



The Parish of Medstead and Four Marks

Minutes of the PCC Meeting

Tuesday 15th October 2024, 7.30pm

At St Andrew's Church Hall

Present: Howard Wright (chair), Andrew Walters, David Duffin, Debby Barnes, Timothy James, Peter George-Jones, Tracey George-Jones, Frank Maloney, Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums (secretary), Ian Trotter.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Howard welcomed everyone to the fifth PMAFM PCC meeting of 2024

Apologies were received from David and Jill Williams, Jackie Jurd, John Lofthouse, Jeremy Griggs.

2. Worship and Prayer

As an act of worship, we read Psalm 46 and sang "Crown Him with many crowns the Lamb upon His throne". Howard and several others led us in prayers of worship and intercession.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

PCC – Meeting of 3rd September 2024

- a. Approval of Minutes (revised, circulated 15th September). Document approved *nem con*.
- b. Matters arising
 - i. Christmas Unlocked – Howard gave an update on Canon J John speaking at an evangelistic carol service at the Alton Maltings on 4th December. Howard said that all are asked to pray for this event as it is a real opportunity to invite others to the event and stated that due to the small venue it was more appropriate for church members to attend with someone else rather than take up a space on their own. Cards are available in the churches and a choir is being formed if people are interested. Tickets are required for this event.
 - ii. Conduct of PCC meetings – Devotions and Business (min. 2). Ian queried why this item was not up for discussion at this meeting. Howard said that the minutes of the previous meeting asked that if anyone wanted to discuss it further it should be requested as an agenda item. Ian and Peter said that they had assumed it would be an agenda item. Howard suggested that he would have a discussion with Ian outside of the meeting. Peter thought that a discussion in the PCC meeting would be useful. It was agreed that this would be added as an agenda item for the meeting of the PCC on Tuesday 3rd Dec.

4. Finance

a. The post of Treasurer

Progress on finding a successor:

Howard report that an individual was considering the position, however, they were very busy and may not have sufficient time available to undertake the role.

b. Financial Statement

Howard reported that unfortunately he had asked Tori Hewitt for the figures rather late and therefore an updated version was not available for this meeting. This is regrettable and all agreed that there was an urgent need to resolve the unclear budgeting situation. Howard said that the figures should be available by Wednesday 23rd October and suggested holding an additional meeting to specifically discuss the accounts. This was agreed as Tuesday 29th October @ COGS Church Hall at 7.30pm. The Standing Committee will confirm this meeting date and time.

Discussion ensued and the need for a new bank account was also discussed. Frank offered to assist in this. Frank proposed that he investigate setting up a new account with Nat West in the name of the Benefice. Timothy seconded the proposal which was **agreed** unanimously.

c. Diocesan video

Howard reported that there was a video from Bishop Philip on the Common Missionary Fund (CMF) related to the large anticipated shortfall and talking about reviewing giving. This does not directly affect our churches but is something to watch and pray about.

Peter considered that this would be an even greater issue next year with giving likely to reduce further in churches with pressure on people's finances. Discussion ensued around the real concern over giving, the CMF and mission in general with reductions in Clergy if moneys are not available. Howard summed up by saying that the Kingdom of God rules over us and if someone is saved then the whole person is converted and our money is a part of that. We have to keep seeking the Kingdom of God in our lives and being led by the Spirit in all aspects including reviewing what God is asking us to give financially, which may for some be a reduction in giving but for others may be an increase.

Pam added that there is positive news in our diocese as 72 lay people have been commissioned recently.

5. LCGs – for information and discussion

a. Medstead – St Andrew's

- i. A paper was circulated before the meeting. No discussion took place, but the content was noted.

b. Four Marks – Church of the Good Shepherd

- i. Revised estimate for sourcing and installing solar panels

A revised estimate has been received which is higher than the original quote. A donor has offered to donate more to cover the additional costs. Due to the delay, the technology also improves the power provided by the panels.

ii. COGS Kitchen

David reported that the architect has been working on options and estimates. Funds have been reserved for this purpose but may not cover the full amount required depending on the option agreed. Tracey raised concern over having to ask the congregation for additional funds when the budget situation is not fully understood and finances are tight. Howard agreed but reassured all present that no one would be asking for more funds at the current time and no decision has been made on the project at this point. Ian asked if the need was understood. A brief summary was provided by Andy clarifying that a lot of reorganisation work was required, and the costs reflect this.

6. Clergy Wellbeing

Clergy Wellbeing have been discussed by the Deanery Group and Howard is to meet with this group.

7. Church Schools

Howard reported that there were 2 vacancies for foundation governors and that a person in the community (a member of a different church), Alice Marshall had volunteered to fill one of the posts.

Howard proposed that Alice Marshall be approved for the position of foundation governor. Frank seconded the proposal which was **agreed** unanimously.

8. Communion Assistants

A list of assistants had been circulated to all PCC members prior to the meeting. Howard reported that Ester Lailey is to be added to the list. Peter suggested that training should be provided and Howard said that this would be provided locally. Howard proposed that the list of communion assistants (including Ester Lailey) be approved for anyone on the list to assist at communion in either church. Debby seconded the proposal which was **agreed** unanimously.

9. Staff update

Howard reported that contact had been made with Perins School through Heather, the vicar of Alresford, with regard to Virginia being involved in the school.

10. Alpha update

Howard reported that the new Alpha Course was running very well and was full.

11. Safeguarding

- a. Howard reported that a meeting was being arranged for the Staff Team to meet with the Personnel Team to review and talk through the document that has been drafted.
- b. Tracey raised a concern that in conducting an audit of Medstead CofE Primary School's Single Central Record it came to light that Virginia is not

registered on it. Howard stated that the reason given was that the application was delayed because she is in temporary accommodation. He agreed that as she is going into Medstead school regularly the DBS check should still be undertaken. Howard was asked to speak to Medstead School about this missing DBS.

12. Health and Safety

Frank circulated a paper to all PCC members prior to the meeting.

Ian said that fire testing in St Andrew's had been delayed but had been undertaken. Frank raised the point that Martin's Law to improve protective security only applies to premises that have over 200 people present in normal use (i.e. daily). As our premises are a church this therefore does not directly apply.

13. Any Other Business (to be notified before the meeting)

a. Deanery Synod

Pam circulated a paper to all PCC members prior to the meeting. A report on Karamoja is being sent round to the parishes. There is a link in the Diocesan newsletter.

b. TearFund in the Middle East. A document was circulated to all PCC members prior to the meeting: *TearFund Lebanon 241002.pdf*

14. Date of Next Meeting

PCC: additional meeting specifically to discuss the accounts:

Tuesday 29th October @ COGS Church Hall at 7.30pm

N.B. The Standing Committee will confirm this meeting date and time.

PCC: Tuesday 3rd December 2024, at COGS Church Hall (time TBA)

15. Closing Prayers

Howard closed the meeting with prayer at 9.30pm