

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of PCC 05-2023 held on Tuesday 04 July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

1. PRESENT

Revd Kevin Lovell (Chair) (KL), David Howell (Churchwarden) (DH), Sandra Rice (Churchwarden) (SR), Christine Bartlett (CB), Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Richard Cunningham (RC), Susie Downer (SD), Wendy Howell (WH), Irene Lindsay (IL).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Joy Abel, Bob Abel, Roger Moore

3. OPENING REMARKS, WELCOME AND PRAYERS

Revd Kevin Lovell opened the meeting with the collect for St Thomas' Day (3/7).

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of PCC 04 - 2023 were agreed and signed.

5. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Grassrootz, DH visited the youth group based at the Milestone Centre, run by Calvin and James (who also run 3 other youth groups). Approx 40 young people of secondary school age attend regularly with a wide range of social needs. The group at present is funded entirely by the 2 leaders. In order to obtain grant funding the group needs to be set up as a Community Interest Company. DH would like to see a joint venture with us, URC and Grace Church to help fund the youth group in some way in the interim.

Action: DH to stay in touch with Grassroots, PCC to think about funding and consider if we have people with special skills to help.

5.2 Safety of Overhead Projector KL and Guy Watt are satisfied that safety requirements are being met and that the installation is safe.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

KL signed the reviewed policy as being correct.

7. SAFEGUARDING

JA reported that DBS and safeguarding training is being arranged for the two new PCC members. Continuing vigilance in all areas of safeguarding is required by the PCC

8. VICAR'S REPORT

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

8.1 Reach out into Caversham Park

8.1a Young People's Hub (Safe Space). DH gave an update on the meeting with Carly Newman from No 5. (a Reading based charity providing counselling and mental health services for children, young people and those around them). DH has also taken part in a Diocesan series of zoom events, relating to working with young people. The aim is to start a safe space at St Barnabas for children with welfare issues with counsellors and mentors provided by No 5. Initially this will be for Emmer Green Primary School (year 5+) and Highdown School. Potentially young people from Grassrootz could be included in the future.

8.1b Life Events

Baptism and Funeral leaflets include a section on making donations

8.1c Vicarage Relocation

KL explained further that the initiative to relocate is primarily for missional purposes. An important part of KL's ministry is being "out and about" and being nearer to or on Caversham Park would increase opportunities enormously. The process has been opened with a meeting with David Mason and Tony Kerry from the Diocese (together with KL and DH). There will be no financial implications to the parish.

A consultation has begun, with consultation forms issued to both patrons, both churchwardens, PCC treasurer and incumbent. A form should also have been issued to our PCC secretary but for some reason this was omitted. Action: KL asked any PCC members who wished to make representations, to direct their comments to KL, DH, SR, RC, or Roger Moore.

[Post Meeting Note: Roger Moore has received his consultation form - KL]

8.2 Build up our work with Children and Young families

KL spoke about the way we go about our ministry is either “Being with” and “Doing to”. It is important to be alongside people to find out what they want and then include them in the planning and building process, quoting the NO 5 model as one that works well. “Being with” encourages participation and builds relationships.

8.3 Infrastructure

Eco Church

Gill Lovell has kindly agreed to complete the A Rocha survey and would welcome people to help.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Financial Update

RC reported that the financial statement at 22/6/23 had not shown Busy Bees contributions as a separate item.. Online banking is now live, but the signatories need to sign up so that on-line payments can be made.

Agreed RC DH SR AND RM approved for online approval of transactions PCC voted Unanimously.

Over the last 7 years there has been a decline in funds held.

Parish Share: MB reported that at the recent Deanery Synod meeting a 3% increase for the 2024 Parish Share was approved. The request for an additional 3% to support Reading Gateway Church (Green Park) was declined but the Deanery Leadership Team is to see if any alternative funding is available

KL said we need to finance ourselves both to pay our CF contribution and to pay for our own mission in our parish. We need to use our skills and talents to raise funds.

KL has a meeting with Joshua Townsend (Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser) on 11/7/23 and will discuss contactless machines.

10. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM FUNDING 2023

KL has volunteered to be the Co Chair of CTIC. KL to speak to Keith Saynor from Grace Church with a view to joining together on certain events e.g. Good Friday Walk of Witness in Emmer Green.

KL proposed that the full contribution amount of £920 is paid. DH seconded the proposal

PCC agreed the proposal unanimously

11. POST COVID NEXT STEPS IN WORSHIP

There was a short discussion about "The Peace". Now that handshaking is back, do we still want to sing the song? As most people like it, it was decided to continue with the song. Holy Communion was distributed at the rail on 1/7 for the first time since before COVID. Several people found the step tricky and needed help. We will continue to have a sidesperson positioned at the step to help but may consider a hand rail in the future. The sidesperson should encourage people to join the rail from the right hand side rather than fill in random spaces. Most people received bread and wine and no comments or objections have been received.

12. SEEKERS COURSE

Volunteers are needed to help with catering and leadership roles. KL has a number of people who may be interested in attending.

13. AOB

13.1 It is proposed that Christine Bartlett becomes a chalice administrator

PCC approved unanimously

13.2 A brief discussion was held about communications, now that we have a weekly bulletin is "Read All About It" still necessary? KL & RM are to review communications over the summer, Action: PCC encouraged to pass on their thoughts to KL and/or RM during July/August.

13. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th September 2023 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.15pm