

ST. OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PCC HELD ON Tuesday 14th November at 8.00pm

This meeting took place in the church hall.

Present

Revd Robert Riley Braley (Chair), Anne-Georgina Barnes, Tony Barton, Steve Clifford, Jonathan Cox, Margaret Cox, Val Edwards, Clare Hook, Helen McAlpine, Guy Parks, Karen Pryse, Alan Restarick, Anne Thomas, Brian Thomson, Lynn Williamson

Apologies: Debbie Clifford

Prayers were led by the Vicar (Margaret Cox next time)

23/54 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September** were agreed.

23/55 **Matters arising -**

- (i) **volunteers** - the Spotlight service in January will focus on the importance of volunteering within the church. The Vicar and Safeguarding Team are intending to create job vacancy displays in Church and in the Hall as part of Safer Recruitment.
- (ii) **Parish Project** - Brian Thomson noted that the recent concert in the church by the Croxley Green Community Choir had raised £529 for the Mission for Seafarers.

23/56 **Worship arrangements.**

The Vicar noted that he had produced a service booklet for Saints' Days and All Saints' to Advent and will do so soon for Advent. The PCC welcomed the new booklets.

23/57 **Standing committee**

The PCC noted the following decisions taken by the Standing Committee

17th September - the Standing Committee agreed to offer a half-price (£45) three hour party session in the hall as a prize for the Friends of Malvern Way Christmas Raffle.

26th September - the Standing Committee agreed to pay £50 to PicRights to settle a copyright issue with respect to an image used for the church magazine. This followed advice from the Director of Communications, St Albans Diocese and communication with PicRights.

20th October - the Standing Committee noted with thanks the Mothers' Union project to knit hats for seafarers and raise funds for the Mission for Seafarers. 122 hats were knitted and £170 was raised. The money was paid into the PCC account and the Treasurer will pass it on to the Mission for Seafarers.

23/58 **FGPC.**

- (i) Finance The Treasurer is forecasting a deficit for the year. However, Guy Parks had revised his cash flow forecast for the church reserves and the funds available would be sufficient to cover the cost of the work proposed to the church kitchen and AV system in 2024.
- (ii) Church kitchen. Guy Parks reported that a quote for the work as agreed by the FGPC for £13,500 had been received. Further quotes would be sought. The PCC endorsed the FGPC recommendation to apply for a faculty to undertake the work.
- (iii) Church AV equipment. The new mixer rack has been installed at a cost of £4,000. The next phase will include a new wall-mounted projector and its installation at a total cost of £11,454. The PCC endorsed the recommendation from the FGPC to go ahead on this basis. Helen McAlpine will apply for a faculty.
- (iv) Shaftesbury Court additional parking Guy Parks reported on the meeting between Sanctuary and the residents of Shaftesbury Court following their objections to the planning

application from Sanctuary. Guy has prepared alternative suggestions to achieve the objective of gaining additional parking spaces. The PCC thanked Guy for his work on this and noted the FGPC conclusion to ask Sanctuary to amend their planning application to provide three additional parking spaces close to Shaftesbury Court with improved planting and layout to meet the residents' objections.

- (v) Net Zero Carbon. Helen McAlpine has investigated energy audits which would cost £275 for each of the church and the hall. The PCC noted the FGPC's view that since the main focus was likely to be on switching to electric heating and the gas boilers were fairly new, it would not be worthwhile to proceed with audits until the gas boilers needed to be replaced.

23/59 Pastoral

- (i) Living in Love and Faith. The Vicar summarised the situation under discussion at the November General Synod regarding the blessing of same sex partnerships within the Church of England. Once the outcome of the synod is available the next step is for a small group drawn from the PCC and wider congregation to consider this further and report back to the PCC. PCC members emphasised the importance of clear explanation to the congregation.

- (ii) Church calendar.

Sunday 29th November - CMS speaker at 10am service

Sunday 12th December - Toybox speaker at 10am service.

Sunday 3rd December - Christmas Pudding and Craft evening

Sunday 10th December - Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 21st January - Spotlight service on volunteering with Canon Tim Bull followed by bring and share lunch

PCC members urged early publicity of Christmas services. The Vicar said that Churches Together plans for MyCroxley advert had not materialised so St Oswald's should produce its own flyer. (**NB** The Vicar subsequently produced a MyCroxley advert for December edition.)

23/60 Mission Action Plan Update

- (i) Leverage our Environmental work. About a dozen volunteers completed a successful litter pick in streets and recreation areas in Croxley on 11th November.
- (ii) Enhancing our Youth Work. The Vicar reported that the Brunch Club was struggling and may not continue in its current form. However, the Donut club for year 7 students had been very successful and it was planned to continue it on the first Friday of each month in term time. Thought was being given to the possibility of restarting a youth club for those who have been coming to Donut Club. PCC members commented that this would require volunteer helpers from beyond the church. Margaret Cox said she had made some progress in creating a child-friendly area in the baptistry for families to use during services. The next step was to provide a pleasant rug, a small table and chairs.
- (iii) Becoming more welcoming and invitational. Val Edwards said that the task group would meet on 27th November.
- (iv) Developing our worship. The next step is a conversation with the congregation at the APCM.

23/61 Churches Together

A meeting had been arranged on 23rd November to promote inter-faith dialogue in Croxley at the Kitchen. This initiative involves Rabbi Aaron Goldstein and Ben Guest. The Vicar planned to attend. The Christmas walk of witness would take place at 3pm on Saturday 16th December. Jane Brading had stepped down as one of St Oswald's representatives on Churches Together. The Vicar asked for a volunteer to replace her.

23/62 Deanery Synod

The next meeting on 23rd November will take the form of a talk by Professor Nicola Slee, "Sabbath. The hidden heartbeat of our lives."

23/63 **Safeguarding**. Val Edwards presented St Oswalds' safeguarding action plan which the PCC approved.

23/64 Other Business

- (i) Hall bookings Anne-Georgina Barnes commented that unlike previous years there were some bookings of the hall between Christmas and New Year.
- (ii) Decorating the church for Christmas Margaret Cox will coordinate decoration of the hall on 3rd December. Karen Pryse will coordinate decoration of the church on the morning of Saturday 16th December.
- (iii) Remembrance Sunday 10am service Some members of the PCC asked whether it would be possible to hold the two minutes silence in future at 11am to coincide with the normal time in the country as a whole. The Vicar pointed out that the Croxley civic service happened in the afternoon and said that he felt it made more sense to mark the silence at the end of communion rather than interrupting the flow of the service.
- (iv) Volunteering The Vicar said that Jane Brading would be stepping down from her role handling a range of administrative tasks and volunteers would be needed to step in. A list of Jane's activities will be provided. The PCC agreed that the Secretary should send Jane a card of thanks.

Next meetings

PCC: Tuesday 16th January, Tuesday 12th March

FGPC: Thursday 11 January, Monday 4 March

Pastoral: Wednesday 29th November, Tuesday 13th February

APCM: Sunday 21st April

The meeting ended with the Grace