



The Good Shepherd
Four Marks

Howard Wright

Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 20:00
In person and on Zoom

Present: Howard Wright, Jonathan Rooke, David Duffin, Andrew Walters, Janet Foster, Rich Gillard, Pauline Hughes, Timothy James, Claire MacPherson (Treasurer), Frank Maloney, Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums, Abi Mezzullo (z), Howard Short, Jill Williams, Lorna Littlewood (guest), Jane Hughes (guest), David Williams (secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the fifth meeting of 2022.

There were no apologies.

We were particularly pleased to welcome back Howard Short after his long stay in hospital. At an appropriate point in the meeting, he gave testimony to God's hand upon him and thanks for church prayers and support. He quoted the words of the song: "Father, I place into your hands..."

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard W read from Psalm 33 and led worship – "The Splendour of the King". A number of members led us in prayers of praise.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – 12th July 2022

a. Approval of Minutes – approved *nem con*.

b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:

- i. Update on hosting Ukrainian refugees (min. 9): A short video from Sanctuary: [Not Too Late to Host - YouTube](#) had been shown at the morning service the previous Sunday. There had been further interest in hosting and in supporting prayer. A mother and daughter are due to arrive towards the end of the month, to stay with David and Jill Williams.
- ii. Encouraging volunteers (min 13a): Messy Church is building a new team of volunteers. But Kid's Church still needs additional volunteers because at present all children from pre-schoolers to Year 6ers meet in a single group making it difficult to meet the needs of both groups.

All

5. Finance.

- a. Claire submitted a provisional report on finance to the end of August, doc: *PCC Summary results August est 2022 final.xlsx*. She advised that because of ongoing minor issues with the new system some figures were provisional. There was clearly cause for concern at a net reduction in donation income of approximately £6k per month. £3k is already allowed for in the expenditure estimate for work that may be required after the Quinquennial Review. PCC was asked to encourage the Church to make the financial health of COGS a matter of personal prayer and review. Claire reminded PCC that all emails sent to COGS-Treasurer now go to three people: Claire (Treasurer), Tori Hewitt (book-keeper) and David Craigen (support *pro tem*). She asked that the relevant addressee should be quoted in the subject line to save others unnecessary review of the correspondence. Once handover is complete, David's name can be removed from the list of COGS-Treasurer email addressees.

All

- b. Karamoja Appeal and review of mission giving including tithing:
We confirmed that the Harvest offering would go to Karamoja. Janet Foster reminded PCC of the dire situation in Karamoja where drought has already cost over 900 lives. She encouraged the restart of monthly giving to that work, particularly in support of the Diocesan Training College (DTC), the graduates from which pastor and teach congregations across the region, directly in line with the mission of the Church. Howard W proposed that COGS start giving £100 pcm to the DTC, initially for September and October and with review at November PCC. Andy Walters seconded, and the proposal was **agreed unanimously**.
- c. Claire will now begin preparing a first draft of the 2023 budget and will be consulting with leaders of all activities.

CM

6. Update on Discussions with St Andrew's, Medstead

- a. Formal consultation – feedback on papers circulated in July:
Discussion is ongoing. No objections have been received by the Team or the Archdeacon. St Andrew's had held a public consultation meeting on 5th September. While it recognised that difficulties exist, notably around finance, the Medstead meeting was generally positive about the joining of parishes. The closing date for local consultation is 23rd September. The MPC will then decide based on reports and comments. On approval it goes to Church Commissioners for Public (national) Consultation. If no objections are raised there, it could be ratified by early 2023.
- b. Challenge of supporting 8am Communion in both current parishes.
Howard W presented paper, doc: *M_ FM 8am Support.pdf*
St Andrew's has one 8am Communion each month. It is on the second Sunday, their only service of that day. It is **agreed** that for the months of September and October 2022 COGS parishioners will be encouraged to join on the second Sunday with St Andrew's in Medstead. Except for second Sundays, 8am service will be at COGS. The arrangement will be **reviewed** at November PCC but is thought likely to continue.

7. Teams

- a. Personnel:
 - i. Update in staffing of Children's work during Lorna's maternity leave.
Lorna was presented with a gift of flowers. PCC wants to be an exemplary employer, and also protect the Children's Work. We reviewed what might be the likely government support available to those on maternity leave. Once we know what COGS's continuing commitment might be it is suggested that we advertise for a children's worker for a nine-month maternity cover. Meanwhile, we recognise the importance of preventing adding to the load on our existing staff.
- b. Building.
 - i. Quinquennial review
David Duffin presented the doc: *Quinquennial report 3Sep22.pdf*
The most pressing issue seems to be the delamination of some roof tiles, though these are not yet posing a major threat. Churchwardens are asked to organise practical solutions to the issues identified, particularly those under item 3 of the current report. David stated that it would be best to wait until the full Quinquennial report was received so we learn the urgency of the work required.
 - ii. Progress on 'Net-Zero' and solar panels
The original quote for adding solar panels was approximately £12k. A donor has offered to underwrite any further costs such as those relating to sufficient and appropriate support structure.
Janet Foster asked PCC to review again whether the addition of solar panels was a good use of stretched resources, when the original discussion recognised that COGS makes little unnecessary use of energy

HW,
Personnel
Team

AW/DD

anyway. Discussion continued on the likely return on electricity generated against the considerable capital investment, and whether we should even be contemplating the investment when we had already suspended tithing to several needy missions and in particular to Karamoja.

Churchwardens were asked to bring back to PCC **firm recommendations** about whether we proceed and, if we do, how we pay for it (e.g. asking the congregation to make special contributions over and above 'normal' giving.

AW/DD

c. **Ministry Leaders.**

Of the four ministries – Worship, Small Groups, Prayer and Mission, only the first two have leaders. PCC was asked to **consider** who might be approached to fill those remaining vacancies.

All

d. **Mission Team.**

Nothing to report.

8. Safeguarding

Nothing to report. Matt has been very efficient at processing new DRB applications, but really needs someone else to take on that task.

Howard W is to pursue the Diocese further over our concerns about the protocols promoted in the official documents. This is about interviewing and mentoring every volunteer regularly; the rules are simply unworkable in a church with many volunteers, as if done meaningfully they would consume the time and effort of the staff members concerned and deprive the Church of the tasks for which they are actually employed.

9. Health and Safety.

a. **Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)**

Janet and David Foster were thanked with applause for the four days they had given to a complete (4-yearly) PAT of all the appliances, including finding them around the building! They asked that items no longer in use should be **removed** from the premises and the inventory updated.

b. **Bi-monthly report:** Frank had provided a current document:

22.09.05 Health & Safety Rpt.docx.

10. Any Other Business.

a. **Pastoral Care:** Pip Hughes

b. As part of national fund raising, TearFund "Big Quiz Night" is in preparation for Saturday evening, 19th November. It had been noted that there was another event in Medstead at the same time but generally thought that there would be no serious clash of interest. Rod Eckles was concerned that the national publicity clearly stated that all monies collected for the event would go to TearFund. A request was made for £100 to cover the costs of the light supper. A PCC member volunteered to underwrite any such expenditure up to that figure.

c. COGS is planning an Alpha course beginning on 5th October. There is already interest from potential participants. Howard W encouraged the PCC and Church to be willing to bring others.

11. Date of next meeting:

PCC, Tuesday 8th November

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.55pm.
