

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Monday 16th January 2023

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING & PRAYER

The Vicar opened the meeting with 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 and led the meeting in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2022

- a) The previous Minutes were approved *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.
- b) *Noticeboard*: When the time comes to amending the wording on the external noticeboard, the company will provide replacement lettering for the cost of roughly £50.

Warm Welcome initiative: The criteria for the donations to the previous Guest House Project had been investigated. The donations should be used for homeless people in Colchester.

4. SHORT REPORTS

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and the PCC addressed various sections.

- **Redevelopment Project**: Colchester Archaeological Trust had been contacted as it was a condition of the Faculty to have an approved Written Statement of Investigation before work can begin. The WSI would cost £100. The PCC agreed that Mrs Wendy Whitfield would request this to be produced and to clarify what other cost might be incurred.

5. SPOTLIGHT REPORT: MINISTRY

The PCC spent some time discussing various points in the Vicar's Ministry Report.

- **Future prayer meetings**: The PCC addressed the question of what arrangements might work best for the church prayer meetings in 2023 and beyond. The PCC agreed to plan for monthly prayer meetings on the first Wednesday evening of each month. The first meeting will be held at the Vicarage with the view for subsequent meetings to be hosted in different homes, if possible.
- **Communion Services**. Once the process of the dissolution of the benefice of St Botolph and St Peter is complete, there will be an expectation to hold Holy Communion in the parish at some point on every Sunday. No decision was required at this meeting. The PCC members were invited to investigate what pattern other churches follow.

6. FUTURE MINISTRY AT ST PETER'S

The PCC discussed the future ministry at St Peter's given that, as things stand, the incumbent's position will not be financially viable from 31st August 2023. The incumbent has been pursuing various avenues to enable him to continue his role, however, to date, none of these have borne fruit. Proposal: that the Churchwardens and helpers from the PCC will send a letter presenting this issue to an appropriate readership within days from this meeting.

Result: The PCC agreed to the proposal with 11 votes in favour and with the current incumbent abstaining.

7. POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF CHURCH SERVICES DURING THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Different options of local venues were considered for if/when the time comes for services to be held elsewhere during the redevelopment work. Suggestions for possible venues included The Sixth Form College, St Helena School, Mercury Theatre, Town Hall, St George's Hall, The Institute, Firstsite and the premises of the old Post Office.

The Sixth Form College had been approached and has agreed in principle.

There was a question whether it was indeed the case that a relocation is necessary.

The PCC agreed, in principle, that, if there is a definite need to relocate for services during a period, the PCC will further explore venues.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence other than outlined in §4 above.

9. AOB

No other business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PCC meeting is planned for Monday 6th March 2023.

The meeting due in May has been moved from the 8th to the 2nd due to an additional Bank Holiday taking place on the 8th.

11. CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting ended with prayer.

APPENDIX 1

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