

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

*Minutes of the meeting of the PCC on Monday 23 September 2019
at 8 p.m. in the Upper Room*

1. **Opening Prayer**

Rev'd Paul welcomed the members of the PCC and the meeting began with the first part of Compline.

2. **Members Present**

Rev'd Paul White (Rev'd Paul); Rev'd Nicola Harvey (Rev'd Nicky); Martin Massy (MM); Francis Griffiths (FG); Kelly Parsons (KP); Nicola Canham (NC); Kirsty Finch (KF); Jack Good (JG); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Julia Miles (JM); Val Newell (VN); Katerina Nixon (KN); Rachel Packham (RP); Michael Payne (MP); Lisa Porritt (LP)

Minutes : Linda Yabsley (LY)

3. **Apologies for absence**

Barbara Smith

4. **Approval of the PCC Minutes of 15th July 2019**

There being no comments or changes, the Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy by Rev'd Paul.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

Updating the situation regarding the May Memorial, Rev'd Paul reported that the fence had now been painted black and planning permission for the fence was for 3 years. Rev'd Paul had met with Nick Collins and subject to Consents, it was most likely that the Memorial would be back-filled and become a grave, at ground level, rather than a monument. It was agreed that, in conjunction with the Parish Council, MP would try and contact Brian May.

There were no further matters arising.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

This report had been circulated to the PCC prior to the meeting for their consideration. MM briefly reviewed the points in the Commentary, noting the money invested with the Central Board of Finance would be available should the PCC feel it was needed.

The budget for 2020 is being prepared for consideration by the Standing Committee in October and approval by the PCC in November. The budget will introduce a forecast of projected income which can then be compared to budgeted expenditure and provide a better idea of the additional income required to meet the budget.

Rev'd Paul informed the meeting that a joint letter from the Deanery had been sent to the Diocese detailing Deanery reservations about the formula for the Parish Share. It is possible that there may be changes to the Parish Share System.

MM apologised for the late circulation of the Report due to working on the various charts in the report, which he hoped provided a clearer picture of church finances. The meeting thanked MM for his hard work in preparing the report and charts, which are proving very helpful.

With reference to the Finance Committee Report, already circulated, MM again briefly reviewed the minutes relating to petty cash, preparation of a finance policy and cost of the village newsletter.

Leaflets were available detailing various approaches to Legacy policies and MM requested that members take one of each. Possibly at the next meeting or early in 2020, these would be discussed and a policy set out for the implementation of Legacies.

With regard to setting up a "Friends of St Mary's" scheme, MP had discussed this with Mike Harvey and suggested that with PCC permission and Mike's agreement, the administration of the scheme at Seal should be presented to the PCC at a future meeting, so that a way forward for St Mary's could be decided on.

It was noted that the Historical Society had offered a donation of £50 towards the cost of printing the newsletter and it was agreed to ask users of the newsletter, if they would be prepared to make a donation towards its production costs. KF will ask the Women's Institute.

7. **Sub Committee Reports**

a) *Finance*

It was agreed that everything in the report had already been covered under the Treasurer's Report item.

b) *Education*

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and KN gave a short overview – items discussed were Sunday Club groups, Messy Church (which is proving popular) and the monthly Beacon Service, for which leaflets will be distributed.

The Residential weekend at Kingswood for the Youth Council had been well attended. As a member of the Youth Council, JG informed the meeting that weekend had been good and he felt St Mary's were doing the right things to try and bring in young people, particularly with the Beacon Service.

Rev'd Paul added that Southwark Diocese is considering setting up a Youth Council and has invited Youth Council members from Rochester Diocese to meet with the Bishop of Southwark to explain how the Council works and its benefits.

RP raised the subject of the Sunday Clubs not catering for the age groups attending on a Sunday, particularly the 11 – 14 year olds. It was suggested that if the over 14's were to stay in church the 11-14 group could meet on those Sundays. It was agreed that the Education Committee should discuss this option.

c) *Fabric*

MM reported that the barge boards on the East wall of the chancel had been repaired and repainted. The electrical system is not fully compliant with current standards – tested January 2019 – and expenditure on the work required had been approved at the Standing Committee in June and would hopefully take place in the next couple of months.

Regarding the break-in at the end of August, a claim has been lodged with Ecclesiastical Insurance. The broken panel will be replaced by a copy faithful to the original. In the meantime, the opening has been boarded up. Following discussion with the insurers, quotes are being obtained from two companies for repairing the chancel south window. We have

received one quote for £4,820 + VAT and are waiting for the second. The insurance claim excess is £500. POST-MEETING NOTE: Ecclesiastical Insurance has authorised us to proceed as per the estimate from Clifford Durant for £5784 (incl VAT).

MM has obtained a quote for £370 + VAT for the inspection and securing of the mesh grilles over windows that are currently held on with wire ties, which would not be covered by the insurance. It was proposed that this quote for securing the grilles be accepted and this was unanimously agreed by the PCC.

There were no questions regarding the Fabric Report

d) *Outreach and Fundraising*

Rev'd Paul proposed huge congratulations on the success of the Scarecrow Trail to KF and everyone who had helped. KF reported that £906.82 had been raised, 300 Trail sheets had been handed out to approx. 250 families and groups. MKA are sponsoring the cash prizes for the winners and wish to attend the Harvest Service to hand out the prizes.

The next event will be the Barn Dance on 5th October, in conjunction with the Village Hall, the expenses and proceeds being split 50/50 between St Mary's and the Village Hall. There will be a Ladies Breakfast in November, and St Mary's will be taking part in the Community Christmas Fair as last year.

There were no question regarding the Outreach and Fundraising Report

e) *World Mission* – JM reported that the Committee had not met but the Shoe Box Appeal is happening again this year and BS is promoting this. It was noted that St Mary's would be a collection point for the Shoe Boxes. Regarding Away Giving, the Committee would welcome any suggestions for Away Giving.

There were no questions regarding the World Mission Report.

8. **Holiday at Home**

JH informed the meeting that the event had gone well with more attendees than last year. She thanked all those who had helped to make the event a success. As per last year there will be a follow up lunch and afternoon in November. JH stated that it is hoped to extend the event to 3 days next year, with an outing on one of the days now that the community minibuses were available. There would be a cost towards this outing. A sub-committee will be set up to plan next year's event.

9. **Stairlift**

Rev'd Paul confirmed that quotes had been received for replacement of the stairlift in the region of £4,500 - £5,000, depending on whether new or second hand. An application had been made to a Diocesan Fund for a grant towards the cost of the stairlift and we are waiting to hear if we have successfully got through the second round. The grant would be for £4,500.

10. **Copyright and Licensing**

MM had circulated to the PCC details of the current licenses which we hold and also details of two additional licenses. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed that we should continue

with the current licenses with the addition of the CLA Church Licence and the PPL Licence, with effect from 30th September 2019. This was unanimously agreed.

11. **Worship Review**

The Meeting reviewed the new arrangements for the beginning of the 10.00am services and it was agreed that these be continued. The length of time taken for "Sharing the Peace" was discussed and it was agreed that no changes be made but Rev'd Paul confirmed that he is trying to keep the length of time taken at a reasonable level.

Concern was expressed that few modern hymns are chosen for worship. FG volunteered to join the hymn choosing committee.

12. **Safeguarding**

There were no serious issues reported.

Two group sessions for C1 training were taking place this month and anyone needing to complete C2 will be notified by BS.

13. **Correspondence**

Rev'd Paul reported that there was no correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Meeting.

A flyer for a Bible Course was handed round to PCC members for their consideration, with the possibility of holding it in-house next year.

14. **Any Other Business**

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed the Fabric Committee should review the situation regarding the storage of chairs not required in the church. This would be an item for Review on the Agenda.

15. **Dates of Next Meetings**

Standing Committee Monday, 14th October 2019

Full PCC Monday, 18th November 2019

16. The meeting closed with the second half of Compline.