23rd October 2024 – 7.45pm start, at All Saints Church**

**MINUTES**

**Present: Nick Weldon (NW), Jonathan Boardman (JB), Tim Jack (TJ), Vicki Tinkler (VT), Mike Worthing (MW), John Scoble (JS), Bryan Eccles (BE), Chrystal Poon (CP), Catherine Mentzel (CM), 8pm-Neil Rowe (NR)**

**1. Welcome, Bible reading and prayer: NW**

Opening prayer, reading & reflections on Acts 5 v 27- 42 with a focus on praying for the persecuted church.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Danni Grady, Hugh Lawton, Sue Lawton, James Gilbert, Tamsin Gilbert, David Lunn, Caroline Manders, James Allen

**3. Conflicts of interest** :none

**4. Minutes of the meeting of 25th Sept 2024:** approved

**5. Matters arising :** none

**6. Advent / Christmas services and events:**

Sat 30th Nov Wreath making event in church. New pre-booking system to control numbers.

Sun 1st Dec: Advent services at St Luke’s.

‘ ‘ All Age Service at MCC

Sun 15th Carol service at both AS (6pm) and Fyfield (4pm)

Thurs 19th School Carol Service at AS (4pm)

Sun 22nd Carol service at Tubney

Tues 24th Crib Service AS

Wed 25th Christmas Services at Tubney (9:30am), St Lukes (10am), AS (10:30am)

The outdoors stretched tent will be used as a venue for a nativity scene with carols around the tent on Fri 20th Dec instead of walking around the community. Details to be confirmed once weather forecasts are checked nearer the time.

JB to check about resources from Christian Vision for Men e.g. fire pits

NR to liaise with The Crown Pub re carols, possibly 23rd Dec.

**7. Curacy Plans: NW**

Possibility of Phil Rowlandson (& wife Heather, 3 young children) coming as curate from summer ’25 from Oak Hill Theological College. His 3 year curacy training would be in AS, St Luke’s, Fyfield and Tubney. Discussed funds & accommodation - expectations of input from the diocese & rest of the parish.

NW been in discussion with OGST (Oxford Good Stewards Trust) re possible funding for this post.

Very exciting news!

**8. Bishop’s Authorisation for preaching and leading services: NW**

for Chrystal Poon and Ashley Townsend

Both candidates will require Bishop Gavin’s approval & leadership level of safeguarding training. This would give a 2 year authorisation.

Motion carried by majority vote. JB against motion in relation to CP’s appointment (in relation to headship in church)

**9. All Saints Reordering Project progress update: NW**

Good progress in being made with the Phase 1 work and within budget. NR has been liaising with Classic Builders. Roughly a 7 day delay on the installation of the kitchen. Aiming for a release date around 9th Dec. Discussed the use of the organ for the Christmas services. Eric Dunford will be asked to organise a tuner the week after the 9th Dec. Site has been kept in good order and the builders are doing a great job.

Heating will be on the day of Remembrance Sunday.

There is a 14 day delay on materials for the porch (more tiles needed than first expected)

JB asked for a update re costings for porch repairs. Any more than £10,000 then further authorisation needed from PCC. Appears that the porch repairs will be within agreed budget.

**10. Fabric Update: NR**

**Incl. any health and safety matters**

Access to the chancel roof has been arranged and tiles will be replaced.

New projector has been installed. This is a wireless system and appears to be working well. Overhead lights have been replaced and repositioned. Thanks to Charles Gaisford for this work.

Discussions have begun with the architect re Phase 2 of works.

Lights in the porch (AS) need attention.

Some wasps noted in AS.

No issues reported from St Luke’s.

**11. Financial update:**

JS/HL (report attached) Building project (Phase 1)- no changes to budget.

Possible projected shortfall of church finances of approx £5500. Parish share ’25/26 set at £62,421 (down from £68k due to inclusion of Fyfield and Tubney churches). Reduction (£3300) also due to NW’s role of Assistant Area Dean. Funeral fees also a factor in reduction of Parish Share. VAT approved for bell restoration at St Luke’s. HL has made enquiries re VAT refund on Phase 1 project.

BE: requested earlier access to finance reports prior to PCC meetings.

JS: Remaining funds (approx £3000) will be sent to Moldova and that account will then be closed.

Discussion re spending outstanding Parish Council / Vale funds (approx £3000) for Forest Church, composting, water butt…

**12. Safeguarding update: NW**

NW: in regular contact with Ruth Atkins (Safeguarding Officer). 3 on going safeguarding issues continue- no changes.

**13. Fyfield and Tubney Parish partnership update: NW**

A few weeks into the new arrangements . Timings appear to be working well. NW to be licensed at 6pm 24th Oct at Fyfield with Bishop Gavin in attendance.

NW has met with the new Vicar of Kingston Bagpuize, Rev Catherine Schneider.

**14. A.O.B.**

**Next meeting Wed 27th Nov at MCC**

Christmas Social for PCC Wed 18th in our new, completed Phase 1 at church 7:45pm with PCC spouses invited to come along.

**15. Closing prayer :TJ**

**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 27th November at MCC