

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham
Parochial Church Council

Full meeting of the PCC on Wednesday 19th April 2023
19:30 in the Millennium Centre (lower hall)



Present: Hollie Allen (HA); Nigel Barfoot (NB); Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Nick Grief (NG); Felicity Holton (FH); Revd Jonathan Jennings (JPJ); Davina O'Brien (DOB); David Ormiston (DO); Kayleigh Ward (KW); Revd Nathan Ward (NW) - Chair; Charley Whittaker (CW); Terry Whittaker (TW)

In Attendance: Sam Holden (SH) – Treasurer; Jo Whittaker (JW) – Secretary

PCC MINUTES

Item	Details	Action
1.	Welcome and Opening Prayer:	
	NW opened the meeting with prayer.	
2.	Apologies:	
	These were received from Heather Baker (HB); Frank Pantony (FP); Linda Randall (LR) and Owen Smith (OS)	
3.	Minutes of the Meeting on 21 March 2023 and Matters Arising:	
	JGW proposed and TW seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. FOR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 1 Minutes accepted	
i.	Just Say Hello partnership with Acts435 proposal – safer recruitment was being undertaken for Joanne Bourne. Once complete a plan would be brought back to PCC for agreement.	
ii.	Ukrainian Church update – the draft wording for the licence was waiting to be finalised but had been delayed due to illness. Once completed this would be sent to the Chancellor. A £300 fee was to be paid by the licence holder.	
iii.	Accessible Service update – renamed 'Time with God'. First meeting was due to be held on 24 April and monthly thereafter.	
iv.	JSH Community Larder – KW reported that this was now open. The team were meeting the following day to progress plans.	
v.	Harare – a date was still to be set for a Zoom catch up. NG had been exchanging emails with Fr. Wycliffe (St Matthias) and Fr. Kuwanda (St Philips). There was a Companionship meeting set for 7 June. Approx. £3k was still needed to cover stages 1 and 2 of the building project, with around £10k needed to complete the whole project. NG would be undertaking a 30 mile sponsored walk to raise some funds. PCC agreed to update the congregation.	NG/NW
vi.	Promotion of weddings through media advertising – this was a work in progress and a meeting was due to be held the following week.	NW
vii.	Review of Millennium Centre Hiring Policy for faith groups – it was noted that the current hire policy did not encompass the hire to other faith groups for Acts of Worship. As a registered charity with stated aims to profess the Christian faith, it could become a challenge if hirers were to seemingly go against this. There was a lot of discussion including the possibility of refusing hire to groups who may be engaged in non-Christian worship or whose activities may appear to bring the church's reputation into disrepute, as well as declining the event rather than the group as a whole. Eventually JPJ was asked to construct an appropriate wording to be brought back to the next meeting; this would incorporate the following concept - 'the PCC do not accept a hire from any group outside of the ecumenical group of churches in England where the primary use is for an act of worship, teaching or prayer'. There were then two votes on other conditions to be included: 1. to include wording related to bringing the church into disrepute. FOR: 13 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 3 Unanimously carried	

	<p>2. to include a provision allowing those of Jewish faith to be able to hire. FOR: 9 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENTION: 3 Proposal carried</p> <p>It was also reported that there had been a recent complaint from the Neighbourhood Watch following a hire for a teenage birthday party resulting in an alleged fight in the carpark. After discussion it was further proposed that: 'the PCC implement a ban on accepting hires for all parties for 12-18 year olds that finish beyond 7pm.'</p> <p>FOR: 12 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENTION 0 Proposal carried</p>	JPJ
4.	Safeguarding Update:	
	<p>There were no new cases to report. DOB and Jean Penney (JP) would be joining the Safeguarding Committee with JP taking on the role of Chair. Terms of Reference to be checked and updated.</p>	JP
5.	Finance Committee Update:	
i.	<p>Policy for obtaining quotes from contractors – following the recent Finance Committee meeting, the suggestion was made that a single quote be obtained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work up to a £5k threshold for preferred contractors • work up to a £2.5k threshold for non-preferred contractors. <p>Multiple quotes to be obtained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work over £5k for preferred contractors • work over £2.5k for non-preferred contractors <p>Preferred contractors referred to those who had been used before and whose workmanship we were happy with. The list would be reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>FOR: 13 AGAINST:0 ABSTENTION: 0 Proposal agreed unanimously</p>	
	<p>Following further analysis of the cost centres within the budget, SH reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DBF figures had been removed from under the cost of services code. - Costs associated with the confidential minute would be allocated under the additional costs heading. - Income from families and children would be properly allocated to its own income line. - The potential overspend on Millennium Centre utilities was correct – we were locked into current contracts until October but alternative contracts had been identified thereafter. <p><u>March income:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving was slightly down but donations and grant income was better than budget. - Wedding/funeral fees were still to be properly allocated from the tied income account to the general account. - Gift Aid claim was still to be submitted, meaning there was an additional £5k to be added once complete (Jane Forsyth's name had been removed and DOB added). <p><u>March Expenditure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This was on target. - It was hoped that some of the wall repairs would be covered by insurance and grants. <p><u>General:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The finance committee were looking into increasing the credit card limit from £1k as the timing of some regular spends meant it was often over the limit when needed. - There was a surplus of £38k due to unbudgeted grant income and donations. <p>Following a question about restricted reserves it was confirmed that any income which fell into that bracket was kept in a tied account to be used specifically for its intended purpose; the Heritage accounts were also restricted.</p>	
6.	Maintenance & Utilities Committee Update:	
a.	Church Wall Update: work on the South wall had started and was going well.	

	<p>A commencement meeting had been held with the architect and builder about the other works; these would be starting very soon on the Cricketers wall as the Council were keen to reopen the highway as soon as possible.</p> <p>Insurers had appointed a consultant engineer who was due to inspect the collapsed section and provide Insurers with advice – response awaited. An issue may be that the Quinquennial report had identified a risk of collapse although we believed this was mitigated by employing contractors to undertake work at the time. NW suggested that going forward the Quinquennial report should be looked at carefully by the whole PCC and a plan of action agreed for any work required.</p>	
b.	Confidential Minute Update: see confidential minute	
c.	Graveyard trees: carried over to the next meeting	
7.	Mission:	
a.	<p>Putting Rainham First Update: draft plans for the Millennium Centre were due at the end of next week and for the Church at the end of the month. NW was meeting with a lady to look at using the MCentre as a wedding venue and whether this was viable. Measured surveys had been completed (excluding the crypts which still needed to be done) and the community survey data results were expected in June/July. Radar surveys would be carried out in due course.</p>	
b.	<p>Strategic Review/The Great Reset: NW believed that there needed to be a 3-stage process in moving forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dealing with ‘history’ in the Church and past misdemeanours – NW was meeting with Dr Russ Parker the following day (a theologian, priest and expert on healing in places that have had ‘upset’). There was some discussion about the need for this and it was acknowledged that when prayer happens it affects holy spaces and conversely when bad things happen they also have an effect. Reference was made to 2 Chronicles 7:14 - <i>‘if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’</i> 2) Some work needed to be done around the Church vision of growing numerically, spiritually and transformationally and re-launching this to the wider congregations. 3) It was crucial that plans and vision came together. <p>In the short term, there was a question of reintroducing a monthly All Age service noting that on both Mother’s Day and Palm Sunday the 10:30 congregation had increased in size; it was also agreed to investigate a church presence the other side of the A2.</p>	
8.	Fundraising Review: to be carried over to the June meeting	
9.	Correspondence: refer to confidential minute	
10.	AOB:	
i.	AVM and APCM – Agenda, Minutes of last meeting, Report & Accounts: these had been circulated in draft format pending the signed and agreed copy from the Independent Examiner. Matter arising from last year, regarding how many terms a PCC member could serve before standing for re-election - it was proposed to make the motion to the APCM that a 6-year cap be introduced (two 3-year terms) before having a 1 year break – this would start from the next APCM (2024). It was also noted that NW did not propose to instate a deputy warden this year.	
ii.	XP3 Youth trip – the youth group were steadily growing and JPJ requested that PCC agree an outing to an Escape Room - likely a Sunday afternoon, followed by food, with parents providing transport. The activity was unanimously approved.	
iii.	KW and FP terms of office had come to an end on Deanery Synod and NW thanked them for their years of service and support.	
11.	Items for News Sheet from this meeting: NW and JW to meet	NW/JW
12.	Dates of Next Meetings:	
	Thursday 18 May, Millennium Centre 20:00 (after the Ascension Day service, 19:00 in	

	Church) Tuesday 20 June, Millennium Centre 19:30 Tuesday 18 July, Millennium Centre 19:30 Wednesday 20 September, Millennium Centre 19:30	
13.	Closing Prayer:	
	JPJ closed the meeting in prayer at 22:10	