Minutes of a meeting of the St George in the East PCC held on 26 March 2023 at 12 noon

Present Fr Richard Springer (Chair) Trish Bing; Alan Dorji; Jane Earl; Rob Hayward ;Phil Hogan; Francelise Mamilonne; Annadale Ramanoop; Xander O’Riordan

Apologies for absence were received from Miriam Brittenden; Nathaniel Darling; Rev Alanna Harris; Ivonne Lojan- Maldonado; Fr Angus Ritchie;

Richard opened the meeting with prayer.

1. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 19 February 2022 had been previously circulated and were agreed as a correct record.
2. JE reported on the **actions** from the last meeting and confirmed that most were in hand, and were on the agenda or had been completed.

* Conversations had taken place with Katie Peel, Tricia, Nathaniel and Jane on the budget
* The MOU and conversations with CTC was continuing. It was noted that Corinne was still off work, but the open table were thinking about how best to be able to operate, and to begin to work now that they are back on the streets. They have been providing things such as coffee and clothing as well as conversation with people sleeping on the streets, and this has been very much appreciated.
* The quinquennial inspection has been undertaken, and the report will be with the church immediately after Easter
* Three of the flats are now vacant, and are unlikely to be capable of being let until the water ingress has been resolved. The fabric group led by Joel Harland are working on this as a matter of urgency.

1. **Safeguarding**

In Miriam’s absence, Richard reported on the steps taken to encourage the use of the diocesan dashboard for managing any safeguarding concerns. Miriam will be preaching on the APCM Sunday on safeguarding and wider issues. It was also reported that there has also been contact with Council officers on the safer neighbourhood team to ask for additional patrols to ensure that safeguarding concerns about drug dealing in the area around church are tackled. Work on improving lighting was also discussed.

The PCC noted that there are no formal safeguarding issues to report.

**4. Management Accounts**

RSH presented the management accounts for January and `February and a number of further comments were raised which will be discussed in the finance group.

Specific questions included the following points: –

* A need to change the income drawdown line to separate out drawdown for staff costs and drawdown for building improvements
* A question about how the profiling of income is done, and when payments for things, such as the mast in the tower are received, as well as when the nursery pay their rent, to avoid any double counting
* A question about whether the nursery are now up-to-date, following the reduction of rent during Covid
* Noted and need to begin the process of renegotiating, the lease and the rent
* A conversation about the role of your business hub, and the way in which Katie might renegotiate the arrangement for Bella to become a remote bookkeeper, or to consider a more local option

The PCC AGREED

a) to ask KP to report back to the PCC on options for use of your business hub and a better bookkeeping arrangement; and

b) to begin the process of renegotiating, the lease and the rent for the nursery and other crypt users.

**5. Statutory accounts**

RS presented the headline numbers, which would be included in the statutory accounts for both the profit and loss section and the balance sheet. He asked PCC members to raise any queries on the numbers as drafted with KP by 4 April

It was noted that the narrative was still being produced, and would be circulated to PCC members before Easter. In order for the PCC to approve the statutory accounts for submission to the APCM it was proposed that there should be an additional zoom meeting on 18th April at 6 pm for PCC members.

The PCC AGREED to this approach.

**6. PCC timetable of meetings**

RS presented a paper reminding the PCC of the decision of the last meeting to establish subcommittees, and that both fabric and redevelopment have now met. In light of this, I propose that the PCC meeting should be restructured for next year, to enable a clear plan about how to deal with specific issues. A copy of a plan for the PCC year was attached, and the PCC were happy to approve this approach, together with the dates in the diary.

The Meeting AGREED the recommendations – RS/ KP to set up

**7. Archdeacon visit**

The meeting noted that the Archdeacon is due for the Triennial visit on 18 July 2023.

Copies of the report from the last visit in 2019 were included in the pack, and there was a discussion about the way in which the visit would be hosted, and the need for the PCC to be available to meet the Archdeacon without the Rector to talk through how the parish is developing on that evening . The churchwardens would also be meeting with him.

In the discussion, it was noted that there was a need to review the decisions taken in the past to allow children to receive Holy communion prior to confirmation. This is an issue which requires the Bishop’s approval, and the PCC talked about the way in which the current policy was applied, and whether or not we wished to continue it.

It was noted that there were many points in favour of the current practice, including making children feel part of the church, and a good step towards wider inclusivity, but there was also a concern that this might discourage full confirmation. The Rector asked PCC members to reflect prayerfully on these matters and undertook to write to the PCC setting out the arguments on both sides of the debate , to ask for formal views.

It was also noted that a financial risk assessment would be needed, and this would be drafted for consideration by RS/KP/RH and circulated for comment and approval.

**8.** **AOB**

a) As a matter of any other business, Rob Hayward reminded the PCC that he was still pursuing the concept of a Coffee cart around the church, to encourage better use of the outdoor space, and potentially generate some income and job opportunities for local people. The PCC endorsed this approach.

b) RS reminded people that the electoral roll would be open for additional voters prior to the APCM

**9. ACTIONS**

* Consideration of the Quinquennial report and the work on the flats being done by the Fabric committee with a report to the next PCC
* Open Table MOU conversations to be concluded RS/ CTC
* Action on Management accounts and options for bookkeeper to be pursued – KP
* Nursery and other crypt lease to be reviewed- KP
* Narrative for statutory accounts to be circulated pre Easter \_ RS
* Financial risk assessment to be drafted and circulated – KP
* RS to set out views on the giving of communion to children pre confirmation for PCC views

**10. Date of next meetings**

Zoom PCC on 18 April at 6pm to approve the Statutory accounts .with the APCM on 14 May 2023.

The meeting closed with prayer at 1.10pm