



Minutes of PCC Meeting Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.30pm

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the 2nd meeting of 2023. Apologies were received from Abi Mezzullo and Rich Gillard. PCC remembered with gratitude to God the life of Howard Short, who had died just a few days before. Many remembered him as their first greeter at COGS, for his generosity and hospitality, and for the many tangible contributions he made, exemplified by the storage around the room in which we were meeting.

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard W led the meeting in songs of worship: "Living Hope" and "Be Thou my vision", and in prayer.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – 17th January 2023

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved *nem con*.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
There were no matters arising that would not be covered by other agenda items.

5. Finance.

- a. To approve the Annual Report, including the statement of Accounts for 2022.
 - i. Howard apologised for the late submission to PCC of document *Draft Annual Report for 2022 (published May 2023).docx*. It was approved, subject to minor typographical corrections that might be discovered in the following day or so and reported to Matt. PCC was reminded that this draft is confidential until formal publication at the APCM in May.
 - ii. Claire spoke to the document *2022 Accounts.pdf*. PCC offered thanks to Claire and Tori for preparing it, the first they had worked on together. Bob Meekums asked that the entry relating to amounts of Pensions and Life Assurance could be checked because of an apparent decrease year on year. It was noted that the name of the Independent Examiner (p10) was different from that in previous Annual Reports. Claire will provide correspondence confirming that Dawkins, Lewis and Soar of Winchester have been incorporated into Mandair & Co of Southampton who are willing to continue as IE for COGS.
Howard **proposed, seconded** by Frank Maloney, that the Annual Report be approved. **Agreed** *nem con*.
- b. Financial Statement, January 1st to February 28th
Claire presented document *COGS Treasurer Report to PCC March 2023.docx*. She reported that although our Common Mission Fund assessment for 2023 was reduced by £10k compared with that for 2022, our contribution was being paid at the old rate. She would negotiate with the Diocese for a reduced payment for a few months to bring us into line with our assessment.

CM

- Although Lorna had been on Maternity Leave since before Christmas, we still have no settlement from HMRC over adjustments to salary; this is to be followed up.
- c. Diocesan 3-Year Financial Plan Consultation
Doc: *Diocesan 3 Year Financial Plan Consultation Survey for PCC.docx*, derived from an online survey to PCC Secretary, had been circulated. Council's response was agreed as follows:
- i. Reply on behalf of PCC
 - ii. In favour by 62% to 38% of increasing CMF contributions to allow for more stipendiary clergy posts to be returned to parish ministry.
 - iii. Should aspire to increase stipends each year.
 - iv. Metric to be used – Church of England Stipends Benchmark for the South East.
 - v. Cannot express an expectation of our parish's ability to contribute to CMF because of uncertainty over the effects of joining of the parishes of Church of the Good Shepherd Four Marks with St Andrew's Medstead.
 - vi. The range of opinion in response to this survey particularly on item ii was very broad.

The size of the COGS worshipping community is calculated as 151 adults in 2023, up from 136 in 2022. It was encouraging to note that 62 adults and children came to the latest Messy Church, and at the most recent COGS Tots session there were 26 toddlers and 28 adults.

- d. Update on Giving via the COGS website (e.g. QR codes)
The system is now fully operational.

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

- a. Meeting of representatives of COGS and St Andrew's PCCs, 5th March 2023.
At the request of the meeting, a letter *20230306 PCCs to Brand & Tarry.pdf* (attached) had been sent jointly by the PCC secretaries of the two parishes to the Archdeacon of Winchester. Their reply *20230309 Brand & Tarry to PCCs.pdf* is also attached.
- b. Communication between churches. A member observed that COGS had not been notified of an event at St Andrew's which might have provided an occasion for good informal contact between the congregations. PCC wished to encourage both parishes to look for ways of improving communications of such events.
- c. Upon uniting the two parishes, the intention is that the PCC of the combined parish should be similar in size to the present COGS PCC, with ideally equal representation from each congregation. Elections for three vacancies to the COGS PCC are due at the May APCM. It is hoped that some consideration may be given to those who might eventually serve on the joint Medstead and Four Marks PCC.

7. Teams

- a. Personnel:
 - i. No suitable applicant was found to cover Lorna's Maternity Leave. It was decided that no further advertisement should be placed. Many people have volunteered to cover activities, which has been very encouraging.
 - ii. Jonathan continues in his current role of 'curate in training'.
 - iii. Staff salaries (see CONFIDENTIAL Appendix 1)
- b. Building.
 - i. Quinquennial Review: no formal report has yet been received, nor invoice for the professional services provided.
 - ii. PCC expressed thanks to Andy Walters and his colleague Ian (?) for timely repairs to the church roof following ingress of rainwater above the small classroom that had penetrated to the church ceiling.
 - iii. Solar Panels: there was nothing to report as no further information had been received from the DAC. If new information were to be received, this would be reconsidered in the light of the prevailing financial situation at the time.

- c. Ministry Leaders.
Nothing to report.
- d. Mission Team.
Nothing to report.

8. Deanery Synod

- a. Report of latest meeting. Archdeacon Richard Brand gave a presentation on Clergy Wellbeing. Following discussion, motions were proposed:
 - i. Clergy should be entitled to not less than 36 hours (day and a half) rest in any period of seven days.
 - ii. PCCs to discuss the practicalities at earliest opportunity.
 - iii. Bishop to be invited to make a policy statement.
- b. Karamoja: Alton Deanery had met 93% of its target contribution. The new Link-Committee chair gave an update on the success of the Diocesan Training College (DTC). For example, the new Bishop of the Northern Karamoja Diocese was trained at DTC.
- c. COGS APCM 2023 will include elections for three Deanery Synod representatives.

9. School Report

- a. Mike Smith has accepted reappointment as a Foundation Governor of Four Marks C of E Junior School. Howard is a Foundation Governor *ex officio*.
- b. The school has recently been inspected by OFSTED. The report is awaited.
- c. There is still one vacancy – COGS should normally have three FGs

10. Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

11. Health and Safety.

Bi-monthly report: Frank had provided document, received with thanks:
23-03-20 Health & Safety Rpt.docx.

12. Any Other Business.

Nothing notified.

13. Date of next meeting:

APCM, Tuesday 2nd May

PCC, Tuesday 16th May

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.50pm.
