

Minutes of the PCC Meeting, Wed January 11th, 2023, in All Saints.

Present: Lisa Meakin, Martin Penny, Samantha Bowden, Verity Tranter, Linda Dye, Rev Canon Jo Loveridge, Colin Bird, Andrew Belfield, Janet Bird, Helen Briggs, Andrew Povey-Richards.

Jo led a prayer, and items for AOB were requested.

1. There were no apologies.
2. The next part of this meeting was confidential, and the minutes are kept separately.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved after a slight change to the wording of an AOB item.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. Sustainability: Points for discussion were around
 - The need to grow as a worshipping community
 - The church is for 7 days a week. Regulars have to reach out eg Christingle and Green Talks.
 - Encourage people who have not returned after Covid to do so.
 - Appreciate small things done.
 - Use legacy money to support younger people as worshippers. This is for further discussion at a future PCC.
6. Finance. The gas bill for December has brought our budget deficit to £24,000. Income has held up, especially due to Soundbites. Q. Can we use the "Choir Legacy"? A. Not for this, as it must be for projects, eg Bring and Sing Messiah was an outreach project. The Hall has had a good year and Mario Jorge was thanked for his work. Colin reminded PCC that all Hall income belongs to them and that they are Trustees of All Saints with St John's Hall. The Memorial Fund has received more legacies. Q are we able to use the restricted funds? A. Yes, we have done it once in the Pandemic. Samantha volunteered to raise awareness of giving through wills, and Helen suggested a "How we are using legacies" presentation. Colin proposed we transfer the Hall surplus to our operational fund. Jo seconded and PCC all approved. The new Fees were accepted by PCC.
7. Hall Subcommittee. The new booking system is being prepared. It will be more flexible. Plans will come to the meeting of the Subcommittee in Feb and then to PCC to approve. The hall benefits from the skills and time of the Work Party and PCC expressed its thanks.
8. Fabric. Richard Toyn submitted notes regarding a possible defective hinge on one of the glass doors at the west end and suggested that door installers should examine. He reported a new LED based unit has been installed in the corridor by the toilets. It is an emergency light and the charging of its battery is shown by a green light. Janet Bird reported that we have not yet received the Quinquennial Report. She has received one quote for repairs to the broken windows. Her application for a grant was unsuccessful. She has received one quote for a new sound system.
9. Events. All Saints will host a service of welcome for a new Bishop of Hertford. PCC members were invited to act as stewards and plans were made for a church spring clean in advance. Green Talks are being planned by Fiona Earle and Shirley Glover.
10. Health and Safety. There was nothing to report. Richard noted that the display of poppies for Remembrance had restricted a fire exit temporarily, when in previous years it was placed where the exit at the North-West Porch was left free for use.
11. Safeguarding. There is nothing to report. The phone number regarding Domestic Abuse has been posted in the church. A "Safer Church" notice at a low place where a child or wheelchair user could read it was moved higher. It has been returned to where it is most useful.

12. Meeting dates. PCC March 29th. 7.30pm. APCM April 23rd 11.30am. The proposed meeting for May needs to change, and Martin will send members a Doodle Poll.

13. AOB.

Andrew Povey- Richards advised PCC that he will not be continuing as a member owing to a plan to relocate to Scotland. PCC expressed their sadness and thanks for his many contributions to the community at All Saints.

There is a suggestion from Richard Toyn that a return to the former practice of bringing the collection plate to the altar, along with bag collections be re-instated. He also expressed his hope that a return to Communion in both kinds would happen soon.

Our bank needs us to remove a locked box they have in storage.

Lisa Meakin informed PCC that she is planning to relocate to Yorkshire and will not continue on PCC. Members wished her well as she embarked on this change.

The meeting ended at 9.45 with The Grace.