Minutes of a meeting of the St George in the East PCC held on 11 JANUARY 2025 at 1330.

Present Fr Richard Springer ( Chair) Rev Caitlin Harland; Tricia Bing; Nathaniel Darling; Jane Earl; Phil Hogan; Rob Hayward; Michelle Meso; Rini Mukkath; Allan Ramanoop

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Dorji, Paul Kellaway; Annadale Ramanoop; Katie Peel

1. Welcome and introductions

Fr Richard Springer welcomed everyone to the formal part of the PCC meeting which followed on from the strategy session looking at the mission action plan and various aspects of church growth held earlier in the morning with members of the staff team. He opened the meeting with prayer

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

Richard reported that all the items in the actions from the last meeting were either resolved or appeared elsewhere on the agenda. He informed the PCC that the church now has a formal pro bono relationship with Forster’s solicitors to assist with property related legal matters. He also updated the PCC on the changes in funding priorities for Trinity Wall Street which means that grant funding for SGIE is unlikely for at least the next couple of years.

1. Safeguarding

The PCC AGREED that the new safeguarding team will be Maragaret Coulter, as the named person, supported by Caroline Shuttleworth, Elizabeth Stout and Richard Springer

1. Staffing

Following funding from the MDI, and discussions with the Standing Committee the contract for Davina is now extended to end July 2025. The PCC AGREED to receive updates on future funding at the next and subsequent meetings.

The PCC also noted that Caitlin goes on maternity leave at the end of January

1. Old Mortuary

*Discussions redacted*

Caitlin reported that the planning application was now live, and that two responses have been submitted, one welcoming the plans for the swimming pool and affordable housing, with the other one expressing concern about the proposal for a commercial use of the old mortuary which is not in the ownership of the council.

1. Operations update

The PCC considered the report circulated prior to the meeting.

Following the draft budget shared by email pre Christmas , the PCC noted that the budget does forecast a deficit but that there was little option . The PCC AGREED the 2025 budget and also noted the opportunity for Katie P to continue to explore increased income generation from the church, the crypt and the car park, in line with the priorities set out in her report.

A question about our ability to use the car park for revenue generation was raised and it was agreed that we should act as fast as possible.

Discussion about increasing awareness of the rental possibilities of rooms and things on the website including photographs was noted . It was AGREED to hold a small group of MM/ ND/ RM/ JE to come up with proposals.

The timetable for the APCM on 11 May was noted together with the timetable for the production of attempts, together with the timetable for the new Electoral Roll

1. Common Fund discussion with the Archdeacon

RS reported on the meeting . when the principle of SGIE reducing our monthly Common Fund Payments in line with the additional cost of curacy housing during maternity leave had been agreed **Action KP**

1. HLF

PCC had an update on progress on the expression of interest for funding from Heritage lottery fund, and AGREED that it was a priority for this to be submitted as soon as possible. It was also a discussion about an informal dinner before Easter with some key contacts to assess levels of interest and possible funding sources. It was agreed that **RM/ RS/ JE** should action this.

1. Fundraising

The PCC noted the good work which had been undertaken on submitting funding bids to cover some of the budget

deficit, particularly around the cost of children’s work, and noted that there was a presentation to the Lauderdale Trust later in January for three year funding of children’s work. There was a discussion about the need for additional fundraising help and the need to make sure that we have a realistic budget for the size of the church, and what can be afforded.

1. St Paul Bow and SGIE PCC social

It was noted that this would be held on a **date to be agreed** - **RS**

1. ACTIONS

* Continue to consider the funding for Davina’s post at the next and subsequent meetings – KP/RS
* Circulate information on the old mortuary as soon as it’s received from LBTH – JE
* Review the Best Value inspection letter in case relevant to property disposals - MM
* Continue the work on income generation from the building and the car park as a matter of emergency – KP
* Convene a small meeting to discuss the ways in which the awareness of rooms for hire in the church might be improved – JE/ND/RM/MM
* Amend the common fund monthly payments in line with the reductions in respect of curacy housing whilst on maternity leave – KP
* Submit the HFF expression of interest by the end of the month and agree a date for a supporters dinner – RS/RM/JE
* Agree date for the Social with Saint Paul’s Bow PCC – RS

1. Dates of next meetings – 9 March (PCC) and 11 May (APCM)

The meeting closed with prayer at 1415.