

MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD 19 October 2023

For God, for one another, for the world

Focus for the year - Awakening new hope

Present: Revd. Chris Bessant (Rector), Revd. Elaine Collins (Assistant Priest of Haslemere and Grayswood), Tracy Garland (PCC Secretary), Revd. Fiona Gwynn (Associate Priest), Sarah Hatherall-Good,

Pippa Hollins-McLean, David Hutton (*zoom*), Jackie Holmes (Churchwarden), John McLean (Churchwarden), Nicola Miller (Treasurer), Dian Mordin, Anthony Ramsden (Deanery Representative), Charlie Webb, Angela Wheeler (Deanery Representative), Jane White.

1. Fi opened the meeting with a reading from Phil 2:14 - end, and prayer.

2. Apologies Ailsa Guidi

3. Minutes of the meeting held 20 July 2023 were agreed by all present and signed.

4. PNP follow-up and Archdeacon visitation report (*Main item*)

General feedback was positive and encouraging, including 'where volunteers are fewer it is important to do fewer things and do them better, using resources well.' It was noted the plan needs to be shared with the wider congregation.

Priority 1, Growing discipleship – weekly house group is well attended and a safe space for people to grow and feel nurtured.

Priority 2 – Growing community – School links strengthened with Fi leading weekly assemblies, 3 PCC members serve as governors, and Richard continues to read with Yr5. School Christmas service will be held in church. 'Open the book' considered. 'Death café' (Good grief) to be Deanery led.

Priority 3 – Growing diversity – Creative use of AV system, particularly 4th Sundays and if organist not available, to develop the operations team. Working towards all services being intergenerational and Family/ children' Sunday afternoon service in planning stages, possibly to commence January 2024 with tea afterwards. More social events to be held, including a paella meal. The recent pet service was well attended and will be held again next September. A poetry competition will replace the windows competition this advent, with prizes being awarded.

The following was highlighted from the conclusion ' Fi's leadership is inspirational, and she is surrounded by a great team.....There is also a strong sense of the church being there for the community – which Fi leads by example. Thank you Team Grayswood for all that you are and do.'

5. Calendar dates

i) 18 November Advent retreat, 10am-2pm, village hall

22 November Church growth conference

24 November Friends Chilli quiz

2 December Christmas fayre

3 December turning on Christmas lights

17 December 6pm Carol service

24 December 8am communion, 4pm Crib/ Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight communion (no 10am service).

25 December 10am Christmas day service, short communion to follow

31 December United Benefice service St Barts

ii) PCC Meeting dates 2024 – January 18 (SC 4), March 21 (7), May 16 (2), July 18 (4), October 17 (3), APCM 21 April

iii) the meeting agreed to continue the current focus for the year as it still meets the PNP objectives.

Mission giving – it was agreed to continue to support Christians Against Poverty in quarter one and CMS (Katia Rocks) Q2, Crossways counselling Q3, Skillway Q4.

6. Finance report to the end of Q3

Income was more than budgeted, partly because of increased use of the card reader, but also the interest earned on money on deposit. Most of the usual expenditure is close to budget. There was a deficit of £5,478, less than budgeted. Amended bill from SSE is awaited, using the smart meter readings. Weekly village hall hire costs are £36. It was agreed to continue to use the village hall for coffee after the service as the benefits are: guaranteed parking; it is a bright, welcoming space; it financially supports the village hall. Use of the OJ room for Toddler group is £23 per week, partly covered by £3 charge. The meeting agreed this was a valuable outreach to parents in the village.

A shortfall is still incurred on normal income and expenditure of about £610 per month. Agreed to highlight costs and deficit to the wider congregation. *NM*

The work on the paths cost £30 634, a grant of £15,000 was received from the Friends of All Saints. The AV system cost were £44 516. Both costs were paid with the legacy gift from Lesley Lewis. £1000 remains from the tithe of the legacy. It was agreed £500 would be paid to the food bank and £500 to Crossways counselling. *NM*

7. Building and grounds

i) minor snagging to be completed on the path. Positive feedback regarding improved accessibility has been received. The AV system installed and operational.

ii) Gravestones survey noted and recommendations regarding unsafe memorials. It was agreed these would be laid flat to avoid current and on going costs to the church. Proposed by Jackie, seconded by John and agreed by all present. DAC advice to be obtained. *TG*

The meeting expressed thanks to David and Sarah for both maintaining/monitoring the gravestones and explicit documentation, including website. *TG*

It was noted the War Graves Commission sign has been erected on the lych gate and a notice will be displayed in the porch to show the location of the graves. *TG*

8. IF group

A buddy system was suggested to accompany new members to church. The pastoral team are willing to volunteer. This will be publicised in the Runner. Use of traditional choir robes and alternatives discussed. Nicola to canvas ideas of choir members and feedback. NM

9. Safeguarding.

Nil to report

PCC members encouraged to do Raising awareness of Domestic Violence module via the CofE safeguarding training portal, to be discussed at the January meeting. TG to send link. ALL

10. Deanery

Nil to report, next meeting 15 November.

11. Notices and Correspondence

The meeting adopted the diocese Racial Justice Covenant, proposed by Jackie, seconded by Pippa and agreed by all present.

Next meeting: 18 January (*via zoom*), standing committee 4 January, agenda items to Tracy before this date please.

Signed.....Fi Gwynn.....date18 January 2024