

St Andrew's Church

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2019, 7.30 p.m. in the Church Vestry

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Victoria Wiggins, Patience Wilson, Paul Edwards, Diane Cater, Claire Reilly, Andrea Edwards, Illy Duce, Rex Bourne, Adele Barwood-Symmons, Ruth Mackay, John Tanner, Richard Berndes, Paul David, Frances Cansfield.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received from: Emma Oppong-Addai, Dinos Kousoulou, Rob Barwood-Symmons, Claudia De Rienzo, Barrie Lane, Damian Browne.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 15 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 15 January were approved.

4. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

4.1 Discussions are ongoing with the Grammar School about the installation of CCTV on their buildings;

4.2 Feedback on communion servers had been positive;

4.3 The Churchwardens are providing caretaking cover on Saturdays. Details of what needs to be done are included in the Wardens operating procedure.

4.4 There had been no feedback on the revised Mission Statement;

4.5 Room 3 will be redecorated in the next 2-3 months, with other works to create a more effective meeting room. Fixed screens and whiteboards have been installed and are being well-used. The Parish Centre is running at 80% capacity but Room 3, when refitted, could be used more. Free wi-fi is available in the Centre. There is no conversation to be had with specific users of Room 3 at present;

4.6 An announcement about Lizzie Baughan will be made once she has been appointed;

4.7 Interest has been expressed in the appointments as Safeguarding and Electoral Roll Officers.

5. Finance Report and Budget.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Steve Griffiths reported on the technical note provided by David Wiggins to the Secretary. A shortfall of £11,269 is forecast for the current year. As it is only February, although spend is behind forecast, this is largely a function of timing and other changes to planned works. These will be reported at the next meeting.

Lettings are strong and receipts are above forecast, but partly as a result of pre-payments.

The flat requires some redecoration and clearing. It is now more likely to be let in May with a reduction in income of around two months. Some security measures may be required.

6. Deanery Synod Report

Andrea Edwards presented the report from the last Deanery Synod meeting, highlighting the positive work in the Memory Café initiative, and reflecting strong collaboration between the churches.

7. Mission Action Plan Update

Steve Griffiths presented the update on the Mission Action Plan. In discussion the following points were raised:

- A significant amount of work had been done, which reflected the efforts of Steve and the wider team;
- Continuing effort on fabric repairs and improving the facilities in the Parish Centre had been a priority;
- The storage area in the main hall of the Parish Centre increased the usability of the hall;
- The website has been improved and the FAQs are now of proven value in drawing people into the church. The church page on “A Church Near You” has been updated and the hit rate is increasing;
- The podcasts are also on the website and transcripts are also available there. On average there are 50 listeners, only 30% from Enfield;
- The Welcome Packs have also been updated and made available;
- Parking in the entrance to the carpark remains an issue but is not the public highway, so parking enforcement cannot apply. Consideration would be given to the installation of the further bollard;
- The sofas will go into the church next week. This would raise questions of how change is managed and communicated. The use of the side chapel for Thursday Communion will be unaffected

8. Youth Church Launch.

Steve Griffiths outlined the plans for the launch of the Youth Church. A thousand flyers have been distributed to local schools and via a local youth worker. At this stage the numbers likely to be involved are uncertain. It will be informal and, to a degree, experimental. Leadership will be shared between Steve Griffiths and Nana Otchere.

9. Sunday 10am Service Structure.

Steve Griffiths introduced his paper on the proposed changes to the structure of the 10am service. In discussion the following points were raised:

- It would offer a more flexible format of worship which might well attract people who are initially more interested in getting their children into St Andrew’s School;
- There will be significant challenges in planning, organising and delivering the worship in the Parish Centre and a burden on the individuals leading this;
- One of the challenges is in defining success and how the design meets the various needs currently met by Sunday Clubs, Youth Church and families;
- There might only be limited time available for worship once children and families had moved between locations. This could be a challenge particularly if this conflicted with Communion. A significant number of people coming back into church during the Eucharistic Prayer could be disruptive;
- This should be part of a broader discipleship package and not lead to a dumbing down of church and the sermon;

- There are potential safeguarding issues to be addressed, particularly for children who are not accompanied by their parents;
- It is envisaged that the Sunday Club volunteers will be as engaged as before, but without the division into the age groups as now. Arrangements would be put in place to deal with lone children;
- The current Youth Group may not want to join the broader group but it was hoped that they would begin to take on more of a leadership role as Junior Wardens;
- There was a risk in the young people being excluded with a focus on families and young children;
- There are potential risks in people accessing the Parish Centre without supervision;
- The planning and delivery burden might be reduced if the six month trial were not run each week. In an extension of this it was suggested that some structure around fixed stations: eg prayer, learning, reading, making might also assist;
- The current volunteers had not yet been consulted and this needed to happen before moving into delivery. It was unclear whether the volunteers would want to do this and work beyond the age groups that they currently lead. Others from the congregation might also be interested in leading.

In responding to these points, Steve Griffiths noted that parents were not coming back as they took their children over to the Parish Centre. In encouraging them to come back into church, there appeared to have been the unforeseen consequence of some families stopping attending. Parents appear to want to worship with their children but the current arrangements do not support that. Encouraging families to worship together would address this. School signing in sheets could be made available only at the end of the service. Consistency in the format of the services from week to week would assist in giving people certainty. Safeguarding issues do need to be addressed and will be a priority. If everyone moves towards the new dynamic it will indicate that how we are doing church may need to change. This is not Messy Church, which has a different dynamic. This is more about engaging different learning styles and providing options. The volunteers will have a key role to play and the theme will be the same across the two groupings. The plan allows for two months to design and prepare for the new approach.

Next steps would be to circulate the paper to the Sunday Club leaders and for a discussion with them

Decision: The PCC unanimously approved, proposed by Paul Edwards and seconded by Illy Duce, the development of the proposed new structure, for introduction as a six month trial from May 2019.

10. Launch of Church Refurbishment Project

Steve Griffiths said that he is currently doing a five week set of sermons on renewal and rebirth. This will lead into the soft launch of the project on Easter Sunday. The plan to refurbish the church would create:

- A flexible worship space;
- Concert space; and
- A history centre.

A shadow working group is being established, with the development of marketing and presentational material including the generation of a CGI model of the church which would enable future options to be modelled. Text giving options would also be launched. There would then be the start of a series of development conversations.

11. Plans for Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

Both meetings will take place on 13 April, starting at 10am.

12. AOB

Steve Griffiths and the PCC expressed their thanks to Vicki Wiggins for her time as Church Warden. Thanks were also expressed to Diane Cater, who is standing down from the PCC.

Closing Prayer

The meeting ended with prayer and the Grace.

Date of next meeting - TBC