

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of PCC 04-2023 held on Tuesday 30 May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

1. PRESENT

Revd Kevin Lovell (Chair), David Howell (Churchwarden) (DH), Joy Abel (JA), Bob Abel (BA), Christine Bartlett (CB), Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Richard Cunningham (RC), Susie Downer (SD), Wendy Howell (WH), Irene Lindsay (IL), Roger Moore (RM) (PCC Secretary)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sandra Rice

3. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND PRAYERS

Revd Kevin Lovell opened the meeting and welcomed Christine Bartlett to her first meeting. He asked Members to spend a moment reflecting on where they saw God at work during the previous week. Members described neighbourly support, the kindness of the church family, how people can be transformed by significant events, how someone had gone well beyond what would have been expected of them.

Kevin closed with a prayer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of PCC 03 - 2023 were agreed and signed.

5. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

No specific issues, not covered by the Agenda, were identified.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

RM reported that he had submitted a reviewed H&S Policy, and Statement for the noticeboard to Revd Kevin for perusal.

Action: Revd Kevin to provide RM with a copy including suggested changes.

Action: RM to circulate to PCC Members for comment.

MB noted that he had identified a concern about the safety of the overhead projector. He had suggested from his previous experience that normally a security chain would be used as a backup safety feature. Kevin said that his concerns were noted and would be addressed.

Action: Revd Kevin to follow up the safety concerns raised..

7. SAFEGUARDING

JA reported that there were no issues. JA emphasised the importance of reporting concerns.

8. VICAR'S REPORT

Revd Kevin drew PCC members' attention to his report which had been circulated.

8.1 Thursday Café

Revd Kevin outlined his proposal for a Thursday morning café. In discussion it was suggested this should primarily be aimed at parents taking children to school and should operate from 8.30am until 10am. [Sec Note: a start date was not agreed but September at the start of the new school year may be appropriate.]

8.2 Flags and Banners

Revd Kevin identified the need for visible evidence that the church was open. He proposed the purchase of suitable flags and banners.

The PCC agreed that Revd Kevin could purchase promotional material up to a value of £300

8.3 Satellite Hub/Safe Space

Revd Kevin highlighted the work on knife crime and the value of safe spaces for young people. He informed that a Main Hub was to be developed in Reading and that a number of satellite hubs would be needed. Revd Kevin suggested that St Barnabas working in collaboration with other organizations would possibly be in a position to support such an initiative.

Action: DH to carry out a feasibility study

8.4 Support for GrassRootz (Milestone Centre Youth Club)

DH reported that the youth club is being funded by the organizers and is in need of resources. He explained the leaders have great energy and commitment. JA raised the issue of Safeguarding. DH described the involvement of the town council and other organizations. RM whilst supporting the initiative in Caversham Park thought safeguarding processes needed to be established.

Action: DH to establish current safeguarding arrangements.

8.5 Citizens UK Listening Campaign

Revd Kevin noted that during June and July a number of one to one interviews would be carried out to establish the views of folk in Emmer Green. These data would be fed into a larger Reading compilation. They would also inform local actions.

8.6 Tuesday Food

Revd Kevin suggested that there was a need to decide how best to distribute the food delivered most Tuesdays from a local supermarket. No conclusion was reached.

8.7 LLF

IL asked when there would be a discussion about this topic. Revd Kevin felt that there were no real concerns at the moment and that decisions by the Church of England were likely to slip. IL responded that she wished to hear the views of others.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Financial Update

RC reported that he had circulated a spreadsheet and would have an up to date position when he received the latest bank statement.

9.2 Electronic Payments

The various types of payments systems were discussed

Proposal. It was proposed that the PCC give the go-ahead for the treasurer, together with the Vicar and churchwardens, to source contactless/card payment solutions for offertory and other payments into, up to a maximum capital outlay of £480, also to open an account with a suitable Card Payment Service Provider.

The proposal was agreed unanimously

9.3 Online Banking

Following a short discussion the following proposals were put to the PCC:

Proposal 1. That the PCC approve the principle of transitioning to online banking services which give us greater flexibility, safety and security in our banking and continued compliance with the regulations which apply to this PCC.

Proposal 2. The PCC ask the treasurer to explore options for transferring the PCC account to an online banking service, and to make a firm proposal, with details, for a suitable online banking service at a future PCC meeting.

Proposals 1 and 2 were agreed unanimously

9.4 Legacy Envelope Scheme

RC reported that only one person now uses the envelope scheme and that there were sufficient envelopes for the immediate future.

10. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM FUNDING 2023

There was a long and detailed discussion about the budget, roles and relationships in Caversham and the governance arrangements for CTC it was decided by a majority to pay only 50% of the requested funds.

11. POST COVID NEXT STEPS IN WORSHIP

Revd Kevin following some questions from congregation members and in discussion with the wardens, suggested that further steps be taken to return to pre-pandemic practices:

11.1 Proposal 1. It is proposed that at 'The Peace', hand-shaking, hugging, etc. be openly acceptable, with free movement around the building at this part of the service.

11.2 Proposal 2. It is further proposed that at the 9:30am service 'The peace of the Lord be with you ...' shall continue to be sung as this usefully demarcates that part of the service.

Proposals 1. and 2 were agreed unanimously.

11.3 Proposal 3. It is additionally proposed that at the 9:30am service Communion shall continue to be administered at the chancel step (for ease of access to those with limited mobility), there will be two chalice administrators (one either side of the priest with the bread).

This proposal elicited considerable debate with strong arguments for moving back to the altar rail. There were concerns about the mobility of a number of members of the congregation.

In the event Proposal 3 was put to a vote and was carried 7 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

11.4 Proposal 4. It is proposed to return to the common cup at the administration of Holy Communion. Intinction by the communicant would not be allowed.

In discussion the majority were in favour of returning to the common cup. Some wished to maintain the custom of intinction. Revd Kevin was strongly against this. He explained that the communicant if desired may receive Holy Communion in one kind ie bread alone.

Proposal 4 was put to a vote and carried 9 for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

12. DATES OF PCC MEETINGS AND STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 2023

Proposed list of dates:

Tuesday 4 th July 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Tuesday 17th October 2023

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Weekend of 20th/21st April (APCM)

Standing committee typically on the Wednesday 13 days prior to the Tuesday PCC meeting

13. AOB

It is proposed that Awaiz and Rohama Masih become chalice administrators

PCC approved unanimously