

Minutes of the Meeting of St. James P.C.C.

Monday 24th January 2022

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Nick Burt, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Marcia Gordon, Millie Miller, Stephanie Sulaiman, Glynis Wilkinson, Jacqueline Gray, Sandra Lucas, Peter Neill, Ailie Neill, Marlon Ganesh, Representing BFK Michael White, Sebastian Vibert.

- 1. Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Building for the Kingdom (BFK) team to the PCC members present.
- 2. Apologies:** Frances Christian, David Kafuko, John Talbot.
- 3.** Minutes from previous meeting agreed and signed by Rev. Rob Powell.

4. Matters Arising

Item 4: A small working group has been set up to look at the issue of “anti-racism” following recent discussions at PCC. The group currently comprises Jacqueline Gray, Kirk and Judy Douglas, Richard Reddie and Rob Powell. 4 initial steps were proposed by the group, as follows: 1) Consider adopting as a PCC the Southwark Diocese “anti-racism charter. 2) Draft a brief statement about anti-racism that St James can place on their website and publicity summarising where St James stands on being a diverse and inclusive Church. 3) Make use of annual celebrations of racial justice & anti racism, such as Racial Justice Sunday, Windrush Day and Black History month to continue to remind us of the importance of the issues. 4) Aim for more diversity ‘on the dais’.

The PCC was asked to share any thoughts: Members shared their thanks to the group and recognised there is still more to be done.

Item 7: The new monthly online church prayer gathering, The Upper Zoom, met on January 16th with 10 people. It was well organised and received. Next meeting is on 20th February 2022.

5. Building For the Kingdom Update

Michael White (BFK Chair) gave an update on progress since the last meeting and shared two fairly big challenges we face in order to proceed further with the project, namely, the need to find a number of new core team members with specialist skills (Clerk, Accountant/Treasurer, Fundraiser, and Communications); and the need to raise new finance to fund the next stage of the project (RIBA Stage 2).

On a suggestion from the PCC, Michael White will draw up brief role descriptions to circulate.

6. Finance

The treasurer shared that in 2021 St James had a total income of £193,446 against an estimated income budget of £203,170 giving an income deficit of £9,724.

Total expenditure in 2021: £203, 030 against an estimated expenditure budget: £224,071 giving an expenditure underspend of £21,063.

Considering the impact covid has had upon St James in 2020/21, this is better than anticipated.

Budget 2022: Only a slight change to staff salaries from the draft presented at the last meeting, due to the London Living Wage (LLW) increasing from £10.85ph to £11.05ph. Adjustments were made to account for this increase and to the Children’s worker pension also. Sandra Lucas proposed approval of the 2022 planned budget with Millie Miller seconding. PCC agreed unanimously.

Parish Giving Scheme: Rob informed the PCC that now the budget had been agreed, information on it will be sent to all electoral roll members along with his annual finance letter and details of how to join the Parish Giving Scheme.

Youth Evangelism Fund: Due to a generous donation of £3,950 (including Gift Aid) a “Youth Evangelism Fund” has been created by St James. This, based on the donor’s instructions, will allow St James to support groups working with young people aged 11-18 years with the encouragement to see more young people coming to Church. Groups will be able to apply to St James for funding.

7. Review of Christmas services

Great feedback from the PCC sharing their joy at seeing the Carol Service back after the enforced absence in 2020 due to covid. Great also being available online, though it was a shame it had to be ticketed. The Children's Nativity Service was well received with many families, not regular attendees, taking part.

8. Suggestion Box & Have A-Go Month

Marcia Gordon introduced the PCC to an idea for a "Suggestion Box" which would be available on the Information Desk for members and visitors to offer suggestions, ideas they would like to see in church. PCC members felt this was a great idea and suggested making it known by placing a notice in the weekly newsheet and with an announcement during the notices during Sunday Service.

'Have A-Go Month' is a suggestion to allow active volunteers to be shadowed by those who are interested in volunteering at St James, equipping them with valuable information and an insight into what is involved in that role. It was felt, to give a greater opportunity for all, it should be run over a month rather than just one Sunday as it was previously. Rob will set a date.

9. Safeguarding: No issues since last meeting!

10. Upcoming events:

Lent begins Wednesday 2nd March with a Furzedown Churches joint Communion service and Ashing at St Alban's.

A weekly Lent course will take place in person and online.

Churches in Furzedown to confirm their activities for Holy Week & Easter.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin Thurs 2nd June and ending on Sunday 5th June with celebrations all over the country. Furzedown Churches to discuss how they will be involved in these celebrations.

11. APCM

The PCC discussed what format this year's APCM should take. It was agreed to trial moving the APCM to take place after a morning service. PCC agreed therefore to hold the APCM after the morning service on Sunday 22nd May 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm with a prayer from Marcia Gordon.

Date of Next Meeting: **Monday 28th March 2022**