

Minutes of St George's Church PCC Meeting Held on Monday 4th November 2019

at 7.45 pm at St George's Church Place, Cheyne Lane

Present: Revd Canon Martyn Taylor (MT) (Chair), Philip Dale, Sarah Nottidge, Mervyn Franklin, , Liz Fell (Church Warden), Jaish Mahan (Church Warden), Keith Roberts (Treasurer), Anne Batty, Carl Fender, Ella Harris, John Brian, Sandra Freeman, Stefan Rakowski, Mary Lem, Lucy Tervet, Kevin Whittle, John Brown, Sharon Stokes and Carole Woodcock (Secretary). Clare Arthey and Helen Leech in attendance.

MT spoke on Ephesians 4 and opened the meeting in prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Catherine Kaye

2. **Minutes of the Meeting 30th September.** These were accepted as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**

i) **Foundation Governor:** MT was pleased to report that Megan Williams, a St George's Church attendee and teacher, has come forward to apply for this vacancy. MT proposed that she be nominated. All PCC members were in full support of this appointment.

4. **Vision 2020 + and Joshua Day.** PCC members had been sent documentation and a chart following the recent smaller vision group meeting. They agreed that it was helpful to show that all members of the church family had a part to play in the Resource Church initiative. The merits of the proposed values were discussed, and their comparison with values in previous vision statements. Other useful comments were made, which were taken on board for the group to take back for further discussion. MT will bring further text back to the PCC and will call a Joshua Group get together in the New Year for wider comment.

5. **HR Update.**

Associate Rector – To be announced to the Church family on Sunday 10th November.

Children's Minister – A candidate has been found for this post and is undergoing DBS checks; an announcement will be made in due course.

Youth Minister – MT to seek Bishop approval to employ a Curate with Youth ministry experience as no candidates had applied for this post since the latest advert. An interim contingency for the Children's Minister to cover some aspects of this role has been made.

Discipleship Year Students. Lillian has settled well into her role. She is soon to depart to Australia for a five week pre-planned trip, returning in December. It was pleasing news to learn that another student has been recruited and he will start in a week's time.

6. **Children's and Youth Update.** Sharon Stokes was pleased to report that the temporary arrangements for Children's Church was working well and the volunteers had shown great commitment. The Zone numbers are growing as is the football outreach. The recent Light Party was a huge success with 82 children attending, plus 30 parents. A number of follow up stories on how the love of Jesus has blessed some non-church families following these activities was of great encouragement.

A shortage of volunteers in the creche was noted and Sharon will look into getting more DBS approvals to support this area of ministry.

- 7. Safeguarding.** Helen Leech gave a summary of the report that had been issued prior to the meeting. Although there is a lot of safeguarding activity from week to week with various cases to administer, a close control is being maintained, together with invaluable support from Penny Turner from the Diocese. She also expressed her gratitude for the staff support from both Clare Arthey and Joseph Caseley. The PCC were complimentary and thanked Helen for the way the safeguarding is being managed. Ian Mace queried that with the volume of the present workload, are there any long term plans to cope with the extra workload when the church grows larger under the resource initiative. Helen admitted that this will need to be reviewed to potentially employ more manpower. Various updated safeguarding policies that had been issued to the PCC prior to the meeting were given full approval by all members present.
- 8. Finance.** Thanks to some grants and several generous sundry donations to CAP and Fresh Hope, October was a positive month: income £50k, spend £31k, surplus £19k. Keith Roberts was pleased to advise that the contractors had been paid their final settlement for the building works at St George's Place. However, there will be a shortfall to pay for the Quinquennial stonework repairs to the Church of £30k+.

Keith was pleased to report that CAP is now self-funding, having received regular grants and donations, although Fresh Hope has still to raise its profile to gain more awareness of how it supports the community. A promotional day to highlight Fresh Hope is anticipated in February 2020 and MT will also profile this into his Christmas communication. It was agreed that the collection at the carol services should be given to Fresh Hope, and that this should be made clear in the publicity. Keith presented the draft budget for 2020 and took the PCC through individual items of projected income and expenditure. He recommended that a Gift Day be held in the New Year to help with the quinquennial works and the damp proofing needed in the HUB and St George's Place. After final adjustments following completion of November figures, he will again present the draft budget to the PCC for approval.
- 9. Buildings Update.** Kevin Whittle advised that the building works to the external stonework had been delayed by 10 days due to the recent adverse weather. The contractors highlighted some extra works that needed attending to; the lead roofing which had split in various areas and leaks in the Chancel area. This work will incur additional costs on top of the quote already advised.

A quote has finally been received for the oil tank at a cost of £6843 + VAT. An additional expense of £2830 + VAT will be incurred for the work needed to access the area to get the tank into place. Approval was given by the PCC to proceed with the quote, although it isn't expected to start the work until 2020 when the weather is more favourable.
- 10. Global Impact Group (GIG) - Tearfund Harvest offering and Project Morocco.** MT was pleased to report that the Harvest offering for Tearfund raised £1600. The Project Morocco Appeal by Howard Jones raised £500, although £2K is needed, therefore MT will raise the profile again.
- 11. UK mission support: Further discussion and decision on CEEC, New Wine and other UK support.** MT gave more detail regarding the CEEC request for financial support towards their advertised National Director role. He also gave more background into the partnership benefits of New Wine. Clare Arthey spoke about Hope in Action and their invaluable work in the community with the homeless who have been housed locally. St George's has been approached by this organisation seeking a donation to help support the pay of the local empowerment worker.

After clarification and discussion, it was proposed that dependent upon CEEC making an appointment, a donation of £1500 be made in the first year and thereafter reviewed annually for a further two-year period. Also, that a donation of £500 be made to Hope in Action; with the New Wine donation of £1500 continuing to be an ongoing. All PCC members present agreed this proposal.

12. Any Other Business

Lucy Tervet asked if any consideration had been given to reducing waste by discarding the usage of the current coffee cups in favour of a more sustainable option. This will be taken to another meeting for further discussion.

In response to a comment from a member of the congregation requesting that more information be communicated to the Church family, MT will consider reinstating his summary of the meeting minutes. It was also suggested that a Resource Church notice board might be a useful idea to allow people to keep updated.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd December 2019. The meeting closed at 9.42 pm

Signed Chairman..... Date.....