

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2023

Present: Revd Alan Comfort, Gill Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Robin Brown, David Chaplin, Rachel Daniels, Claire Driver, Chris Gibson, Margaret Mellor, Hilary Platts, Teresa Rose, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker, Chris Yule.

Apologies: David Gill, Mary Odam, Tim Oxbrow.

Revd Alan opened the meeting with prayer.

23.45 The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 20th July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising:

23.34: 2 defibrillators had been identified, and **the PCC agreed** to purchase a Zoll AED Plus fully automatic defibrillator, with the intention that it is ultimately installed outdoors. John Robbins will arrange training in its use.

23.44: Sue Scotchmere is continuing as a hall cleaner/manager.

Noticeboard: in hand

23.46 Correspondence

Letter from Archdeacon Rhiannon about designating St Mary le Tower church as 'Ipswich Minster'. PCC members were invited to send their thoughts to Revd Alan, who will reply on behalf of the PCC.

23.47 Vicar's items

Communion for children and adults who are not confirmed: the theme of the Growing in God sessions over the next 3 months is Understanding Holy Communion. PCC members were encouraged to attend these sessions, with a view to discussing the topic again at the January PCC.

Shared chalice: there was a mixed response from those in the congregation who had been asked, but few had said they would not want to return to a shared chalice. **The PCC agreed** that both the shared chalice and intinction would be offered in the near future.

Director of Music: Revd Alan will be sharing his vision for the way forward in our worship at the next PCC, and the role of Director of Music is part of that vision. He will be meeting Richard Hubbard (Diocesan Music Development Director) next week as part of this planning.

St Andrew's celebration in May 2024: the first meeting to discuss the month of mission has been held. A variety of activities for all ages is envisaged to connect with people, show what we do, raise the profile of the church in the community, and to encourage people to want to learn more. Plans will be developed, and anyone wishing to be involved in the planning should speak to Revd Alan.

23.48 Fabric Bequests Policy

A draft policy had been circulated, and this was **approved and adopted by the PCC**. Thanks to the Churchwardens and Tim for their work on this

23.49 Treasurer's Report

- a) Matters arising: The photocopier and gas contracts are still being investigated. Thank you letters have been prepared and will be distributed on Sunday 24th September – the beginning of the CofE's Generosity Week.
- b) Income, July-August 2023: Incomes from various events and donations were highlighted, in particular £2,102 from the Fun Day. The Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Hesketh and all who helped with the very successful Fun Day. As well as raising welcome funds, it was a good community event and many people visited the church.
- c) Payments schedule: Slightly heavier 2 months including to 3 new CCLI licences for video and music performances and Fun Day expenses. *n.b.* Messy Church expenses will be covered by a £2,000 grant from the Elizabeth Walter Trust.
- d) Income & Expenditure to 31/08/23: Income up 9.5% on 2022 and Expenditure up by 8.5% - the Deficit is now a small Surplus! Apart from Parish Share and energy, other costs are fairly well under control. Most income categories are up on 2022.
- e) Funds Schedule: Overall Funds are down nearly £8.5k.
- f) Other: Items are again being purchased by individuals and then given to the church to use or consume. This is very kind, but means that these expenses are unknown to the PCC, giving members a misleading picture of the true financial position of the church for which they are responsible as Trustees. The Treasurer would like to propose at the next meeting a motion requesting that this practice be firmly discouraged unless there are exceptional reasons for such purchases to be made.

23.50 Updates:

Health & Safety: nothing to report

Safeguarding: a number of PCC members have completed the required training. Concern was raised about an incident on Saturday and the potential difficulties faced by Open Door hosts. It was agreed this is a difficult situation to manage, and that we need to have care for our own safety as well as concern for the individual involved. People were reminded that if they felt threatened they should leave the church (don't worry about packing away refreshments/equipment), lock the doors or call the police as appropriate. Kevin and Revd Alan offered to help with locking the church if required, and if necessary the Open Door will stop and the church will remain locked during the day for a short period until the situation is resolved.

ECO church: Nothing heard yet about the funding application for LED lights. Ruth would like to form an Eco Steering Group for the church from among the congregation.

23.51 Churchwardens' Report

- The bells, organ and piano have all been checked/ serviced.
- Quotes for lighting are in hand.
- The Quinquennial inspection identified the need for re-roofing and re-ordering of the Vestry and Garden Store roof and improvements to drainage. The Architect's suggested costs was c. £20,000 (not including professional fees) and funds are available. In view of the urgency and the potential delay involved in getting design specifications and quotations for this work **the PCC agreed that:**

1. Kevin would investigate temporary repairs, up to a cost of £1,000 – if more, the matter would come back to the PCC
2. Proposals for a long-term solution would be pursued:
 - a. To instruct Nick Jacob, our Inspecting Church Architect, to draw up a design and specifications for re-ordering of the roof slopes, drainage and upgrade the insulation
 - b. To use this 'Schedule of works' and seek quotations from roofing companies
 - c. When actual costs are obtained to present these to the full PCC for decision

23.52 Panel Minutes

Youth Panel: **the PCC approved** the name change from Sunday School to Sunday Club.

23.53 Church Events

July	22 nd Fun Day 29 th Quiz
August	Wednesday Treats 27 th Messy Church
September	9 th Ride & Stride
<i>Coming up</i>	23 rd Deanery conference 24 th Messy Church Concerts begin 30 th Growing in God
October	1 st Harvest Festival and bring-and-share lunch 10 th Home groups start 14 th Coffee morning 22 nd Messy Church 28 th Growing in God Quiz
November	5 th Service of Memories 11 th Armistice Day Civil Service and activities in the church hall 12 th Remembrance Sunday 17 th -18 th RTU sale 23 rd PCC 30 th Patronal Festival

23.54 Any Other Business

A donation of £200 was received after a recent baptism and **the PCC agreed** that this could be used for children's work.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Chris Yule and The Grace at 9.40pm.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 23rd November 2023