



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks

Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 19:30
In person and on Zoom

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the sixth meeting of 2022.
Lorna Littlewood had sent her apologies.

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard W led worship – “There is strength within the sorrow”, noting lyrics include “...love casts out fear...”, “...working in our waiting...”, “teaching us to trust...”, God is “...Sovereign over us...”. Jane helped us review many good things happening in Church life. It’s as if COVID gave us opportunity to rethink how we do Children & Family work.

- Messy Church is Full, with a number of guests now volunteering to play a part in running it.
- The Parenting course is becoming a wider Discipleship course with church families and visitors taking part.
- Toddler meetings are growing, and a Medstead Toddler group is up and running.
- There is collaboration over youth work between Churches using the facilities of Kings Arms.
- The Four Marks Platinum Jubilee event won awards, while encouraging people to come over the threshold of the COGS building.

We sang “Be Thou my vision”, and a number of members led us in prayers of praise.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – 6th September 2022

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved *nem con*.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
 - i. Update on hosting Ukrainian refugees (min. 9): A mother and daughter from Odesa arrived towards the end of September, and are staying with David and Jill Williams. A lady in her fifties who could not stay in her previous placement had been placed in the care of Douglas and Chris Titheridge.

5. Finance.

- a. Claire submitted a report on finance to the end of October, doc:
October PCC Summary Page.xlsx

As at the previous meeting of PCC, there was clearly cause for concern at a net reduction in donation income of approximately £6k per month, and an increase in expenditure following the improvement of staff salaries. PCC was again asked to encourage the Church to make the financial health of COGS a matter of personal prayer and review.

It was **agreed** that to avoid the Current Account going into overdraft, Claire should start the process of withdrawing £10k from the funds currently deposited with the Diocese.

Claire had made two recommendations in her paper:

- According to her first recommendation, Howard proposed, and Frank seconded the withdrawal of a further £10k as necessary. We are aware of the delays that are likely, and his proposal was **unanimously agreed**.
 - Howard also proposed, and Frank seconded that a presentation should be made to the Church about increasing their financial support, and Claire agreed to make a Treasurer Presentation as soon as convenient. **Agreed nem con.**
 - Pam additionally recommended that we investigate making available a suitable QR code for those who might like to donate using a smartphone app.
- b. Karamoja Appeal and monthly giving:
About £2.2k had been donated through the Harvest special offerings. The monthly donation of £100 from the Church to Karamoja will continue at least until the end of the year and will be reviewed at the next meeting of PCC in January 2023.
- c. Review of mission giving:
In view of the situation summarised in sub-items (a) and (b) above, PCC agreed to make no change at this time.
- d. Claire presented a first draft of the 2023 budget, using docs:
2023 budget draft (joint employment).xlsx
BUDGET SUMMARY 2023.xlsx
Budget 2023 Notes.pdf
PCC Report Commentary.docx

It was prepared in the light of an overall drop in donations. Some regular donors had died, some moved away, some had lost touch with COGS during the pandemic.

Claire pointed to two major unknowns when drafting a 2023 budget:

- Financial implications of Lorna's maternity leave. The budget has been prepared assuming that we obtain full time cover. If a suitable candidate can only offer part-time cover, or if no suitable candidate were available, there would be some reduction of expenditure.
- If, as anticipated, the merger of St Andrews and COGS parishes goes ahead in February, financial outcomes are unpredictable. We will certainly need to operate separate bank accounts for at least a year.

Some members asked for three items from the "Wish List" of desirable items in the Budget Summary to be added to the main expenditure. Opinion was evenly divided, but the final decision was to accept the draft summary as given.

PCC asked for a more regular update in order to monitor COGS financial health more closely. Claire agreed that she and Tori (bookkeeper) could highlight particular issues, adding specific expenditure lines to the accounts and flagging these to PCC, perhaps monthly.

- e. Energy Grant to parishes:
Winchester Diocese has offered bids from parishes for a portion of £242k to help with the rising cost of energy. As COGS funds are down to an amount set by its minimum reserves policy, it was agreed that we should bid for a share of this resource. It might be worth about £1k to us given that there are around 300 parishes eligible.

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

- a. Formal consultation:
Discussion is ongoing. The likely major issue remains the different styles of financial management, particularly as at present St Andrews has no Treasurer in place.
- b. As far as we are aware, no objections have been raised with the Church Commissioners. It is thought that the parish merger could be ratified by them as soon as February 2023.
- c. Challenge of supporting 8am Communion in both current parishes.
The arrangement made for September and October for the 8am communion on the second Sunday of the month to be at St Andrews is continuing except for November when that Sunday coincides with Remembrance Sunday.

7. Teams

- a. Personnel:
Advertisements for Maternity Leave cover for Youth and Children's work have been placed. So far, no suitable application has been received.
- b. Building.
 - i. Quinquennial review
The current state of the lightning conductor is regarded as inadequate. Work is in hand to bring it up to standard.
 - ii. Progress on 'Net-Zero' and solar panels
No further progress is possible while we wait for comment from the Diocese.
- c. Ministry Leaders.
It is suggested that the constitution of the four ministry teams – Worship, Small Groups, Prayer and Mission, be re-examined once St Andrews and COGS have joined together.
- 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.

9. Health and Safety.

- a. Bi-monthly report: Frank had provided document:
22.11.11 Health & Safety Rpt.docx.
The continuing problem of uneven paving outside the north emergency exit was raised. It was suggested that rather than repeating the effort of relaying the slabs, a warning notice should be fixed to the north door.

AW/DD

10. Any Other Business.

- a. *Deanery Synod report Nov 22.docx* has been circulated. It was noted that following Brian Pritchard's completion of five years as Area Dean, Andrew Micklefield (Parish of the Resurrection, Alton) had accepted the role.
- b. It has been impossible to find a replacement coordinator or sufficient numbers of helpers for Holiday at Home this Christmas. Therefore, the usual activity will not take place. However, for those who regularly come to Tea & Chat/Bowls and/or Coffee & Questions, John and Julia Yeadon with others are organising a Christmas event on the usual third Wednesday, 21st December.

11. Date of next meeting:

In the current calendar, PCC would expect to meet on Tuesday 10th January. However, it is not possible with the new division of responsibility for maintaining Church finance to have complete accounts ready by the second Tuesday of the month. It is likely that PCC will move, in most cases to the third Tuesday. Discussions are ongoing and a new calendar of meetings will be presented shortly.

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.45pm.
