

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM IN CHURCH**

**Present:** Sarah Canham (Churchwarden)(Chair), Richard Spurgeon (Churchwarden), Malcolm Brewer (Hon Assistant Treasurer), Lynn Winter (Deputy Safeguarding Officer), Marian Haughton (Anna Chaplain), David Cavey, Sue Hodgens, Anne Morgan, June Diaper, Jane Cook (Secretary)

**Invited:**  
David Cain

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		Richard opened the meeting with the Bishop's Parish Share prayer.	
1.		<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Sara Pask (Treasurer), Sara Schillemore, Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Dawn Hyett, Patricia Byrne	
2.		<b>Minutes of last PCC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
		The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.		<b>Matters Arising</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Page 1, Item 2</u> – Deanery Synod rep – Jane Dobbs advised that we are OK to just have one rep but if someone else steps up from the congregation they can join during the year. The PCC members confirmed that no-one is interested in taking this on.</li> <li>• <u>Page 1, Item 2</u> – Co-option of members – Jane had circulated a reply from the Diocese saying that the Treasurer and Secretary should be elected at the APCM which would then give us the opportunity to co-opt 2 people to the PCC.</li> <li>• <u>Page 2, Item 4</u> – Gift Day – this was discussed at the F&amp;F meeting and it was agreed we should do one after the summer break. Churchwardens to liaise with Fr Colin and officiating clergy re a date for this.</li> </ul>	SC/RS
4.		<b>Safeguarding Report (5 minutes)</b>	
		This report received from Sonja on 21 <sup>st</sup> July was circulated to PCC members. There were no questions.	
5.		<b>PRAYER BREAK</b>	
		<b>Committees and Reports <u>ONLY</u> to approve any proposals</b>	
6.	a)	<b>Charity Treasurer's Report</b>	
		Lynne emailed Jane with the following report: "£322.98 was raised for Christian Aid during May £130.54 was raised during June for WaterAid" Adrienne Bridger has given Jane some brochures from Mosaic Middle East who are partnered with St George's in Baghdad and recently gifted us some baptismal candles. She would like them put on the Retiring Collections Charities list for 2025 and Jane will make sure Lynne McNeill gets a copy in readiness for this meeting.	JC
	b)	<b>Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report</b>	
		The minutes of the Fabric and Finance Committee held on 16 <sup>th</sup> July have already been circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Cain (DAC) suggested the name of an architect for Richard to contact. His name is Jonathan Cerowski and he is eminently</li> </ul>	

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		<p>qualified to add St George's to the several dozen churches he serves as inspecting architect along with National Trust properties. Our Quinquennial inspection is overdue and Richard has asked him to come in as soon as possible. He will charge £1,500 + VAT. The flat roof at the back of the church needs redoing and David said that a grant will soon be available for projects up to £10K + VAT. Richard said the lightening conductor needs to be checked every year costing £100. David thought it was every 5 years so Richard will double check.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee discussed church finances and expressed grave concern that St George's position is so poor and seeks to urgently address that to the best of our abilities. Richard said it is important we pay our parish share.</li> </ul> <p>Jane read out an email received from Tony Rice-Oxley stating that as they have now been left St George's for a year he feels it is time to transfer their giving to their new church after 1<sup>st</sup> September payment. Jane to write and thank them for all their support over many years.</p> <p>David said that last year only £28,000 of the parish share was paid and this was only possible because we had made up 2 years of back payments of Gift Aid which brought in £5,000 otherwise our contribution would be £23,000 which equates to what we would be paying somebody on minimum wage for a 40 hour week. He felt that while it would be very difficult to get back to the previous level we should try to improve which could only be done by reducing costs and improving income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F&amp;F asked for PCC approval to invite 2 members of the congregation – Dawn Trimby and Linda Wainwright – to join the F&amp;F Committee for their valuable contribution. This was agreed.</li> <li>F&amp;F said they would like to purchase a "Payaz" kiosk at a cost of £400. This is a card reader and tablet housed in bespoke furniture in the hope of attracting more one off payments from visitors. David will ask the Diocese for a trial machine for 8 weeks to see whether it is worth buying one.</li> <li>WMF have asked the PCC if we will consider changing the invoice from £4,500 to £4,000 for hire of the church as venue for the week of the Music Festival in the light of the Festival making a loss. Richard proposed this and is was seconded by Anne and agreed unanimously. Richard to advise Tony Shepherd.</li> </ul>	<p>RS</p> <p>JC</p> <p>DC</p> <p>RS</p>
7.	a)	<b>Pastoral Committee</b>	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> July together with Marian's Anna Chaplain report have already been circulated. On the Pastoral minutes Malcolm asked who else is caring for church family members apart from Patricia. Does this cover all church family members? Marian said she visits people as part of her role of Anna Chaplaincy. Malcolm asked for it to be referred back to Pastoral the concern of the PCC as to whether any members of the church family are being overlooked.	PB
	b)	<b>Church Hall Committee</b>	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> May have already been circulated. David asked Malcolm to get updated quotes for the replacement of the lights in the Church Hall. We should be able to claim to have this done in the last round of grants and David will send Malcolm the forms to apply.	MB
	c)	<b>Mission and Stewardship Committee</b>	
		Not met.	

	d)	<b>Families Ministry and Young People's Ministry</b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		An email received from Chris Gadd states he no longer wants this on the agenda for future meetings. It was agreed that this needs to be kept on the agenda and Jane to send email to Chris, Lynn and Dawn to update for future PCC meetings.	JC
	e)	<b>Social and Fundraising Committee</b>	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> June have already been circulated. Jane said she has had no responses from her latest email to other churches on the proposed Quiz Night on 5 <sup>th</sup> October so this may just be for St George's.	
	f)	<b>Eco Church Group Committee</b>	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July have already been circulated. Need PCC approval for 2 planters either side of the Lychgate for Toddlers to plant herbs and flowers and look after them. This was agreed. PCC agreed that the cost of the bike rack proposed to the left of the church can come from Len Palmer's Legacy.	
	g)	<b>Deanery Synod</b>	
		Updated minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> March and the minutes from the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> June have already been circulated.	
8.		<b>Discussion on Waterlooville Music Festival</b>	
		Richard said the Festival is the most important and successful outreach activity put on in the church and has enjoyed massive support over the years and shows St George's as a welcoming and friendly place. Richard will try and re-ignite the discussion about bringing WMF under the umbrella of the PCC. Historically it was a stand alone Committee as the Committee were unable to apply for grants if it was a church event. He feels the Festival might also receive more support from the congregation. We need to wait until Fr Colin is back to discuss this further.	
9.		<b>Correspondence / AOB</b>	
	a)	<b>Heating Update (David Cain)</b>	
		David has spoken to Herschel, the company who installed the heaters in the Bristol church who are coming next week to look at 4 churches at least in the Diocese so the cost will be split between all the churches they are visiting in the Diocese and will cost us about £80. If they get the job the £80 will be taken off the bill. PCC agreed a budget of £120 to get this visit done.	DC
	b)	<b>Church Hall update (Richard &amp; Sarah)</b>	
		Churchwardens had received an invite from Westbury Consultants but didn't set the relevant reminders and the questionnaire has not been received. Sarah, Richard and David will speak to the Consultants to arrange another meeting.	SC/RS/DC
	c)	<b>Reply from Diocese re co-options of Treasurer &amp; Secretary</b>	
		Dealt with under Item 3 above.	
	d)	<b>Agreement for insurance purposes:</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Hall tidy under stage &amp; sale on wall – 16.8.24 &amp; 17.8.24</li> </ul> <p>In line with David Cavey's request for every group in the church to organise a fundraising event the Social and Fundraising Committee and the Church Hall Committee would like to organise the following events and request PCC approval for insurance purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craft evening in the Hall for Toddler Mums run by Dawn Hyett – evening of Fri 4<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>• St George's Ladies Pre-Loved Sale in the Hall – Fri 18.10.24 from 4pm set up and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00-1.00</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church Hall Committee Table Top Sale – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 10am - £7 a table</li> </ul> <p>PCC were in favour of these events.</p>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	e)	<b>Anna Chaplain suggested service of thanksgiving – 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
		As mentioned in her report Marian asked if we could have a service of thanksgiving on 15 <sup>th</sup> September to celebrate ten years of Anna Chaplaincy. Richard said the Dragons had planned on being involved in the service on the 15 <sup>th</sup> September. However after discussion it was agreed that Dragons would take part in the service on 29 <sup>th</sup> September St Michaels and All Angels. Richard to talk to whoever is officiating on both these days.	RS
	f)	<b>Letter from The Rev Ray Chapman Bth.MA</b>	
		<p>A letter has been received from Fr Ray advising that he will not be renewing his license of Permission to Officiate and has advised the Bishop. He was hoping to read this out to the congregation himself but is awaiting spinal surgery very soon so is keeping away from infections and has asked Richard to read it out to the congregation on Sunday at the 10am service. His letter is as follows in case anyone was not there:</p> <p>“During the Interregnum, before Father Mike Sheffield was appointed to the Living of St. Georges, I received such a warm welcome and support whilst I covered the Parish that we fell in love with the parish and folk of St. Georges. So, as I was coming to the end of my five-year appointment as Assistant to the Area Dean of Havant, and was in the process of renewing for another five years, we decided that it was time we settled down in a parish. It was an easy choice to make so St Georges became our Christian family following discussions with Fr Mike and Bishop Kenneth it was agreed I would perform the role of Honorary Assistant Priest, which has been a great honour and delight not only to me but June as well. Over 20 years now and we are just as happy as when we began. We consider St. Georges our Spiritual Home and Christian Family.</p> <p>Following my Hip replacement in 2022 which led to MSRA, accompanied with Cdif caused by my long stay in hospital. it was a difficult year in 2023. I battled with restoring my damaged digestion system which is thankfully improving. However, in November 2023 it was discovered that my neck was collapsing and needed major urgent surgery, as it was crushing my cervical spinal cord, a great risk of paralysis from the neck down. The brilliant operation was successful with the implanted titanium. During the routine MRI scans it was also discovered that three areas in my lumber spine were being pinched causing the stenosis which I suffer from. I am now awaiting an operation on my spine for decompression surgery which will be tricky, particularly as I take warfarin.</p> <p>Therefore, I have not been able to do as much in the last two years as I would have liked to have done. Very frustrating. I have then made the painful and difficult decision after being ordained for 53 years, (the last 32 years in the diocese of Portsmouth), not to renew my license of Permission to Officiate and have informed the bishop likewise through his secretary with a letter to follow. The bishop is aware that I am considering this event.</p> <p>You will understand that this has been a very disappointingly hard decision to make but I believe to be inevitable.</p> <p>Of course, we will remain with our Christian family at St. Georges supporting in any ways we possibly can. I will not be able to officiate at</p>	

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		services but will continue the various rotas within a ministry of Prayer. I still deeply feel the calling to my vocation which began 60 years ago this year, as such I will continue Prayerfully and enthusiastically to support the parish and Church family. As always, a willing ear to listen. <b>Alleluia Christ is Risen. Yours in Christ Jesus. Fr Ray”</b>	
	g)	<b>Clear Round Pest Services Ltd</b>	
		Malcolm said we are currently paying this company to do 4 inspections a year to keep the rats under control. The total cost is £720 pa. The last 2 reports for May and July reported no evidence of rat activity. Malcolm asked if we need to continue this level of visits. PCC agreed that we should just have one visit a year and Malcolm will talk to the company.	MB
	h)	<b>Monthly Cinema Club</b>	
		Malcolm said that the films are ordered up to and including August but we need to have someone to take this on. Barry Haughton is thinking about taking this on. Following this meeting Chris Gadd has said that he no longer wishes to order the monthly films or the licences. Malcolm will talk to Barry to tell him exactly what is involved.	MB
	i)	<b>Bulletin items</b>	
		PCC asked if we can have a note on the Bulletin reminding people of meeting dates. It would also be good to have birthdays on the Bulletin again and also names of people who have donated the liturgical gifts so that the sidesperson can ask them if they wish to take up the Eucharistic gifts up on a Sunday at the 10am service. Sub-Committee chair/secretary to advise Jo Horner the week before proposed meeting so it can go in the Bulletin the Sunday before.	Sub-Cttee Chair/Sec
	j)	<b>Ivy cutting</b>	
		The development company doing the building work in Wellington Way have asked if they can cut back the ivy on the outside of the wall to the right of the church. This was agreed.	SC/RS
	k)	<b>Metal Soldier Silhouette</b>	
		The money has been received and we should get one for St George’s to put in the front with our poppy displays for Remembrance Sunday.	
	l)	<b>Framed photo of King Charles</b>	
		Linda Wainwright said that the Diocesan News are offering free framed photo of King Charles. After discussion it was decided not to apply as we didn’t have one of the previous monarch and would struggle to find somewhere in church to hang it.	
10.		<b>Date of Next PCC Meeting</b>	
		The next meeting will be held on <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> at 7.30pm in Church.	ALL
		There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.	