

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

Monday 30th January 2023

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Rev Mark Pybus, Glynis Wilkinson, Jacqueline Gray, Ailie Neill, Peter Neill, John Talbot, Adam Seymour-Davies, John Farebrother, Marcia Gordon, Nick Burt, Alan Burrows, Rocky Deans, David Kafuko, Yvonne Mason, Marlon Ganesh, Liz Gibbons

1. Opening Prayers

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer and scripture reading.

2. Apologies: Frances Christian, Lisa Burrows, Stepheney Sulaiman, Sandra Lucas.

3. Minutes from the meeting held on 12th December 2022

The PCC approved the minutes unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

Item 8: Living in Love and Faith: Rob updated the PCC on recent proposals from the Bishops on the matter of blessing same sex couples within the Church. It is a passionate topic that is likely to cause disappointment to people on both sides of the discussion, as the bishops are proposing a compromise solution. Rob asked all to keep praying for the General Synod who will be meeting in February to debate the proposals.

5. Finance Report

a) Management Accounts

Alan Burrows presented the accounts for the year to December 2022 which show a variance on income of £-18,397 with £182,053 received against a budget of £200,450. The three main items under budget were Gift Envelopes, Gift Aid Bankers/Standing Orders and Advent Gift Day, which in turn had an impact on Gift Aid receipts.

Expenditure showed an underspend of £7,461, resulting in an overall deficit of £17,158 for the 12 months to December.

b) Electrical Lighting Project

Rob updated the PCC with a new quote of £19,780, from Electrosmith regarding the installation of new lighting, wiring and LED dimmable switches in the Church worship area. Rob explained covering the costs for the project could be done by drawing down funds from two historic CBF accounts totalling £12,890.09, plus a possible interest free loan from the Diocese for £8,000 repaid £1,600pa starting in 2024 if approved by the PCC and the Diocese.

Rob proposed from the chair, 1. Accept new quotation from Electrosmith. Unanimously voted in favour.

2. For the PCC to apply for a faculty from the Diocese to carry out the work. Unanimously voted in favour of.

3. To draw down funds from the two CBF accounts thereby closing them. Unanimously voted in favour of.

4. Apply to the Diocese for a loan of £8,000 whilst exploring other avenues to increase funds for the project. Unanimously voted in favour of.

Unanimously voted in favour of.

c) Draft Budget for 2023

Alan presented the draft budget for 2023 with minor changes to the draft presented in December 2022. In answer to a question regarding the new heading under income for "Sum Donations" Alan explained this was the card reader used each Sunday morning. The 2023 projection for utility costs was questioned and in response Alan shared the energy wholesale prices were coming down, we are watching our usage closely, and we are moving away from estimated billing. A question was raised about why the draft shows the removal of the Contingency Fund. Nick shared that the Diocese, a much larger charity than St James, does not have a contingency in their budget and it is not particularly meaningful for us to have one. Concern was raised that the drop in income will inevitably have an impact on the BFK project as selling of assets is a loss of 25% of annual income. This will need to be accounted for as the BFK project progresses.

Alan proposed the 2023 budget to the PCC along with the setting up of a working group to put together a financial recovery strategy. Nick seconded. Unanimously voted in favour of.

Pause for Prayer: Nick and Jacqueline lead prayers.

6. Vision/Mission Action Plan

Rev Mark Pybus shared a draft MAP based on the 5 Marks of Mission and using the many suggestions/ideas from the PCC+ Away Day last year. The PCC approved the draft and the proposal to establish various working groups to work on the implementation of the MAP.

7. Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officers

Rocky Deans and Sarah Veal have both shown interest in taking over from Judy Douglas and Stepheney Sulaiman as PSOs. The PCC voted unanimously in favour of their appointment.

8. Safeguarding

No reported incidents since last meeting.

Meeting closed at 10pm with The Grace.