

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Monday, January 13, 2025

Chairman: Rev'd Mark Wallace

1. Opening Bible Reading and Prayer
2. Apologies: Ann Larkin
3. Declaration of conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of the previous meeting (November 11, 2024)
 - a. Approved, pending a correction.
 - b. Matters arising: None
5. Short Reports
 - a. Ministry Report

Although Christmas Messy Church involved a lot of preparation for seemingly little gain, there was some positive feedback. The Advent book was appreciated.

There will be a need for help on the tech desk.
 - b. Churchwardens' Report
 - c. Fabric, Building, and Redevelopment Report

The missing radiator in the church hall is due to be replaced (in a different position) soon.

Scaffolding Licence under Faculty for repairs to 157, High Street: There are mould problems which are the responsibility of the letting agency.

Wendy was thanked for her hard work, especially re the recent hall situation.
 - d. Church Administrator's Report
 - e. Safeguarding Report
6. Spotlight Report: Finance

There is a question of how to deal with maternity pay. **Action: Richard will consult the Finance Sub-committee regarding this.** Following this, a decision can be made in the March PCC meeting.

The forecast for planned giving in 2025 is up as a result of the Gift Day.

The question arose as to why we expect the hall to be self-sustaining. Previously, it supported the church. It is still a valuable resource (for, e.g., Messy Church, Tiny Tots, SPK).

The fundraiser position could probably be supported (part-time) for a year.

Richard was thanked for his efficiency and hard work re the finances.

7. Raising funds to meet current and future expenses

The figures stated so far are, to some extent, guesswork. Similar projects seem to aim for 3-5 years' employment of a fundraiser. A fundraising company may do this kind of job, but realistically only on very large projects.

Savings from Dave Lacy's absence would not go far enough.

As Sally is being replaced, the opportunity is there to combine the expenses of both jobs and reallocate, and possibly even combine the jobs themselves.

The cost of a fundraiser might be covered by the sums raised, although the balance is unlikely to be clear until, say, 5 years in.

Overall, there is a sense that, while spending large sums is scary, and that this is an investment in bricks and mortar, we have little choice but to go ahead. The roof, although it will require a large cash injection, is a priority.

Proposed (Proposer: Trevor Froude; Seconder: Ed Bradley): That the PCC seek to employ a part-time fundraiser (0.4 FTE) on the basis of the average salary for similar jobs outside London (Charity Job Salary Report 2024); i.e. 40% of £33,100. Further, that the PCC investigate the possibility of combining and reallocating the funding for this post and that of Church Administrator.

Result: Approved

Action: Mark and the Churchwardens will work on the above.

8. Responding to CEEC's initiatives in response to the Prayers of Love and Faith

It will be some time (probably summer) before the General Synod makes progress on the debate.

We consider ourselves 'core members' according to the CEEC outline, and a logical next step would be to inform Bishop Guli of our non-use of the PLF. This position probably needs to be reviewed on a 3-yearly basis.

Proposed: That the PCC refuse the use of 'Prayers of Love and Faith' in its current form by any clergy at St Peter's.

Result: Approved

9. Future meeting dates (see ***below***)

10. Correspondence

- a) To the Treasurer, from the Colchester Churches Charitable Trust, informing of a grant of £2000.
- b) To the Treasurer, from Michaela Southworth, thanking us for the full amount of the 2024 Parish Share, with an invitation to make an additional payment. The PCC is not in favour of this.

- c) To the Secretary, from the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer, encouraging the completion of the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT), and the identification of an eco-link person in each church or parish.
- d) To the Secretary, from the Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator, re the trialling of Face-to-Face Classroom-Based Basic Awareness & Foundation COMBO Safeguarding Sessions in Chelmsford.

11. AOB (to be raised with the Chairman before the start of the meeting)

Duncan has made some proposals re better livestreaming from the church, which have been passed on to others for consultation.

12. Future meetings

- a. Full PCC meetings (7:30 p.m.): March 10, May 12, **July 7, September 8, November 10**
- b. Standing Committee meetings (7 p.m.): February 3, April 14, **June 2, August 4, October 13, December 8**
- c. Annual Church Meetings (AMP & APCM): Wednesday, May 7, 2025

13. Closing Prayers