

**The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham**  
**Parochial Church Council**

Full meeting of the PCC on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
19:30 in Church



**Present:** Heather Baker (HB); Nigel Barfoot (NB); Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Nick Grief (NG); Philip Holdcroft (PH); Revd Jonathan Jennings (JPJ); Davina O'Brien (DOB); David Ormiston (DO); Linda Randall (LR); Owen Smith (OS) – Vice chair; Revd Nathan Ward (NW) - Chair; Charley Whittaker (CW); Terry Whittaker (TW)

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

**PCC MINUTES**

Item	Details	Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening Prayer:</b>	
	NW opened the meeting in prayer.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>	
	These were received from Hollie Allen (HA) and Felicity Holton (FH).	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting on 18 May 2023 and Matters Arising</b> ( <i>not already recorded on the Agenda</i> ):	
	TW proposed and OS seconded that the minutes be approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting. All in favour.	
i.	Ukrainian Church – the leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was unwell at this time – we would wait for them to re-contact us when ready.	
ii.	Harare – NG had received an update from Fr. Wycliff that \$2.5k was needed to complete the steelwork. Tafara had a day of prayer and fasting planned for both the project, the economic situation/people's needs and for Zimbabwe as a whole. NG had attended the Southwark Diocesan link meeting and would be doing a sponsored walk in the Summer to raise funds. Notices would be given out at all Sunday services.	JPJ/NW /TW
iii.	Millennium Centre hiring policy for other faith groups – this was still to be finalised.	NW
iv.	Graveyard Trees – TW would speak to the churchyard maintenance team and NW to follow up with a letter.	TW/NW
<b>4.</b>	<b>Safeguarding Update:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The safeguarding committee were due to meet in July and carry out some work around localised policies.</li> <li>• NW had a conversation with Greg Barry at the diocese about getting training.</li> <li>• Two referrals had been made since the last meeting, one being in relation to a parishioner.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Finance Committee Update:</b>	
	<p>The Finance Committee had met to assess the loss of income following the Pre-School closure amongst other things. We were in a difficult position with some large expenditure paid or due to be paid over the next few months which would leave us with a cash flow problem in July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73k in total for the church walls (£15.5k was paid in June from the heritage and church repair fund, £30k was due in July and a further £4.5k in August). The Insurers had denied the claim for the collapsed wall suggesting it was not due to storm damage but a lack of maintenance over a period of time. We were contesting this. A fundraising grant of £7k towards the refurbishment had been obtained.</li> <li>• £4k had been spent to date on the crypt</li> <li>• £44k projected for the Putting Rainham First (PRF) project</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Millennium Centre utilities were £15k more than budget due to the contract not allowing for non-adjustable monthly payments.</li> </ul> <p><u>Actions taken by the Finance Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written to the Friends of Rainham Church and the Church Estate Charity asking for a possible contribution. It was noted that, at the time of this meeting, the Church Estate charity had promised £30k to be paid shortly and the PCC extended their thanks for a very generous response.</li> <li>Consideration was given to stop paying Parish Share, but this was not felt to be right at this stage.</li> <li>A proposal was made to stop authority for moneys to be spent on anything that was not a standard cost, as per the paper circulated prior to the meeting – any non-standard cost would first require sign off by the Finance Committee; further guidance would be circulated.</li> <li>If the liquidity problem continued beyond July, then thought be given to releasing some of the £70k reserves, but this would be a last resort and only subject to PCC agreement.</li> </ul> <p><u>After a long discussion, the following points were made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rent on Childscroft was due to be reviewed, for January, in September.</li> <li>There had been new enquiries for use of the Millennium Centre</li> <li>The Millennium Centre utilities were due for renewal in October and the church gas in November; consideration to be given to a 3-year contract which may save £10k approx.</li> <li>PRF bills were being paid regularly – there was a need to spend money to get us to the stage where we could gain funding for projects.</li> <li>The congregation be informed.</li> <li>Obtain terms for a loan from the Diocese.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that by the next meeting we would have a better picture of the position and would be able to consider other actions more clearly. NW extended his thanks to the Finance Committee for their hard work getting this far.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Maintenance &amp; Utilities Committee Update:</b>	
	Work on the South Wall was complete. All other activities were being monitored and maintenance being carried out little and often.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Mission:</b>	
	<p>NW had circulated a paper prior to the meeting looking at the way forward which proposed that the 10:30 service should become a priority. There was much discussion including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lack of resources to do a lot of things</li> <li>Not starting anything new to properly focus on the 10:30</li> <li>Whether the 10:30 should be more focussed on families or more generally</li> <li>Using other weekly sessions for ‘God’ input</li> <li>The 6:30, and whether this should stop to put resources into the 10:30 or continue as there were some unable to come to a morning</li> <li>Care should be taken to not disenfranchise those in other ministries</li> <li>Focus on the 10:30 would not mean there was no sessional youth worker as this would be needed to resource the staff team</li> <li>The 10:30 should be a ‘springboard’ not just a ‘landing pad’</li> <li>The results of the Community Survey would be ready for the July meeting</li> </ul> <p>NW proposed and JGW seconded the proposal that the 10:30 become the main priority FOR: 14   AGAINST: 0   ABSTENTION: 0</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Fundraising Review:</b>	
	To be carried over until July meeting.	<b>NW</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Correspondence:</b>	
	None received.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>AOB:</b>	

	None reported.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Items for News Sheet from this meeting:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Wall</li> <li>• Harare</li> </ul>	<b>JW</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b>	
	Tuesday 18 July, Millennium Centre 19:30 Wednesday 20 September, Millennium Centre 19:30	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	
	JPJ closed the meeting in prayer at 21:47	