

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Paul's, New Beckenham, held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**2022 / 2023 No. 2**

**Present:** Rev Simon Couper (in the chair), Adelaide Adade, Sarah Butler, Tarina Hill, Anne Howick, Keith Howick, Nomsa Mafohla, Anthea Prendergast.

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Bradley, Andrew Griffiths, Hazel Koungoue and Paul Lashmar.

Sarah Butler opened the meeting in prayer.

**10661 Conflict of Interest**

Keith Howick declared a potential Conflict of Interest as a trustee of St Paul's Pre-School, and of The Ugly Duckling Company.

**662 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The minutes of the meeting had been received. Sarah Butler proposed, second by the vicar, that the minutes of the PCC meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be received as an accurate record of the meeting. In answer to a question from Keith Howick regarding Rule 76 and Church of England governance, the vicar confirmed that the regulations had reversed to the former procedure and it was possible to approve recommendations at a meeting. The minutes of the meeting were **agreed**.

**663 Matters arising**

(i) Minute 652, Donation plate. In answer to a query from Anthea Prendergast the vicar confirmed that going forward the donation plate should be taken up to the sanctuary during the hymn before Holy Communion. Anthea agreed to speak to the sidemen and the vicar agreed to include this requirement in the service template which he produces for services.

**664 Report on decision made by the PCC by email**

The PCC Secretary reported that twelve members of the PCC had approved the following items from the previous meeting: Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022; Diocesan Safeguarding policy; Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer; members of the Standing Committee; PCC appointments; Approved signatories; Parish Offer.

**665 Action Sheet**

The PCC Secretary had circulated a list of actions which had been identified at the previous PCC meeting.

(i) Transfer of Copyright. The vicar and Mili Tharakan had met on 20<sup>th</sup> May and the transfer of copyright and any other IP rights had been agreed and signed.

(ii) Posters advertising Ukraine Support Group. These had been prepared and were now displayed on several notice boards.

(iii) Purchase of A3 colour printer. Stephanie Fox had spoken to Simon Dalwood regarding possible printers. The Standing Committee would be asked to approve the purchase.

(iv) Safeguarding courses. Anne Howick had circulated details of all the relevant courses which PCC members are required to attend.

(v) Complaints Policy and Procedure. The vicar had looked at the information and felt that there were probably a number of policies which St Paul's would need to update. He felt that he and the churchwardens should decide which policies St Paul's should have. He asked the PCC Secretary to send round some further information to the Standing Committee regarding Church of England social media guidelines. The vicar felt that St Paul's should re-visit basic risk assessment every 18 months.

(vi) Noticeboards. The noticeboards had been washed down and new posters added.

#### **666** Post pandemic

The vicar reported on a report prepared by a church in Brussels which had had research done in the light of the church coming out of the pandemic. The report included thoughts on the active and inactive core of members. Some had an energy for mission, and others wanted to be cared for. He had had similar conversations with people at St Paul's, where some felt they were over looked.

Keith Howick reported on the Diocesan Synod meeting which had been held on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The Bishop of Tonbridge had spoken about St Barnabas and encouraged the members to find ways of encouraging people where they are following the pandemic. He hoped people would look forward rather than worrying about the past. Further details of Bishop Simon's talk were on the Diocesan website. Anthea Prendergast commented that several people at St Paul's had got more frail recently and some felt slightly marginalised. The vicar asked the PCC to let him know about any people he should visit, particularly thinking of those who don't come to church on a Sunday.

#### **667** Safeguarding and Inclusion

Members were reminded that Anne Howick, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, needs to have copies of the certificates when members have completed courses. See also minute 665(iv).

#### **668** Financial matters

(i) Purchase of new fridge/freezer. Liz Spencer had informed the churchwardens that, following a visit by the Local Authority Health & Safety team, the Pre-School trustees had approved the purchase of a modestly priced new fridge/freezer for the church hall kitchen. The trustees had said that they would like the fridge/freezer to be gifted to the church so that it is the church property. The churchwardens had commented that they hoped weekly cleaning of the fridge and freezer would be undertaken by the Pre-School team, and that they would also remind all those using the hall and kitchen that those groups should also ensure that everything is left clean. The vicar recorded his thanks to the Pre-School for their purchase and asked Keith Howick, as a Pre-School trustee, to make sure lines of communication are open if necessary, and that reports should be made to the PCC. It was very important that high standards of food hygiene are maintained.

Anthea Prendergast commented that the microwave was very old and filthy underneath. From the chair the vicar proposed that St Paul's should purchase a new microwave for the hall kitchen. **Agreed.**

Nomsa Mafohla suggested that there should be a check list of work to be done by users of the hall, on a daily or weekly basis. It was suggested that this requirement should be part of the terms of hire of the hall. The vicar agreed to ask the Church Administrator and Hazel Koungoue to make a list of cleaning requirements which should be displayed on the kitchen door. Keith Howick suggested that the PCC should agree who is responsible for what area.

**669** St Paul's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

(i) Street party, 4<sup>th</sup> June. The vicar recorded his thanks to all the organising team, including those who live in Lawn Road, and would be giving a thank you bottle of wine to Alison Charlesworth and Ingrid Glenister. It had been a wonderful event. At least 200 people had attended, possibly 300 overall. The ten police officers had been very supportive and had reported that they felt the St Paul's street party had been the best event. The Bromley Police Facebook page had photographs of the event. The vicar also thanked those involved in organising the treasure hunt, and for helping to pack up afterwards.

At the moment the vicar did not have a financial report for the street party but Rosemary Dear would be providing information. The vicar felt that, following lockdown, the street party had brought people back together, and he wondered about the possibility of holding a street party in 2023.

(ii) Beckenham Appreciation Group. The vicar reported that he had done a couple of tours of St Paul's on 15<sup>th</sup> June, giving the history of the Parish. He felt it had been a very interesting process, and expected there would be some more Saturday visits.

(iii) Gardening Team. A report had been received from Moreen Lane. The Gardening Team had decided to replant the bed along the North side of the church with camellias and other plants. It seemed likely that the total cost would be £900, to include six camellias at £20 each, and sixty plants at £13.00 each. Some members hoped there could be some insect friendly plants. The grass had not been mown in May or June, apart from a few pathways, as it was No Mow May. It was noted that the Pre-School Sports day would be in July. The vicar proposed from the chair that the PCC approve the purchase of plants and camellias at an estimated cost of £900, with the recommendation that at least a third of the plants are bee and insect friendly.  
**Agreed.**

**670** PCC Teams

The following members of the PCC had been elected on to the Church Teams. The vicar would be attending each Team.

Building - Richard Bradley  
 Children - Nomsa Mafohla  
 Climate & Ecology - Sarah Butler, Keith Howick, Anthea Prendergast  
 Communications - Andrew Griffiths, Anne Howick, Anthea Prendergast  
 Finance - Tarina Hill, Keith Howick  
 Mission - Sarah Butler  
 Worship - Adelaide Adade, Hazel Koungoue.

The vicar commented that there had been a lack of commitment from the church members. He encouraged the PCC, if they sensed someone might like to get involved, to speak to people over tea or coffee after a service.

**671** Communications Team

There had been an expression of support for having the Parish magazine again. It would probably be mainly by electronic means, but there would also be some hard copies.

**672** Finance Team

Keith Howick asked if he should confirm to the Diocese that St Paul's had agreed to pay the Indicative Offer of £69,650. The vicar confirmed that this should be done.

**673** Climate & Ecology Team

A report had been received from the Team.

(i) Declaration of Crisis. The Team felt it was important to make the congregation more aware of the Declaration of Crisis. Copies would be available to give out to the congregation and meetings would be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July (evening) and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July (morning).

(ii) Eco Church. Sarah Butler reported the Team had begun the online process of reviewing and collating our environmental activities and progress. The aim would be to achieve a Bronze Award by the end of September, and would hopefully be an effective step in bringing the subject more visibly into the life of the church community. The vicar, Keith Howick and Paul Kunert would be discussing how to engage with our local MP. Keith had attended a talk by Ruth Valerio recently, and people had been encouraged to write to their MPs.

(iii) Hustings, 27<sup>th</sup> April. This event had been well attended although there had not been many people from St Paul's. Adelaide Adade asked if, as a church, we could do more to help with transport. Keith Howick wondered if Hazel Koungoue had a list of people willing to give lifts and those who need lifts. The vicar confirmed it happens a lot. Anne Howick commented that there are those who ask for a lift and those who don't want to ask.

**674** Deanery Synod

The next meeting would be taking place at St Paul's on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**675** Diocesan Synod

Keith Howick reported on the Diocesan Synod which had met on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Bishop Simon had spoken about St Barnabas and Dr Nick Shepherd, Senior Consultant within the Vision and Strategy Diocesan Support Team of the Archbishops' Council, had spoken about the national Everyday Faith initiative. Bishop Simon had commented that he would be happy to come to parishes to do a commissioning service in everyday faith.

The Diocese would be signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. Liz Mullins is the Generous Giving Adviser and Keith Howick was asked to find out more. Archdeacon Andy Wooding had given an update on safeguarding. The Diocesan Annual report and Accounts had been published. Julia Burton-Jones had spoken about the Anna Chaplaincy ministry in the Diocese, which supports people with dementia and those who care for them.

**10676** It was noted that the next PCC meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.25 pm.