

Minutes of St George's Church PCC Meeting Held on Monday 3rd February 2020

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, Jaish Mahan (Church Warden), Keith Roberts (Treasurer), Catherine Kaye, Carl Fender, Ella Harris, John Brian, Sandra Freeman, Stefan Rakowski, Mary Lem, Lucy Tervet, Kevin Whittle, John Brown, Sharon Stokes, Ben Topham and Carole Woodcock (Secretary). Clare Arthey in attendance.

MT spoke on 1 Timothy 1 v1-17 and opened in prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Liz Fell (Church Warden) and Anne Batty
2. **Welcome:** Ben Topham was formally welcomed to St George's and introduced to each member of the PCC.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting 2nd December 2019.** These were accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - i) **CEEC National Advisor:** Due to lack of candidates for the National Director role, CEEC had decided to rework the scope of the position. MT, therefore, suggested a six-month delay in St George's donation, after a review. All present agreed.
 - ii) **Youth Minister:** A new recruitment campaign has been launched with a refreshed advertisement published through a wide range of networks. Ben Topham reminded members to use their own personal networks to advertise this role.
 - iii) **Worship Leader:** As much as there is a desire for this position, full concentration will be prioritised into recruitment of the Youth Worker, together with a local curate, plus church planting curate.
 - iv) **Sunday Knights:** It is hoped that an interim leader will be found to regenerate this group activity until a Youth Minister is recruited.
5. **Fresh Hope Overview.** Catherine Kaye presented her paper on the work of Fresh Hope and SHEP (*paper issued prior to the meeting*). She mapped out the varying ways that people in the community are supported through this vital ministry, from organisations such as foodbank, P3, Friday connect group, SHEP. Working together in partnership with other bodies is invaluable to achieve positive outcomes for the vulnerable clients in the community. Funding is always a challenge, but it is hoped that the forthcoming Fresh Hope Day on 16th February will result in long term financial support. Catherine asked people to use their networks to promote the need for extra volunteers to deliver much needed furniture to clients. Thanks were given to Catherine who is stepping away from SHEP in favour of Vanessa Brewer who will step in to take her place. Although grateful for all the voluntary support for these initiatives, MT will write a formal note of thanks to Louise Rose, who heads up this area of ministry. **(MT action)**
6. **Christmas Numbers.** Christmas attendance figures were issued in a report prior to the meeting. It was noted that the numbers this year were slightly lower. However, during the discussion it came to light that on occasions the counting process had been estimated, not realising the reason for precise accuracy. MT emphasised the importance of ensuring the numbers are correct, as these figures are an official requirement by the Diocese and have to be documented in the Statistics for

Mission Returns. Ben Topham expressed his desired intention to track numbers for the purpose of showing trends and patterns of attendance across all weekly services and activities in the future.

- 7. Fire Safety.** *(issued with the Agenda)* Clare Arthey presented an extract from the recent Fire Risk Assessment for George's Place showing the capacity of the building, broken down into individual rooms. It is essential that these are adhered to for legislative and insurance purposes. After a review it was also recommended and agreed that the central aisle in church will not be removed for special events such as Carol services to create extra capacity. It has to be maintained to support easier evacuation in the event of a fire. This will however reduce the available capacity at services, but agreed that demand should not restrict innovation in delivering additional services if deemed necessary.
- 8. Safeguarding Report** *(issued with the Agenda)* This report was duly noted and thanks were given to Clare Arthey for covering Helen Leech in her absence.
- 9. Finance.** Keith presented the accounts to date. There was a small deficit of £5K in the General Fund in 2019, together with a surplus in CAP and Fresh Hope. He highlighted £37K cost for church repairs that was not in the original budget, this is not a concern however as we are expected to breakeven in the long term. Keith highlighted the January accounts and advised that the income is down against the budget by £1.4K. However, this also wasn't particularly concerning at this stage. Keith took the PCC through costs, some of which had been unexpected. The refurbishment of Bentley Street had incurred expense of £4K, however it is hoped that this cost can be reclaimed by the Trust and thereafter rental income will be generated from letting. Although CAP sundry donations were down, an unexpected donation lifted it ahead of budget. Fresh Hope is still low on income, especially of sundry donations, however this will be rectified by a reallocation of £7k per year for staffing costs. It is expected that it should benefit from the Fresh Hope Sunday coming up in February. Due to the need to fulfil the quinquennial backlog of work Keith proposed that a Gift Day be organised for end March/beginning of April. All present were in full support. Although the mainstay of the donation is to satisfy the quinquennial requirements, a request had been received to restore the chancel ceiling to its former glory; if monies are available. MT will write a paper setting out the vision for the Gift Day and issue to the Church family at the beginning of March **(MT action)**.
- 10. Hope into Action.** Keith Roberts proposed that an annual donation of £1K be given from the Fresh Hope budget to Hope into Action to contribute to the oversight costs of St George's affiliated house. All PCC members supported this proposal.
- 11. Vision 2020 and Joshua Group Day 7th March.** The pre-vision group met on 28th January and agreed that the work for the Joshua Day will include four short presentations on the ripples of outreach. There will be a question and answer session following explanation of each ministry focus. MT asked for PCC members to commit to the Joshua Day on 7th March. Ben Topham is working on a version of the comments gathered so far and will email to the PCC in due course. **(BT action)**.
- 12. Wake Up and Smell the Coffee.** Lucy Tervet presented the findings of her project to find the most sustainable method of serving coffee after the services. After canvassing opinion from people who serve coffee, it was concluded that there isn't another viable option to the present recycling method used. Thanks were given to Lucy for her commitment to this project. This did however, prompt a wider discussion on the importance of how we respond to environmental issues as a Church in a way that honours God. MT has already been approached by a group wishing to discuss the Church's response to climate change. Philip Dale recommended a Lent book called 'Saying Yes

to Life' by Ruth Valerio which responds to issues that affect our everyday lives, particularly how we are entrusted to look after God's creation. He offered to meet Lucy to discuss how to take these matters forward.

13. Missions Sunday. John Brown encouraged attendance at the Church services and afterwards a lunch to host Jason Mandryk from Operation World. He is attending St George's on Sunday 23rd February to talk at all three services on God's commitment to World mission.

14. Any Other Business.

- a. **General Synod.** MT and Carl Fender to attend the Synod meeting 10 – 13 February. Carl had lodged a private members motion on changes that the government had made to legal aid six years previously. It is hoped that the General Synod will request that the government would review this decision and reinstate support so that those less advantaged can once again access legal aid which had been denied. He asked to be remembered in prayer for Thursday afternoon.
- b. **Welcome and security.** Due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) there are restrictions on disclosing the details of individuals who are barred from entering the Church. In view of the difficulty this might pose to those serving on the welcome team, MT will discuss at a staff meeting for solutions and report back.
- c. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 2nd March 2020. The meeting closed at 9.35 pm. Future dates to note: Joshua Day 7th March and APCM 27th April.

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