

These minutes are published on the basis that such matters (if there be any) which the PCC has resolved shall remain confidential have not been included

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024, 7.15pm in the Reid Room

Present: David Goodhew (Chair), Lindsey Goodhew, Gail Roberts, Ruth Ritchie, Tony Hutchings, Phil Edwards, Lynda Walker, Barbara Edwards, Thom Mallam, Paul Bury, Andrew Devereux, Alistair Bolton, James Cawdell, Sue Bell.

1. Worship

Alistair read Psalm 139. God knows our innermost thoughts and exactly how we are. He has chosen each of us to serve his church at St Barnabas. The PCC prayed for wisdom and God's guidance for the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Allison Ward, Malcolm McGregor, Fiona Houldsworth

3. Minutes of the meeting of 4th December 2023

There were no amendments and the meeting was happy to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting of 4th December 2023.

4. Matters Arising

- a) Festival Teesside – There was to be a planning meeting the following evening at the Oakwood Centre, to which PCC members were invited. There is a worship and prayer evening on Saturday 27th April at the Globe Theatre, Stockton.
- b) Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Now that the fire risk assessments for the church and the hall have been approved by the PCC, the Health and Safety group has turned its attention to fire marshals. Gail asked PCC members to let her know if they are willing to be trained as fire marshals. A training session was planned for Saturday 22nd June, 10.30 – 12.30.
- c) Rachel Grandey – The question of a new agreement between St Barnabas and Rachel is still to be looked into.

5. Correspondence

David informed the PCC that Nelly Broughton had resigned from the PCC. The casual vacancy will be filled at the APCM.

6. Christmas Review

The PCC broke into small groups to review Christmas. It was agreed that the wide range of services contributed to lots of people coming to church over Christmas. Visits had been made to care homes. Lots of school children had been to St Barnabas during December. David said that we had probably been in contact with several thousand people and there was a lot to thank God for.

7. Vicar's Report

Since the last PCC we have said goodbye to Mark, Alice, Thomas and Phoebe. While this is sad, it is good that they are staying in the area. It is also good that the PCC has already employed Big Kids to take on more of the work with children and families.

There will be a baptism and confirmation service on Sunday 26th May and David encouraged the PCC to be praying and looking out for candidates. This service will also be an opportunity to say goodbye to Bishop Paul, who retires in July. This is the time to pray for those looking for a new Bishop of Whitby, in the context of organizational changes in the Diocese, with the Bishop of Selby also retiring.

8. Mission Action Plan

This was to be circulated to the congregation the following Sunday for comments.

9. Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

10. Financial Update

Phil Edwards updated the PCC on the current financial situation. The budget approved at the last meeting aims to achieve the current reserves’ target of £60,000 at the end of 2024. Measures to achieve this include a 10% increase in voluntary giving, a 50% increase in hall and church rental income, the reduction in the Freewill Offer to the Diocese to £80,000 and the reduction of the FMG projects’ budget to £10,000. Other smaller budgets in the church have been reduced by 50%. The budget assumed a starting point based on predicted figures for November and December and these have turned out to be reasonably accurate, with the starting figure £17,000 better than predicted, due to a gift from the Ingleby Trust and a VAT claim received from the Listed Place of Worship scheme. This should make it slightly easier to hit the current reserves target by the end of the year and possibly spend more on buildings or increase the Freewill Offer. However, one of the tasks of the Finance sub-committee this year is to look at the reserves policy, so there may be a new figure by the end of the year.

Text giving has been set up and will appear on the notices. The church heating has been reduced by 1 degree.

Hall and church rental rates were to be reviewed at the Finance sub-committee the following week.

Budget holders have been asked to make every effort to keep costs down.

A stewardship campaign is planned for the end of April/beginning of May.

The PCC was asked about some proposed changes in policy. Christian groups using the church for worship have not been charged in the past, and the PCC was happy that they should be asked to cover the cost of heating. The PCC did not agree with the suggestion that uniformed groups should be asked for a contribution.

11. Facilities Management Report

This was circulated.

12. Children and Families

Sunday groups are back up and running after Christmas. Three new helpers have joined the team and more are on the way. Explore and Pathfinder club night are going well. Schools work has increased remarkably. The 14-18s range is an area of weakness. It is not possible to have a Cyfa weekend this year. However, there is a larger group expected to move up from Pathfinders.

13. Communion Bread

A poll of the PCC gave no clear view predominating in the PCC concerning the continued use of wafers or returning to bread.

14. Baby Bank

A proposal from Debs Smith had been circulated, for a bank of clothes and equipment to be made available to those who need them. The PCC was in favour if the necessary storage could be found.

15. Plans for Easter

The donkey will be attending on Palm Sunday. The choir plan to perform Stainer’s Crucifixion on Saturday 23rd March.

16. AONB

Big Kids are planning a project with Sacred Heart School: Awesome Ayresome Alleys. They are planning to decorate the alley next to the church hall, if funding is obtained. Lindsey is exploring the possibility of a church retreat.

18. Date of next meeting

Monday 4th March, 7.15pm in the Reid Room.

Chairman.....

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Date.....