

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 8.00PM IN CHURCH  
FOLLOWING THE 7.30PM EUCHARIST**

**Present:** Sarah Canham (Churchwarden)(Chair), Richard Spurgeon (Churchwarden), Lynn Winter (Deputy Safeguarding Officer), Marian Haughton (Anna Chaplain), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Anne Morgan, Sue Hodgens, Sara Schillemore, David Cavey, Sara Pask (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

**In attendance:** Fr Charles kindly offered to do a Eucharist before the PCC meeting and then stayed on for the meeting.

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
1.		<p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> Fr Colin, Dawn Hyett, Malcolm Brewer, Patricia Byrne.</p> <p>Jane read out an email from Patricia offering her resignation from PCC.</p>	
2.		<p><b>Minutes of last PCC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b></p> <p><u>Page 4, Item 8d</u> – Richard said that he was not involved in getting someone to look at the Sacristy computer. Fr Colin had invited someone along but nothing has been done. An anonymous donation of £500 was offered followed by a second anonymous donation of £1,000 – ongoing. The minutes were then agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
3.		<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several people are still not receiving the weekly email or in some cases no emails. The weekly email does not go out every week only if there is something specific to say. Sarah and Richard to write something to go in the Bulletin asking people to let John Johnson know if they are not receiving any emails.</li> <li>• Page 3, Item 6a) – Marian had been at a Anna Chaplaincy day this week and Coleen Jackson is providing her with a form to see if anyone is interested in becoming an Anna friend. She said she has been to Two Beeches and South Africa Lodge and 2 dates have been provisionally booked for services. Marian will speak to Rev Sandra about this.</li> <li>• Page 3, Item 6d) – find out when the Christmas market is on in Waterlooville this year and David suggests taking a group from church, along with choir members, to sing carols in the precinct.</li> </ul>	<p>SC/RS</p> <p>MH</p>
4.		<p><b>Safeguarding Report</b></p> <p>Sonja's report has already been circulated on 29<sup>th</sup> January. There were no questions.</p>	
		<p><b>Committees and Reports <u>ONLY</u> to approve any proposals</b></p>	
5.	a)	<p><b>Charity Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>£115.12 was collected for The Children's Society in December and £188.29 was collected during the Christingle service. £74.85 was collected during January for Waterlooville Food Bank</p>	
	b)	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>It has been another financially challenging year for St George's, our expenditure has outweighed our income. Giving, whether by</p>	

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		<p>standing order, Parish Giving Scheme or donations were below expectations at the end of 2024. The main cause is because faithful givers have either passed away or moved, another effect is that almost 50% of people that give via the Parish Giving Scheme have not opted to allow an automatic inflation increase on their giving, therefore, over time the value of their gift becomes eroded. Obviously, for some people they are not in a position to increase their giving but I think there are quite a few that could increase their monthly/quarterly/annual gift and also have it linked to inflation. The Parish Giving Scheme will always contact the giver before the automatic increase is applied.</p> <p>In 2024 we paid £35,142 in Parish Share to the Diocese against the requested amount of £69,425 – i.e. a £34,283 shortfall.</p> <p>We also had shortfalls in 2022 &amp; 2023 amounting to £66,261.</p> <p>Therefore, the amount owing to the Diocese as at the end of 2024 is <b>£100,544</b>. Our Parish Share helps pay for our clergy, their pension, housing, Diocesan staff, training and church schools amongst other areas. For 2025 the Diocese have asked us to pay £55,000 in Parish Share with a view to this figure increasing over the next few years.</p> <p>Church maintenance costs in 2024 were higher than budget for mainly due to the repairs required in the Church's inner glass doors.</p> <p>The value of our Endowment Account as at the end of 2024 was £37,151.47 – this value is dependent upon the fluctuations of the Stock Market.</p> <p>We currently have £9,320.26 in our Legacy Account and £8,035.68 in the Film Club accounts.</p> <p>Any questions?</p> <p>Discussion then took place on the dire financial situation we are in.</p>	
	c)	<b>Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report</b>	
		<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January have already been circulated.</p> <p><b>Update on Heating</b> (David Cain) – David said he has had the second company out to look at the possibility of chandelier heating but although slightly cheaper he is still struggling to get it to under £50K. He is also looking at a potential boiler replacement with electric. There is sufficient electricity in the building and he is looking at how much it would cost to put 3 phase in the building. We may already have it but are only using 1 phase at the moment. Once the gas boiler fails we could then move over to an electric boiler if everything is ready. Electric is 4 or 5 times the cost of gas at the moment. He hopes to report further at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Church Hall Roof</b> - Sarah said that Fiona had done a good job getting quotes for the kitchen roof and ceiling. F&amp;F recommended that we go with Solent Design and Build who have quoted £7,250 + VAT to do all the work. David suggested to F&amp;F that we apply for a grant from the Diocese and Richard has sent this off. If successful we may get up to half of the cost of the work. The Grants Committee meet on 26<sup>th</sup> February so we wait to hear if we have been successful.</p> <p><b>Fire Door</b> – F&amp;F have suggested taking money out of the Cinema Club account as a loan to get the Hall roof and kitchen ceiling done to repay as and when. £5,000 was handed over to us when we took over the running of the monthly Cinema and there is now £8,000 in the account. As this is a restricted fund PCC approval is needed and PCC agreed this unanimously.</p>	
6.	a)	<b>Pastoral Committee</b>	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> January have already been circulated. The plea for extra people to join this Committee has worked.	

		<b>Church Hall Committee</b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	b)	Minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January have already been circulated.	
	c)	<b>Mission and Stewardship Committee</b> Not met.	
	d)	<b>Families Ministry and Young People's Ministry</b> A report has been circulated already on <b>The Dragons</b> . <b>Sunday School</b> – Lynn said they have welcomed 2 new families in the last 2 weeks. They could do with more help. It would be nice to liaise with the Dragons as some children belong to both. Suggest a Mission statement for both. Lynn would like a slot for Sunday School in the service on Mothering Sunday. Sara asked if Sunday School have enough financial resources. Richard said it is a vital part of our Ministry that we have a thriving Sunday School. He suggested getting Sunday School and Dragons together so they can work seamlessly. Dragons are going to lead a service again soon. <b>Toddlers</b> – Anne said that they had 23 at Toddlers on Tuesday and Amber is doing a fantastic job and making a great effort. She has thrown out a lot of the old toys and updated everything. Sarah thanked Anne and Nigel for carrying on helping out. Anne said it needs someone from the church to go along to talk to people, something which Rev Liz did every week when she was here.	
	e)	<b>Social and Fundraising Committee</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> January have already been circulated.	
	f)	<b>Eco Church Group Committee</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> January have already been circulated.	
	g)	<b>Deanery Synod</b> No meeting since last PCC.	
7.		<b>Correspondence / AOB</b>	
	a)	<u>Agreement on Noticeboard</u> – in memory of David Pask. Sara confirmed she is happy to order the noticeboard and get it fitted. She asked for the size and Richard suggested like for like.	SP
	b)	<u>Agreement on flower pedestal stand in Eve Inwood's memory</u> – this is in hand. Sarah has spoken to The Forge in Petersfield who are happy to make one – just need to know what we want. Jane to speak to Dawn about this.	JC
	c)	<u>Mothering Sunday</u> – after discussion it was agreed Lynn will order bookmarks to hand out. Fr Charles suggested looking at St Olaves Christian Bookshop in Chichester and Lynn will have a look.	LW
	d)	<u>Agreement to Walsingham Pilgrimage</u> – the Walsingham Pilgrimage is taking place this year from 25-27 April and PCC need to agree this for insurance purpose. This was agreed unanimously.	
	e)	<u>Health &amp; Safety at the back of church (Anne)</u> – 2 of the thurifers had complained to Anne that on Sunday the ladder was resting against the Fire Door and all the cleaning stuff is in a real mess out there which causes a fire hazard. This needs sorting out. Ladder has since been moved. The key for the Fire Door is kept locked in the safe so would be unable to get out that way in an emergency. <u>Blessing of children (Anne)</u> – it is proven that you can't catch Covid by touching a child's head. Some of the priests do lay their hands on the children's head for the blessing, some don't. Fr Charles suggested that if the parent and child are happy for the priest to touch them during the blessing there is no reason why this can't happen.	

		<u>Shaking Hands (Anne)</u> – again it has been proven that you can't catch Covid by shaking hands during the peace. Entirely up to people to decide if they want to hug or shake hands at the peace.	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	f)	<u>Fire Risk Assessment</u> – Malcolm had asked for this to be brought up. This is the checking of fire extinguishers and emergency lighting. Sara suggests we go with another local company as Southern Fire Protection have been taken over and are very expensive now. David to look at recommending a local company.	DC
	g)	<u>Lent courses</u> – Fr Colin, Fr Charles and Rev Sandra were planning on meeting on Wednesday to discuss Lent courses. Fr Charles and Rev Sandra will still meet.	
	h)	The Diocese have been in touch to say they are sad to hear about Fr Colin and Archdeacon Bob White will attend the 10am service on Sunday which Fr Tyrone is taking – a small step in the right direction.	
8.		<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
		The next meeting will be held in Church on <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b> (to agree accounts) at 8.00pm following the 7.30pm Eucharist.	ALL
		There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.	