

St George-in-the-East Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 22 January 2021 at 730pm

Attendance: Tricia Bing; Alan Dorji; Jane Earl; Rob Hayward; Phil Hogan; Francelise Mamilonne (Churchwarden); Claire Moll; Annadale Ramanoop (Churchwarden); Revd Richard Springer (Rector, Chair), Claire Deegan (Safeguarding Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Barling, Fr Angus Ritchie, Fr Josh Harris, Ivonne Lojan Maldonado and Shermara Fletcher

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting opened with prayer led by Richard Springer

2. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 17 December 2020

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated and were shared at the meeting. The minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

The following issues were noted: –

- Jane and Claire have still to begin work on documenting the Lay community history and future plans sometime after 15th January 2021
- The Common Fund payment for the current year has now been made, as agreed at the last meeting.
- Long Okada has been appointed to the part time admin role after interviews of two candidates
- A group consisting of Trish, Alan, Katie, Claire and Richard will be meeting to look at the report on long-term staffing.

4. Safeguarding

Claire Deegan attended the meeting to update on current safeguarding developments. She confirmed that there have been no disclosures which needed a report to the Diocese since March 2020. She has been keeping up-to-date on advice from both the government and the diocese and acting as a support to anyone with any questions about safeguarding. She reported that the Diocese offer online training on safeguarding which can be accessed by anyone who is interested, they contact her. She also referred to the safeguarding aspect of lone working, and noted that she would be issuing reminders about this and any specific risks of online work.

It was noted that with Shermara's departure we would need to find a volunteer to be the vulnerable adults champion. It was agreed that Claire would ask Shermara to complete a task list for the role and then circulate within the church.

The meeting thanked Claire for all her work on safeguarding, and asked her to come to the PCC in April for a further update.

5. Finance

The PCC noted the report circulated by Katie Peel prior to the meeting setting out some of the issues of getting the accounts produced by your business hub (YBH). It was agreed that the next PCC meeting in February should have a full set of management accounts to consider.

The meeting also noted the process that was underway for changing accounts, and that it was likely that this would need a specific resolution from the PCC, together with trustees providing identity details, as well as clarification about signatories. The meeting agreed that Rob Hayward and Katie should come to the next meeting with a timetable for the process and to aim for the process to be completed by the end of March 2021.

In response to questions, it was noted that we are currently with Reliance Bank, but they have not provided a good service and therefore the proposal was to move the account to Lloyds Bank. In response to questions it was noted that there would be no costs to the Church for making this change to the bank account.

6. Work with children and young people

Claire Moll-Namas and the Rector had prepared a report, which set out the current work going on with children and young people through Sunday worship, Choir Church and the work with the school, as well as Little Dragons playgroup which was led by Janet Marie Nhlapo and Revd Alanna Harris. The current pandemic has changed some of the ways in which we are working with children, but the meeting noted with great pleasure that we are still in contact with over 70 children and young people.

The meeting reflected on some of the things which we had learnt during the pandemic, and the way in which zoom calls had been useful in some respects but had not filled the full gap with young people. Parents on the call reflected on the value they placed on the work which had been done both by them and by their children.

In discussions about how we might continue to support children, a number of suggestions were made: –

- Making age-appropriate bibles available to children within the church, and noting that there is a budget for this
- Continue to support young people in leading projects through children's church
- Continue the teaching of social justice and ethics throughout all of our work with children
- Consider training servers for the future, and find ways of enabling young people to be part of the liturgy and music in services
- Think about how to keep our teenagers engaged through providing them with companions in faith

The meeting also noted the long held ambition to create a paid post to work with and support the lay people engaged in providing services for children and young people. It was noted that there would be a task group led by Claire aiming to meet before the end of

February with a report to the PCC in March about the job spec for such a post. Representatives from the PCC were asked to consider joining the working group.

7. Lockdown update

The meeting noted the paper circulated which set out the current plans for online church during the current lockdown, and noted that there would be a review at the end of January with further information to come out to the congregation during the weekly newsletter.

8. Summary of agreed actions

- Lay community report to come to February PCC – action JE/CNM
- Accounts to come to February PCC – action RH/KP
- Safeguarding update to April PCC – action CD
- Vulnerable adults champion to be sought – action RS / CD
- Task group to report on staffing for February PCC – action RS
- Task group to report on children's worker for March PCC – action RS
- PCC minutes to be published on the website and link in parish newsletter – action JE

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 18 February 2021 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.35pm