

# PARISH OF ST. ANDREW, ENFIELD

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held  
on 10 November 2015  
at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Vestry

**Present:** Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Rev. Olive Cope, Rex Bourne, Emma Byrne, Frances Cansfield, Diane Cater, Fliss Cox, Claudia De Rienzo, Andrea Edwards, Dinos Kousoulou, Robert Paing Jacky Parnell, Claire Reilly, Imogen Seward-Evans Mark Thebridge, Victoria Wiggins, Claire Whetstone, Patience Wilson. John Tanner (Secretary).

### 1. Opening Prayer

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

### 2. Apologies for Absence

2.1. Apologies were received from Richard Berndes, Barrie Lane, Diana Lane, and Stephanie Lane.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. The minutes of the meeting of 10 September 2015 were approved, subject to the correction of three typographical errors.

### 5. Matters Arising - 10 September 2015

5.1. Para 12.1 – Positive feedback on the Remembrance Service was noted.

5.2. The action and decisions log was updated.

### 6. Vicar's Report

6.1. Steve Griffiths introduced his report. In discussion, it was noted that:

- the problems in relation to drains are extensive and relate to both the Church and the Parish Centre. The potential works have been costed at £26,000. The work will be prioritised and discussions are ongoing to agree a schedule of works and cost plan;
- a significant effort had gone into the fourth Sunday evening services and thanks go, particularly, to Olive Cope, Diana Lane and Elisabeth Brooke.

### 7. Progression Paper: Quinquennial, Fabric, Legal Compliance and Health & Safety

7.1. Steve Griffiths introduced the paper, highlighting the work which had been taken forward over the summer. Good progress was being made on the Quinquennial Review and the compliance work. He highlighted the work on fire-safety and security. Boiler works were now almost complete, including the outstanding heater work. Specialists had been contacted regarding the bell tower. The general view is that the damage is historic and that further work is not needed but the state of woodwork should be monitored for live furniture beetle infestation. Sufficient funds had been obtained to carry out the immediate remedial work. He would be discussing possible options to further secure funding for minor works at a meeting with the Archdeacon.

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### 8. Finance Advisory Group

#### 8.1. Financial Report - Claire Whetstone summarised the current financial position.

There is an expected surplus at the year-end of £3,000, as against a loss of £10,000 in the previous year. Additional income had been received from donations and from the Parish Centre in October, which was covering a shortfall in giving. The organ restoration project has been completed with a surplus of £600 remaining in restricted funds. The work on utility retendering is expected to achieve a saving of £5,000p/a, as a result of David Wiggins' hard work. Car parking and Parish Centre income are up significantly as a result of Tracy Baines work.

#### 8.2. In discussion the following points were noted:

- MABS' income and expenditure will appear as a separate line in the Parish Accounts but is held separate from the PCC funds;
- Day to day management of the car park was not an immediate issue.

#### 8.3. Stewardship Update - Steve Griffiths noted that the Stewardship leaflets had gone out. He will shortly be preaching on financial giving and this will be covered in the new Welcome Packs

#### 8.4. Alice Kelham Fund – Steve Griffiths introduced the paper. The Alice Kelham funding is for youth work, duplicating the requirements of MABS. The current balance is £5,503.

#### 8.5. **DECISION: The PCC agreed unanimously, proposed by Rex Bourne seconded by Olive Cope, for all remaining Alice Kelham Trust money to be transferred into the MABS account.**

### 9. Buildings Advisory Group

#### 9.1. Security System Update – Steve Griffiths noted that this had been covered in the Vicar's report. The bulk of the costs have been covered by a donation from Santander and funds raised from the congregation. Thanks were recorded to Andy Wakeford for his work on this.

#### 9.2. Children's Corner Update – Steve Griffiths said that the DAC had visited recently and were happy for the PCC to proceed with the works, subject to the Archdeacon's agreement, which will be forthcoming. It was hoped the works could be completed by 13 December. Funding of £600 had been raised to date.

#### 9.3. Tree Felling – Rex Bourne updated the PCC. Quotations had been obtained from 4 companies. The best quote is currently £780 (inc VAT), including the grinding out of the roots. There are likely to be implications for the drain work. Application will need to be made to the Council and quotes validated once permission was obtained. The works might begin in early 2016. Pollarding might be an option, where felling is not permitted, and this would be explored.

#### 9.4. **DECISION: The PCC agreed to the Buildings Advisory Group committing up to £1,500 to the tree felling works.**

#### 9.5. Disabled Access Into Church – Olive Cope introduced the paper. The proposal would be to replace the vertical handrail with a horizontal rail that leads round into the porch. Steve Griffiths said that he had got DAC approval and had approached

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the Council to determine whether or not planning permission would be required. The practical implications for closing of the gates would need to be addressed.

9.6. **DECISION: The PCC agreed to the replacement of the handrail at the main door.**

9.7. **DECISION: The PCC agreed to the review of all disabled access arrangements, including maintaining access to the fire exit behind the children's' corner, by the Buildings' Advisory Group.**

### 10. MABS Advisory Group

10.1. MABS Advisory Group Report - Steve Griffiths introduced the report. In discussion the following points were raised:

- MABS is an activity of St Andrew's Church and not a separate charity. This position would be kept under review;
- a grant application had been submitted to fund resources for EXODUS.

### 11. Deanery Synod

11.1. Patience Wilson introduced the report from the October 2015 Deanery Synod Meeting. In discussion it was suggested that the issued raised in the presentation on **Envisioning and equipping for everyday, everywhere discipleship** to the Deanery Synod should be taken to the Mark 1 Reference Group.

11.2. **ACTION: Patience Wilson to progress "Envisioning and equipping for everyday, everywhere discipleship" with the Mark 1 Reference Group.**

### 12. Mark of Mission 1 - Telling the Gospel

12.1. Votive Candles in Church – Steve Griffiths introduced the paper. In discussion the following points were made:

- people do come into church and ask whether it is possible to light a candle. The question of fire-safety might be an issue and positioning would need to be considered;
- a design which stood candles over stone floors or on a sandbox would minimise any fire risk. Designs might also incorporate a built in donations box;
- the insurance company would need to be informed;
- votive candles provided a focus for prayer in church;
- it might be possible to locate a stand in the side chapel in the south aisle.

12.2. **DECISION: The PCC resolved unanimously, proposed by Jacky Parnell and seconded by Vicki Wiggins, to agree to the purchase of a votive candle stand.**

12.3. **DECISION: The PCC resolved unanimously, proposed by Frances Cansfield and seconded by Fliss Cox, to agree to the purchase of a prayer tree.**

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12.4. Communion Before Baptism – Steve Griffiths introduced the paper. In discussion the following points were raised:

- the paper appeared to be seeking to find a way around the issue of giving of bread to children;
- in previous discussion Steve had raised the question of not wanting to exclude children from the church and body of Christ;
- parents will take different views and there is the potential to set up complexity and challenge for parents. It would be a challenge to know who should receive. How would this be overcome practically;
- children should be able to receive the grace of God in the same way as adults;
- every diocese has guidance on this and this reflects practical developments and the need to create a structure to reflect what is happening already in churches;
- children and adults would have to go through a process of education (age appropriate and potentially reinforced over a number of years). Once they had completed the course of education they receive a certificate from the Bishop. It would be important that parents of those not receiving communion should not be treated as second class citizens.
- it would be necessary to confirm that children and adults were baptised;
- the theology of communion is linked to baptism rather than to confirmation. Confirmation is when you take your baptismal vows on yourself and giving yourself to God. Communion is the gift of God's grace to the individual;
- without judgement or exclusion there should be a sense of seriousness in the approach to the taking of communion;
- there is a wider question of the parish's baptism policy, which would need to be revisited in due course, as would confirmation policy;
- there are wider questions about the engagement of children and young people in the church and putting this structure in place would be part of the response to that;
- for many people taking communion after confirmation has a strong emotional resonance, albeit that they are not linked: the link is to baptism;
- the practical implications would need to be developed over a period, and there would be a process of iteration with the Area Bishop and the parish ministry development officer. Steve Griffiths would, if the proposal was agreed, bring back firm proposals in January 2016.

**12.5. DECISION: The PCC resolved, by 14 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, proposed by Dinos Kousoulou, seconded by Imogen Seward-Evans, that St. Andrew's, Enfield undertakes the process to make it our formal practice to admit baptised people to receive Holy Communion prior to Confirmation.**

### **13. Mark 3 – Tending to Those in Need**

13.1. Prayer Chain – Steve Griffiths summarised the thinking on this and the PCC noted that proposals will be brought forward in due course.

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### 14. AOB

- 14.1. Jacky Parnell reported on the ceremony to welcome the new Area Bishop and Archdeacon and the presented the candles which had been provided for the Church and the School.

### 15. Date of Next Meeting – 13 January 2016