

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham
Parochial Church Council

A short meeting of the PCC was held on Wednesday 21st September 2022
in the Church, 19:30



Present: Hollie Allen (HA); Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Felicity Holton (FH); Davina O'Brien (DOB); David Ormiston (DO); Revd Nathan Ward (NW) - Chair; Charley Whittaker (CW); Terry Whittaker (TW);

In Attendance: Jo Whittaker (JW) – Secretary

PCC AGENDA

| Item | Details | Action |
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| 1. | Welcome and Opening Prayer: | |
| | NW opened the meeting in prayer. | |
| 2. | Apologies: | |
| | These were received from Heather Baker (HB); Nigel Barfoot (NB); Nick Grief (NG); Revd Jonathan Jennings (JPJ); Frank Pantony (FP); Sam Holden (SH) – Treasurer; Linda Randall (LR); Owen Smith (OS); Kayleigh Ward (KW). | |
| 3. | Proposal Regarding Candlestands | |
| | <p>A proposal had been circulated, prior to the meeting, for two flower/candlestands to be removed from the Terrier. NW explained that the two stands had been gifted to the Church many years ago by a family, in memory of another family member. Not long ago the family had approached the church requesting permission to take the stands away and renovate them. This was agreed on the proviso that they be returned to Church as they were the Church's property - the family agreed to this. It should be noted that one of these stands was used as the Advent wreath stand. More recently the family had written to advise that the stands were beyond economical repair and they wished to relocate the replacement stands to a different church where the closest relatives were now worshipping. It was recognised that there was no evidence to show that the stands had been scrapped and advice was sought from the Archdeacon and the Registrar.</p> <p>PCC were presented with two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to pursue the family, either directly or through Kent Police, for what could be shown to be the theft of the stands, and then claim under the insurance, or - take the view that this approach, whilst potentially justified, would run the risk of causing reputational damage to the Church and the family and therefore decide to and justify the removal of the stands from the Terrier. <p>There was a full discussion and NW proposed and JGW seconded the motion that: 'the PCC have assessed the significance of the two flower stands as not having any historical or artistic value to the Church. The connection to the Parish is solely through a family who have stated they have no association with the Church at this time. Therefore we move to remove the items from our terrier and, in essence, dispose of them as church property. The benefit for doing this is one of pastoral concern for the family and a desire not to cause them distress by referring the matter to Kent Police'. Both the Archdeacon and Registrar were supportive of this proposal.</p> <p>FOR: 9 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0 Motion unanimously carried.</p> <p>The family were to be written to and the Churchwardens asked to remove the items from the terrier.</p> | NW / Church Wardens |
| 4. | Putting Rainham First Document: | |
| | NW confirmed that the plan had always been to update the wider Church family about the proposed way forward as a church following the University of York research at the | |

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| | <p>end of September. However, having lost 10 days due to London Bridge (including a scheduled PCC meeting), this short meeting had been convened so that PCC could agree the proposed way forward and endorse it prior to the wider church being informed.</p> <p>There was a good discussion and it was agreed by the PCC that the key message would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid had accelerated change in our society • The Uni of York research demonstrated that we were ideally placed to serve our community and support them during the challenging times ahead • In order to do this we needed to look at what God had given us and, in particular, the land (Millennium Centre, Churchyard and Church) and utilise them to their full potential • There was a recognition that in the past projects hadn't always gone well, but through the faithfulness and commitment of the people, the church had recovered – PCC wanted to acknowledge this and ensure past mistakes weren't repeated. • We had commissioned a project manager who was an accountant with significant experience of large projects. He was working with us to develop a plan which would maximise missional opportunities. A business model was being developed for the Millennium Centre which would inform any reconfiguration or use of space. <p>Moving forward the key milestones would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October: finalise the project plan and appoint an architect - November-January: architect to carry out initial design and consultation - January: update the congregation - February: develop the project to take the big project and section it into standalone projects - March-December: engage and apply for funding - April: update the congregation - 2024: begin to roll out key aspects of the project | |
| 5. | Dates of Next Meetings: | |
| | <p>2022: <i>(all at 19:30)</i> Tuesday 18 October, Millennium Centre Wednesday 16 November, Teams</p> <p>2023: <i>(all at 19:30)</i> Thursday 19 January, Teams Monday 20 February, Teams Tuesday 21 March, Teams Wednesday 19 April, Millennium Centre Thursday 18 May, Millennium Centre Monday 19 June, Millennium Centre</p> | |
| 6. | Closing Prayer: | |
| | TW closed the meeting in prayer at 20:05 | |