



H.R. [Signature] 8/3/22

Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 19:30
In person and on Zoom

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed members to the first meeting of the New Year.
There were no apologies, but the meeting noted that Howard Short was very unwell and unable to attend.

2. Worship & Prayer

Together we sang *10,000 Reasons* and read from Psalm 95.
Andy and Jill led us in prayer.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC Minutes

- a. Approval of Minutes of meeting of 7th December 2021 - approved
- b. Matters Arising from meeting of 7th December 2021 - none

5. Pastoral Reorganisation

a. Meeting with Archdeacon, 17th January 2022

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) met on the 16th December and approved the next stage in the process. We understand that there will now be discussions between the parishes' leadership teams and once there is agreement, the formal 'consultations' will begin.

The Archdeacon introduced John Whale as facilitator of our discussions with St Andrew's, to act as a neutral chair. The initiative for further conversation is delegated to local meetings. No alternative to the single parish/single PCC model has been considered.

b. Our own process/response.

- i. A temporary (6 month) arrangement whereby Howard W gave cover as priest to St Andrew's for 11am services on 1st and 3rd Sundays looks like stretching to at least 18 months. On these Sundays it is not practical also to hold communion at COGS 9.30am services. As CofE rules only permit priests to preside at communion/eucharist and if baptisms on non-communion Sundays are factored in, COGS could see 9.30am communion frequency reduced to as little as once a month. St Andrew's does have the support of a retired couple, both ordained, who can offer to preside on one Sunday per month. 4th and 5th Sundays are usually lay-led.
- ii. It has been necessary to suspend the COGS 7pm service because of low turnout. On some Sundays COGS still offers 8am, 9.30am services plus afternoon Kid's Church or Messy Church.
- iii. We want to improve understanding of each other's communities. So we aim in all our discussions to be flexible, pragmatic, inclusive, to see the Kingdom of God expressed in both, and to protect Howard from excessive demands.

6. Other Diocesan Matters

- a. Diocesan Carbon Zero strategy
PCC noted with thanks to Mike the paper *Carbon Net Zero by 2030.docx*. We agreed to begin local discussion although if joining of parishes is to go ahead within the timescale there will need to be joint working. For the present, Pam and Pip have agreed to be part of a working party, hoping Mike will do likewise.

PH
PM
MS

7. Finance

a. Update

- i. David C spoke to his paper *PCC Finance Summary Jan_December 2021.pdf* with the figures for 2021 actual and 2022 Budget agreed at the previous meeting and suggested that actual figures so far in January lead to a forecast closely in line with the budget. He also tabled a paper *Donation Profile 2022.xlsx* showing donation trends 2018-21, and highlighted the sharp drop in planned giving (though the 2021 figure included the one-off donations following Howard's letter November), Gift-aided or not, in 2021. The forecast for 2022 suggests a modest recovery.

We give thanks to God for the turnaround in 2021 from the expected substantial deficit, and for the generosity of individuals.

- ii. Changes in patterns of giving.

In response to the Vicar's letter of November 2021 7 had been able to raise regular donations, but 2 for a variety of reasons had to reduce or cancel theirs. On balance there was a small reduction.

There had been special one-off donations in response to specific needs, but no clear trends. We were encouraged to live in Faith and be good stewards of what God has given.

- iii. Budget: possible new projects?

COGS has a Reserves Policy designed among things to provide protection for our paid staff. At the time of the meeting, we hold about £25k above that threshold, but a deficit of some £20k is still forecast for year-end. Howard had circulated a paper *Finance reflection from 2021.docx* suggesting some uses for that "extra" sum. David C advised that such money should be used for one-off items, not for recurrent spending that committed similar annual sums beyond this year (e.g., extra staff).

Janet reminded the meeting that there is a Quinquennial Review of the building in 2022.

Professional fees will be incurred and there are already known issues with the roof which could require significant expense. She also suggested that there may be scope for reintroduction of tithing to the 6 missions we continue to support.

Jonathan asked PCC to consider sponsoring a young Outreach worker, able to reach young adults.

Timothy reminded us of the Exodus injunction not to keep hold of manna longer than necessary, and to apply the principle to our management of money. Rich asked PCC to think prayerfully overall about a spectrum of spending, £0 - £73k, about where the balance lies. PCC was asked to come to the next meeting to make decisions about the options.

All

- b. Donation in memory of Lisa Bonter

A sum has been offered to replace the worn-out pew copies of the NIV (Anglican) Bibles. The original 1984 edition is no longer available, replaced by the 2011 edition. Funds are sufficient to buy 40 copies. It is not considered appropriate replace the lectern copy which would cost £450. Readers at services can be provided with licensed copies of the appropriate passages weekly. EasyWorship will be updated with the new edition.

HW
(MS)

- c. Need to appoint successor(s) to Treasurer position

David Craigen had accepted the role of temporary "Acting" Treasurer, 3½ years ago. He will step down at the 2022 APCM. He has provided for guidance a paper *Treasurer for COGS summary 2022.docx* summarising the job and the commitment in time that it takes. The search is on for a successor(s), and he has agreed to provide handover support to that person on both Finance and, when necessary, on negotiation with St Andrew's over merging systems. He made it clear that he would not head up the financial side of the merger process). He judged that the state of finances of both congregations is healthy at present.

8. Youth

- a. Proposed Weekend Away
Document previously circulated and noted. *Weekend Away 2022 Details for COGS PCC.pdf*

9. Teams

- a. Personnel: additional team member
Pam Maloney has agreed to take up the vacant place on the team
- b. Building:
 - i. Kitchen update; no further decision. To be considered alongside other possible spends.
 - ii. *22.01.12 Incident.docx*; report noted
- c. Ministry Leaders:
Nothing to report.
- d. Mission Team:
Mission Team Meeting Notes 23rd November 2021.pdf ; report noted. Decision on partial reintroduction of tithing to be considered alongside other possible spends.
- e. Deanery Synod:
Nothing to report

PM

10. Platinum Jubilee

- a. Flower Show
Being organised in the Village over the four days of the Jubilee weekend, 2nd – 5th June 2022
- b. Outdoor Service
To be arranged in the Four Marks recreation ground on Sunday 5th June. It is understood that St Andrew's may be organising a separate event in Medstead on the same day, with implications for how clergy may be available for each.
- c. Village Picnic
Until the pandemic in 2020, COGS had offered this to the people of Four Marks. Should COGS consider taking this up again in future?
Four Marks Parish Council is making modest grants available to support jubilee events, and is looking for organisers to run them.

11. Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

12. Health and Safety

- a. January report *22.01.09 H&S Rpt.pdf* noted with thanks.
- b. A report of an incident involving an intruder on 12th January, *22.01.12 Incident.docx*, was received and noted.

13. Any Other Business.

None.

14. Dates of next meeting:

8th March 2021 @ 7.30pm.

Howard concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.45pm.