

## **St George-in-the-East Parochial Church Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 730pm**

Attendance: Tricia Bing; Alan Dorji; Jane Earl; Rob Hayward; Phil Hogan; Revd Richard Springer (Rector, Chair), Claire Moll, Francelise Mamilone

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Barling, Annadale Ramanoop, 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, and we particularly remembered Anna Dale and her family at this time of sadness following the death of her sister.

#### **2. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 18 February 2021**

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: –

- The finance issues will be picked up in the finance report
- A nomination for the vulnerable adults champion is still needed
- Progress has been made on buying bibles for our young people
- The PCC minutes for the last four meetings are now available on the website. We should mention this in a suitable parish email. ACTION JE/R

#### **4. Minutes of the Standing Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on 11 March 2021 had been circulated, and were noted. It was agreed that these minutes would not appear on the website.

#### **5. Safeguarding update**

Richard Springer updated the meeting and reported that there were no issues of concern to be considered. The meeting noted that all members of the PCC were requested to complete the Church of England mandatory safeguarding training, and that Claire Deegan would offer support in accessing the online materials if needed. It was also noted that we should continue to think about other people who might take on safeguarding roles within the church.

#### **6. Staffing updates**

Richard Springer updated the meeting on the following issues: –

- Sheila has now been appointed half time as the OpenTable coordinator to replace Shermara for six months in line with available funding. Her other half time is working to replicate OpenTable in Eastminster, and her time is funded from that pot. She is being line managed by Angus
- Ramond, Katie and Rich are interviewing on 19 March for the music coordinator role, for which there were three applications, with one standout candidate. The intention

is to keep in touch with other candidates and to note that Tom's time will be reduced to 0.5 days per week from Easter. which he will use to support choir church. Funding is in place to cover these roles.

- Richard is in discussion with Ramond about possible extensions to his role

## **7. Finance update**

The meeting considered the new form of draft management accounts which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there was still some areas which needed to be resolved but the simpler presentation of information was welcomed, and it was agreed to ask Rob and Katie to continue to work on this with Your Business Hub.

It was noted that there were still outstanding actions in relation to moving the bank accounts to online banking and to ensuring that there was appropriate oversight for any payments. Rob and Katie are continuing to work on this.

The meeting had a brief discussion about the need to increase giving across the church, both for the church itself, but also for some of our social action campaigns such as Shadwell Responds. It was agreed that it would be helpful to do the following things: –

- Draw attention to the facility to donate online via the donate button
- Consider a box at the back of the church for the period whilst we are unable to have a collection plate, for those people who prefer to donate cash on an as and when basis
- Think about a pictorial presentation of accounts to show the congregation where money comes from, and where it is spent – action RH/KP
- Consider the right timings for a coordinated approach to increase giving and produce a paper for the subsequent PCC for discussion – action RS

Discussions about the plans for preparing for the APCM took place. The meeting will be held on 23 April, via zoom and the table of dates for preparation of accounts and PCC oversight was noted. It was agreed that the draft documents would be circulated no later than 8 April by KP/RH.

It was also agreed that there would be no need for a PCC on 15 April and that for the next year we should move to a formal programme of bi-monthly meetings – action JE to update and circulate calendar of dates and topics.

## **8. Property update**

As the main item for discussion at this meeting, a paper circulated in advance was considered setting out the property assets of the church, and the various models by which income was received. The meeting is split into two small groups to think about our aspirations as a church about how our property might be used, and in the course of conversations the following points were raised:-

- Our commitment to supporting living rents to make it possible for people to live in and around Shadwell
- Our commitment to building communities, and a possible option of offering some or all of the flats to people undergoing ordination training, to enable them to build a

stable community, but also to ensure that the market rent would be paid for the properties from the Church of England

- Need to have both the short and longer term plan which reflects the need for income from flats, but also has to stay true to our longer term principles
- The possibility of exploring using one flat for either a newly arrived refugee, or someone else in particular need, which would be cross subsidised by market rent is paid on the other three flats
- In any event, the need to ensure that the properties are watertight and fit for letting, both to benefit the people already living there, but also to make it as easy as possible to welcome new residents.

The meeting agreed that Richard Springer would come back with firm proposals to the meeting in May.

### **7. Summary of agreed actions**

- Let people know that the PCC minutes are available on the website -JE/RS
- Ensure safeguarding training completed and CD notified - all
- Katie to continue progress the online banking switch to enable up to date accurate financial information to be presented to the next meeting
- Rob, Katie and YBH to look at a simpler presentation of management accounts
- Draw attention to the alternative ways of giving, and think about timings for a giving campaign-RS
- Produce a paper on property use with a recommendation - RS

### **8. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.40 pm