

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Monday 7th November 2022

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING & PRAYER

The Vicar opened the meeting with the Bible verse from Acts 12:5 and led the meeting in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2022

- a) The previous Minutes were approved *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.
- b) No matters arising.

4. SHORT REPORTS

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Holy Communion:** Two options for using individual cups had been presented. These had not been met with positive feedback and the PCC might wish to consider returning to the previous form of administration.
Proposal: that the PCC consider how best Holy Communion should be administered at St Peter's.
Result: the PCC decided to return to this matter at a later stage.
- **Hassocks:** The church has been keeping its large number of kneelers to one side in the church since the outbreak of Covid-19.
Proposal: that the PCC consider what should be done with the kneelers that may no longer be needed.
Result: the PCC decided to dispose of the kneelers that are not in good condition and to keep a few kneelers which show less wear and tear (about one in each pew).
- **The church piano:** This has now been sold and a collection of it has been arranged.
- **CDEN:** The Vicar gave a verbal summary of the CDEN (Chelmsford Diocesan Evangelical Network) meeting on 11th October and a discussion followed.
Proposal: that the PCC consider how best to respond to the suggestions made at the CDEN meeting, and to the wider situation within the Diocese of Chelmsford and Church of England.
Result: the PCC agreed to send a letter of support and assurance of our prayers from the PCC to the Bishop. The Vicar and the Churchwardens will draft the letter.
A series of videos entitled 'God's Beautiful Story' by CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council) will be made available to the PCC and to anyone in the church who might be interested.
The Vicar is also planning to do a sermon series on the Corinthians in the new year.

5. SPOTLIGHT REPORT: FINANCE

Mr Richard Lawn had delivered a written financial report and a report on the redevelopment project as well as the regular financial summary prior to the meeting and gave a verbal summary of these to the PCC. There are some positive answers to prayer, but of pressing concern is the Hall Fund with its substantial deficit, leaving the situation unsustainable. The PCC spent some time discussing options on how to reduce energy costs and how to up the income from hall bookings.

Dr Matt Cox then led the meeting in prayer.

6. THE WARM WELCOME INITIATIVE

Since our last PCC meeting, the staff team had done some research around demand, offers of help, cost implications, what already is in place in the area, and what we might be able to offer. Options alongside making the Hall available were put on the table, such as opening up homes, offering to resource other churches and venues with volunteer support or financial help or indeed seeing if a colder January weather might call for action using the Hall. The PCC was positive to these options. Action: The PCC will hold off making available the Hall for the time being. The Vicar will put thought into how we might offer support to other churches this winter. Mr Richard Lawn will investigate what criteria the donations to the previous Guest House Project are under.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

8. AOB

- 1) The external noticeboard near the main entrance is still mentioning the partnering with St Botolph's Church (Mr Duncan Breckels). Once the situation is legally formalised, the wording on the noticeboard should be amended.

Action: Mrs Wendy Whitfield and Mrs Bernice Watts will contact the company from where the noticeboard was ordered and investigate options.

- 2) Following the retirement of the Rt Revd Rod Thomas, the Bishop of Maidstone's successor will now be known as Bishop of Ebbsfleet (Mr Duncan Breckels).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 16th January 2023.

10. CLOSING PRAYER

The Vicar led the meeting in closing prayer.

APPENDIX 1

Mr Ed Bradley	present	Mr Richard Lawn	present
Mr Duncan Breckels	present	Mrs Val Morris	apologies
Dr Matt Cox	present	Mrs Clare Reid	present
Mr Trevor Froude	present	Revd Mark Wallace	present
Mr Tim Hearn	present	Mrs Bernice Watts	present
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	present	Dr Dan Watts	present
Dr Mick Kavanagh	present	Mrs Wendy Whitfield	present