

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023 AT 8.00PM IN CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE 7.30PM EUCHARIST**

Present: Fr Colin Lawlor (Chair), Rev Liz Quinn, Rosy Stone (Churchwarden), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Tony Rice-Oxley (Deanery Synod), Patricia Byrne, Sue Hodgens, Mo Peters, Lynn Winter, Elaine Shimbart, Lynne McNeill, Sara Pask (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

Co-opted: Malcolm Brewer (Hon Assistant Treasurer)

| | | | ACTION |
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| 1. | | Apologies for absence: Anne Morgan, Sara Schillemore, Alice Pitney, Chris Gadd (Churchwarden) Did not attend - Linda Smith | |
| 2. | | Minutes of last PCC meeting on Monday 19th December 2022 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. | |
| 3. | | Matters Arising <u>Page 1, Item 3</u> – Plans of the churchyard. Fr Colin has these and will pass on to Mo. <u>Page 4, Item 9d</u> – New Architect – Chris Gadd said he would speak to the Churchwarden at Rowlands Castle – he was not at the meeting so this will be carried over to the next meeting. | CL CG |
| 4. | a) | Charity Treasurer's Report Lynne reported as follows: Retiring collection in December was the Children's Society and a total of £253.56 was raised - £97.26 was from the Christingle and £25 from a Baptism. Fr Colin reported that the Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is for USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) | |
| | b) | Treasurer's Report Sara read out her report as follows: "May I refer to the financial overview for December 2022. At first glance it seems as though we were looking at a surplus for the year, however, there are a few items that skew these figures. On the income side there is £5,000 that we received from the Waterlooville Events Team in respect of the St George's Cinema which cannot be used for any other purpose. We were very pleased to receive a £10,000 bequest but this can only be used in accordance with our Bequests Policy and not day to day expenses. We also owe £16,600 in Parish Share for 2022 – this will be added to the Parish Share of £66,200 for 2023 making a total Parish Share liability of £82,800. We have barely any reserves as these were run down to nil over the past couple of years. The Investment Account which has a value of just under £34,000 (as at 31/12/22) is not available to us to spend, we can only receive the interest. It could be possible to get some or all of this money released but only for a capital project. Included in these figures is a sum of £1,500 from the National Church to help with the increased costs of utilities. Many thanks to our fundraisers and donors without, whose contributions, we would be in a much worse financial position. | |

| | | | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| | | It is not a pretty financial picture at all and I sincerely hope that our Stewardship campaign will have a positive effect on our income”. | |
| | c) | Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report | |
| | | Not met. | |
| 5. | | Other Committee Reports | |
| | a) | Pastoral Committee | |
| | | Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 th January have already been circulated. Andrew Clarke has not been receiving communion from Rev Liz and Fr Colin will look into this. The Parish Office has now received the completed Baptism form for 30 th April. Marian Haughton completed 2 days training last weekend in Gosport for Anna Chaplaincy. | CL |
| | b) | Church Hall Committee | |
| | | Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 th January have already been circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony said the 3 main things were Finance, Fabric and composition of Committee. • Malcolm said it had been a tradition for many years for the Hall to pay the heating costs for the church as well as the boiler is situated under the Hall. It is a very inefficient old boiler and has no rating whatsoever. The Church Hall can no longer afford to pay it all – for example in December it cost £2142.21 direct debit from the church hall account leaving only £406 in the account. Malcolm Brewer proposed that it is now time that we split the bill 50/50 with the church which will enable us to just pay our half from church hall funds, seconded by Mo Peters and agreed unanimously. • Mo proposed that we get a professional in and investigate a new heating system in the Church and the Hall and depending on cost use the £34,000 in the restricted fund which can only be used for a capital project. Start by talking to David Cain to see if there is anyone in the Diocese who can advise us. • Fr Colin confirmed that no grant had been received for the Warm Space. • Loans matter is now finished. • Malcolm said apart from our regular hirers there are very few one off bookings and people don't seem to be booking children's parties. Perhaps investigate how much it would be to put an advert in Stay Local/The Directory and ask Alex to put a reminder in the Bulletin and ask Dawn to put an advert on the Toddlers Facebook page. • Tony said that a new Chair for the Hall Committee and Hall Manager (could be one or 2 people) needed from the end of March. Fr Colin is confident someone will come forward from the Stewardship Campaign. | CL/CG/RS CL JC CL/CG/RS |
| | c) | Mission and Stewardship Committee | |
| | | Not met. Been focussing on the Stewardship Campaign. | |
| | d) | Social and Fundraising Committee | |
| | | Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 th January have already been circulated. The Committee are very short of helpers for various reasons and Jane read out who was on the Committee. A Fete organiser is needed for 20 th May and Fr Colin said if no-one comes forward we won't have a Fete. | CL/CG/RS |

| 6. | Safeguarding Report | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| | Sonja's Safeguarding report (via email) for tonight's meeting has already been circulated. Fr Colin asked if everyone has now completed their necessary training and all those at the meeting said they had. | |
| 7. | Deanery Synod Report | |
| | Not met. | |
| 8. | Update by Fr Colin | |
| | Nothing to update apart from Stewardship Campaign below. | |
| 9. | Correspondence / AOB | |
| | a) Stewardship Campaign | |
| | Last Sunday all regular members of the congregation received a Stewardship pack. Those not there on Sunday will receive one in due course. PCC would like to pass on their thanks to Nick Byrne for writing the skit and to those who took part in it. It went down very well with the congregation. Hopefully we will now receive lots of extra money and offers of help. | PB |
| | b) Letter from John Hood re Friday morning coffee | |
| | Jane had received a letter from John Hood expressing his concern over the decision to suspend the Friday morning coffee sessions which she read out in full to the PCC. Fr Colin said the reason it was suspended was because hardly anyone used it and it is getting harder to get volunteers. He also said that it has not been cancelled permanently and we could look at re-starting it when the weather gets better and more people will be around. Discussion took place and it was agreed that if we do re-introduce it there needs to be some changes, perhaps some re-training of volunteers. We shouldn't be starting to clear away tablecloths etc when people are still drinking their coffee and although people are trying to be helpful we should discourage them from clearing anything away until about 15 minutes before close. This goes for Wednesday coffees as well. Jane will write to John. | JC |
| | c) Email from Tony Rice-Oxley re vacancies left by his leaving in various church based organisations | |
| | An email had been received from Tony pointing out that the Church Hall Chair / Manager and the Electoral Roll Officer positions will be vacant when he leaves at the end of March. Also he needs someone to run African Child Trust. He has tried to get people to do these tasks without success and doesn't want to leave the church in the lurch when he goes. | CL/CG/RS |
| | d) Email from June Diaper re permanent locking of Chapel door | |
| | <p>Jane had received an email from June Diaper asking why the chapel door is still being permanently locked which she read out in full to the PCC. Fr Colin said that the reason why he decided that the door be kept permanently locked is because people were using it as a corridor. He explained that the Chapel is where the reserved sacrament is kept, and is therefore the most sacred part of the church. It should not be used as a short cut, but should be a place of prayer. The chapel door will remain locked, excepting at Morning and Evening Prayer and for the Wednesday and Sunday morning Eucharist. Jane will send a letter to June advising that Fr Colin is prepared to explain this to her again.</p> <p>A gentle reminder also needs to be issued to everyone that no-one should be working in any part of the church on their own at any time for safety reasons.</p> | <p>JC CL</p> |

| | e) Update by Mo Peters on Eco Church | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| | <p>This will go on the next agenda as a separate item. Mo said as the Eco Church Group is relatively new we have met quite a few times since it was set up. We are working towards our Bronze Eco Church Award.</p> <p>These are the following sections: Worship and Teaching – Silver level Buildings – Bronze level Community & Global Engagement – haven't reached a level yet Land – Bronze level Lifestyle – haven't reached a level yet but it doesn't actually tell us how far we are off a bronze, silver etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have planted the 2 apple trees, shared a large Christmas card for all the congregation to sign and on 21st February the Toddler group are decorating bug hotels and bird boxes and filling them and putting them up in the church grounds. We have now made some compost bins but John Hood is concerned that now we have a compost bin food waste will be put in there and encourage the rats. Mo will make some signs to make it clear what can and cannot go on them. No-one had seen any food put out under the benches recently. If it appears again we will put up signs. • John Hood arranged for the rat man to come and he has filled all the containers with industrial strength treatment which should get rid of them all. He has suggested we have a 3 monthly contract with him. • Eco Church would like to do a renew, re-use and recycle campaign with perhaps a film night the week before the Summer Fete – possibly David Attenborough's Climate Change, the facts, open to the local community. We are going to label bins in the hall to make sure one is recycle and put on there what can go in the bin. • We would like to have a table at the summer fete and invite a local wildlife group with a display and to hand out leaflets. We would also like a table so that children can make their own bug hotel from plastic bottles we will provide and decorate and stuff it. • We would also like to take part in toilet twinning and thought we could have a toilet at the fete possibly with a bell which rings when you throw your £1 coin in and this would link with a toilet somewhere else. • Mo said they bought metal stakes for the compost bin and asked whether this could come out of Len's legacy and this was agreed. | <p>MP</p> <p>MP</p> <p>MB</p> |
| f) | Wiggly Kids | |
| | Mo said she thought we were going to put leaflets in the pews for people with children so they know what is available for their child. Fr Colin thought Chris had said he would do them. | CG |
| g) | Linked churches | |
| | We used to have a link with St Mary Axim but this ceased some years ago. Are there links through IDWAL? Rev Liz will contact Mary Sims and make some enquiries. | Rev Liz |
| h) | Charity Shop 2023 | |
| | Fr Colin said it is unlikely that we will get a shop this year. Mo suggested that for people who would normally donate to the shop they could have a table outside on a Saturday (perhaps 2 tables a week) throughout the summer and any profits go to the church. Take away whatever you don't sell. | |

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| 10. | Date of Next PCC Meeting | <u>ACTION</u> |
| | The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th March 2023 , to agree the accounts, in Church at 8.00pm following the 7.30pm Eucharist. | ALL |
| | Closing Prayer – The Grace There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm. | |