



**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Held in the Church Rooms on Wed 8th March 2023 at 7.30p.m.**

Present: Roy Woodhams (Chair), Susan Clarke, Mike Roberts, Paul Jenkins, Rogan Dixon, Joan Connolly, Margie Nursey, Revd Tim Clifford Hill, Bill Rothwell, Jane Etherington, Sue Knight, Nigel Lynn, Alan Walton, Maurice Bowles. Revd Trisha Hislop was present as an observer. Katherine Tuck, Nicola Craven-Smith and Bryn Jones attended via Zoom.

1 Welcome: Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

2 Apologies: Frank Sole, Georgie Francis, Sandra Keeping, Revd Rutton Viccajee

3 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting 11th January 2023 were agreed and approved unanimously (proposed by Alan, seconded by Margie). There were no matters arising.

4 Safeguarding: Katherine reported that Safeguarding Training now includes a new element covering Domestic Abuse. This can be done on line, and we are all asked to do this and let Katherine know when we have completed it. The link provided by Katherine is:-

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/responding-to-domestic-abuse>

(If this proves difficult, we could try another one, supplied by Susan:-
<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>)

5 Treasurer

Rogan commented on the 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements which had previously been circulated and required PCC approval prior to the APCM on 29th March. The Financial Statements had been independently examined, with no issues raised. Rogan thanked everyone who had contributed to the Annual Report.

The 2022 General Fund Deficit of just over £6,000 is a reflection of the current situation, with rising prices and a number of regular givers who have died or moved away. In 2021 and 2022 we were able to 'plug the

gap' with one-off donations and other income during the pandemic. The deficit has been covered by Reserves. Roy commented that every church he is in contact with has been similarly affected.

Rogan stressed that we need to look at ways of increasing our income - not just from stewardship but by getting more church members to commit themselves to Planned Giving and by considering other ways of raising money.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were unanimously approved – proposed by Jane and seconded by Sue K.

The General Fund Budget for 2023 (also previously circulated) was also unanimously approved – proposed by Alan, seconded by Jane. The budget resulted in a deficit of £17,000, without allowing for a possible new appointment as part of redeveloping our outreach and without provision for any additional housing costs for the new curate. The level of Mission Giving will have to be reviewed in the autumn.

Roy suggested a single page information sheet to be handed out at the APCM, setting out our financial problem and what we might do about it. He said that in the early summer we would have a Planned Giving Sunday, reminding us that in March 2020 we were in the middle of a series of Sunday sermons about Planned Giving when the lockdown began.

Roy remarked that the concerts that took place last year didn't break even and concerts could no longer be relied on as a source of income.

Rogan announced that unfortunately he has a medical condition which will force him to curtail his activities in the future. He will continue to do what he can and will remain as Treasurer, but he may not be able to attend PCC meetings and will not take on anything new. Roy expressed his thanks to Rogan for all that he does and the PCC assured Rogan of our prayers.

6 Church Development Plan: Working Groups

CARING: Susan referred to the working group notes previously circulated. There have been no further meetings, but their action plan is gradually being carried out.

SHARING: Mike reported that the Lent Course is going ahead as planned,

with an average of 32 participating in church on a Monday evening and a small group, led by Tim, meeting on Monday mornings in Trisha Hislop's home. There has been no participation by the other churches.

Sunday 2nd July will be kept as Eco Sunday, with a speaker from the Diocese coming to All Age Worship at 10.00 a.m. It is suggested that we might already qualify for the A Rocha bronze award.

Little progress has been made in an ecumenical effort to advertise our Easter services. Roy felt that handing out leaflets in the village on a Thursday morning, as we have done in the past, is not a fruitful activity and simply puts people off. Rogan wondered about a full page advertisement in Cranleigh News, but it was pointed out that it would be too late to do this this year.

Roy proposed that we concentrate on producing posters for our own events and he will speak to Nicola about this on Friday. Nigel said that the notice boards at the Rectory gate and on the corner of Church Lane are a big asset and Jane commented that the posters should be large and clearly displayed.

DARING:

To be covered by Mike in his Churchwarden's Report.

7 Reports from PCC Teams

Social Team:

The Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Social Team were received, but in Sandra's absence there was no discussion. Susan gave a reminder about the Easter Egg Raffle The idea of selling tickets in the market was suggested, but it was felt that this would require a license.

'Betty's Tea Rooms' was not a Social Team activity; nevertheless Sue K expressed the PCC's thanks to Barbara and all those who had taken part.

8 Car Park

A questionnaire had been widely distributed, with a deadline at the end of March. A further discussion will be put on the agenda for the May meeting.

9 Churchwardens' Reports

Susan:

The second First Aid course begins on Sat 18th March. There is one place left for anyone wishing to take part.

The annual Spring Cleaning of the Church will be on Saturday morning 1st April. Celia has asked for additional volunteers.

Mike:

Mike and a small group had met with the new architect, Adam Hieke, and had discussed issues regarding the church building. These included access to toilets, the different floor levels and church furnishings. There is an urgent need, however, to attend to the incursion of rain water in the area behind the Rector's stall and to clear the church gutters.

Nigel felt that accessible toilets should be a first priority, but Mike pointed out that this would cost a lot of money.

22 Orchard Gardens needs to be kept in a good condition in order to be ready for possibly letting or selling in the future. Necessary repairs are being carried out – to be paid for out of the designated budget. Erik, the new curate, and his family will not be living there as they will be using a house in Charts Close which is owned by the Diocese.

10 Rector's Business

- 1) Roy thanked all who have helped with young people's work, including the small group of volunteers who are running Little Nics Toddlers on a Friday morning, following Emily's departure. They have been doing a wonderful job and are well supported. However, long term the situation is unsustainable. In spite of the financial constraints, if we don't appoint someone as part of redeveloping our outreach we will lose momentum. We will discuss this at our May PCC meeting. The Sunday service arrangements will also feature as an item for discussion at the May meeting.

Katherine commented that we seem to have lost SEA Church, and as a result children no longer come to the 10 a.m. Parish Communion. Roy said that they come to the fortnightly Discovery Service instead. Bryn was of the opinion that SEA Church didn't work and the Discovery Service is better.

- 2) Roy announced the sad news that the C of E Primary School has been placed in Special Measures following an OFSTED Inspection in December. The consequence of this is that the school will be required by law to be part of an academy trust. This in itself is

good for the school as it will give access to a lot of support. Roy has relinquished his position as Chair of Governors and the Governing Body has been disbanded. An Interim Board consisting of three members has been appointed. Cranleigh C of E remains a church school and Roy will continue to carry out his duties there as Rector, assisted by Tim. The Diocesan Education Authority is being very supportive. We are asked to remember the staff and pupils in our prayers.

11 Any Other Business. Mike comes to the end of his term of office as Churchwarden and will take a break from serving on the PCC. In the absence of any other nominations, Alan is willing to be nominated to replace Mike as Churchwarden. For Frank and Georgie (both absent), this was their last meeting. Sue K is willing to stand for the PCC for another three years, and Roy is in touch with other possible nominees. This year elections take place for Deanery Synod. All our members (Joan, Sandra, Margie and Maurice) are willing to be re-elected. There is still one vacancy.

12 Dates of Future Meetings. APCM, Wednesday 29th March, 7.30 p.m. in church. PCC Business Meeting, Wednesday 10th May.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 9.00 p.m.