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

**Wednesday 26th February 2025 – 7.45pm at All Saints Church**

**MINUTES**

Rev Nick Weldon (NW) Bryan Eccles (BE) Tamsin Gilbert (TG)

Tim Jack (TJ) Hugh Lawton (HL) Dave Lunn (DL)

Sue Lawton (SL) Caroline Manders (CM) John Scoble (JS)

Chrystal Poon (CP) Vicki Tinkler (VT) James Allan (JA)

Mike Worthing (MW) Neil Rowe (NR) Rob Finch (guest)

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| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3. 4.**  **5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and prayer: NW Hebrews 10:19-25**  **Apologies for absence –** James Gilbert, Danni Grady, Catherine Mentzel (CMe)  **Conflicts of interest** - none  **Minutes of the meeting of 22nd January 2025 –** approved as an accurate record.  **Matters arising -**  Dishwasher – a new dishwasher has been purchased and is installed, coming to less than the approved amount. The dishwasher has a lower wattage and can function on our current electricity supply. Nisbets will not help with refunding the old one so we are still seeking a resolution to this.  SIAMS inspection at school went well – the inspector noted how well embedded the Christian ethos of the school is and how well involved the church are in the life of the school. Nick urged us to pray for interviews for a new headteacher on 11th March. |
| **6.** | **Working Group for Accessibility, Welcome and Engagement** (see accompanying briefing paper). Rob spoke to this paper and explained his thinking so far. Rob would like to have a PCC representative to work with him to identify a wider working group to look at these issues.  The PCC asked Rob some questions and a discussion about various aspects was had. The PCC felt that this was a good thing to do. CM volunteered to get involved and help Rob bring together a group that in itself represents the variety in the congregation.  We agreed that the group would come back with an update at our June meeting. |
| **7.** | **Mission Committee – giving proposal** (see accompanying briefing paper) **JG**  Nick explained the reasoning and understanding behind the proposal. SL spoke about the importance of giving financially to partners like the Dippers. HL explained that the ‘pot’ would be an allocated part of our church funds – it could be done on percentage of overall giving or in other ways. TJ expressed his support for the idea. DL also expressed support but wondered what part of the budget might be squeezed as a result. There was a general discussion about where the funds might come from and the different ways that the ‘pot’ might be initially created. There was also discussion about the importance of giving as a church and as individuals.  CP suggested that we could encourage people to increase their giving to mission by increasing their general giving.  *After discussion the PCC agreed in principle to changing mission giving from having ‘pots’ to being part of the budget. The mission committee will be asked to come back to the PCC with some clear options for how the budgeting will work, but also how we communicate this to the congregation and the impact it will have on the partners.* |
| **8.** | **All Saints Reordering Project Phase 2 update: NR/NW**  NW reported back from an investigation looking under the dais. The investigation showed that for the main part, there is a timber floor at the level of the second as far as the east wall. Since the timber is in good condition, it can probably be largely reused.  C Randall has drawn updated plans that were presented to the group. Discussions were had about these new ideas.  A new DAC visit will be needed to discuss these new ideas and plans. Nick and the wardens will arrange this.  There was a general feeling that it would be good to try and do the whole east end refurbishment in one go. |
| **9.** | **Fabric Update: NR**  Kitchen and toilets finished apart from minor snagging points.  Boiler continues to be problematic – engineers are trying to solve the issues.  Painting is due to start 3rd March – likely to take about 2 weeks. (back wall of church, stairwell, office and porch interior)  There will be a working party to reoil and refurbish the main door and then the mat will be replaced.  Tiles still need to be replaced – this is weather dependent.  Three phase electricity supply – Neil is trying to work out costs. The supply can be put in place but not be used until we want it. Current quote is around £6000. An issue could be needing to discuss installation with Mr. Duffield.  No new jobs at St. Luke’s since last report. |
| **10.** | **Curacy update: NW**  Phil’s Ordination is first weekend of July by Bishop Dave Bull. Still working on accommodation. Oxford Good Stewards Trust will be giving us a grant, we have applied for £30,000. |
| **11.** | **St Luke’s Update: written report**  No report this month, PCM will come to the March meeting. NW met with PCM after the last meeting. NW’s relationship with St.L’s remains difficult.  HL expressed concerns about how the finances work with St.L but will seek a conversation with those involved. |
| **12.** | **Financial update: JS/HL**  Summary from JS/HL discussed. Thanks expressed to Hugh and John for all of their work. Giving has increased compared to last year. At the year end we have a surplus. HL/JS hope to have the accounts for the year ready for Mike Greig to review soon. |
| **13.** | **Safeguarding update: NW**  Three safeguarding agreements in place which have all been reviewed since the last meeting. |
| **15.** | **A.O.B.**  Cleaning – a homegroup has expressed a desire for the church to pay a cleaner as the job has gotten bigger and more complex. NW suggested that look for a cleaner who might be willing to do the job a couple of hours a week. PCC agreed with this approach. |
| **16.** | **Closing prayer - CP** |

**PCC next meetings:** Wednesday 26th March 2025 at All Saints Church