

Minutes of PCC Meeting 7.30 Wednesday January 15th, 2025

Present; Rev Simon Cutmore, Verity Tranter, Andrew Belfield, Nerine Chalmers, Shirley Glover, Martin Penny, Janet Bird, Colin Bird, Mary Penny.

Simon welcomed everyone and led bible reading.

1 Apologies were received from Linda Dye, Helen Briggs and Samantha Bowden.

One AOB was requested.

2 Safeguarding. There was nothing to report.

At this point, 7.45, the Hall Managers arrived to update PCC. Colin thanked Luella and Mario for their productive work regarding St John's Hall and for attending PCC. They spoke of the success of the relatively new booking system and that it has reduced cancellations because payments are made at the time of booking. Usage of the outside space was discussed along with the need for regular grass cutting, and options for BBQ's. PCC enquired whether feedback from users was received or could be received. **Martin** will enquire of Nick Hassell if the system can offer a feedback opportunity. After discussion about usage rates, PCC decided on a revision to match other local rates for rooms and halls. PCC continues to support a small differential between regular and one-off users. Luella and Mario suggested some hall interior improvements e.g. removal of the old dishwasher and install a cupboard instead, and following discussion regarding the hall curtains, **the Wardens and Colin** offered to research options.

PCC thanked Mr and Mrs Jorge for their continued work for All Saints and they left at 8.10 pm. PCC then approved an increase in their payment (to also include the Church Cleaning)

3 Business Cycle for January; **Policy; Martin** will approach Richard Toyn with the aim of customising a Health and Safety policy available from our insurers. **Fabric** : This will be at item 8. **Social**; to do independently of PCC. **Effectiveness: Simon** is developing 2 strands and will report to PCC. The first is regarding the widening and formalising of pastoral work and the second will be a response to the PCC and community surveys.

4 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by PCC and signed by Simon who was Chairing the meeting.

5 Matters arising. Martin confirmed that HCS will adhere to our safeguarding document and **Simon** will speak to Nick re further copies of the safeguarding poster in sizes suitable for placing (e.g. in loos) in both Church and Hall. **Sam's** work is ongoing. Simon reported that Bereavement Café will use the church. Janet reported that the faculty for a memorial plaque in All Saints for Brian Bromley has arrived.

6 Patterns of worship and Lent. Simon suggested we have an all-age eucharist (liturgy TBC) on the first Sunday of the month rather than a non-eucharistic service to be reviewed at the end of May. This alteration reflects the fact that festivals e.g. our own Patronal in November, Advent Sunday etc often come on the first Sunday of a month. The 3rd Sunday will, as part of the experiment, be Parish Communion.

During Lent there will be study courses, a Choral Communion on Ash Wednesday at 8.00pm and there will be a service every day in Holy Week. PCC expressed their appreciation for Simon's time and work for the Parish.

7 Finance led by Colin. PCC had received the numbers for the end of 2024 from Colin and he drew attention to how well we are supported by Soundbites audiences and those who run the series. The Budget for 2025 shows a deficit of £25,000. PCC approved the budget and request that the Trustees of the Memorial Fund use it to support the budget. Part 2 of the Minutes is confidential. PCC thanked Colin for his continuing support and work.

8 Fabric; **Roof** There was nothing to report. PCC agreed on a course of action which Simon will implement if there is still no movement regarding our situation by next PCC. **Bell Money** remaining after the recent works. **Simon** will approach the Tower Captain about installing better lighting in the stairs and elsewhere. **Boiler controls:** Standing Committee are acutely conscious of the many heating failures affecting services, rehearsals, concerts, presentations; in fact, everything we do. They suggested that we seek 2 contractors to diagnose the problem while looking at the whole system and offering a proposal. Two firms were suggested and PCC approved. **Simon** will communicate our wishes to the two companies.

9 Health and Safety; An accident was reported in November 2024 and details were entered in the Accident Book that is in the Vicar's Vestry.

10 Events: A planned Burns Night will take place in the Hall.

11 AOB Simon put forward to PCC an opportunity to open our churchyard with its parking area to "Street Food Heroes". This would be a monthly event in late afternoon to early evening. PCC want to forge more links into the Hertford community and agreed to welcome Street Food Heroes at a fee of £200 per visit. **Andrew and Simon** will meet Ed, the co-ordinator to facilitate this.

Next meeting is March 19th, APCM is on Sunday May 11th and the new PCC meets on May 21st.

Janet led final prayers, and the meeting ended at 9.35pm.