

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Naomi Bamford-Hurrell, Anne Barker, Valerie Baxter, Carole Bourne, Gary Buckley, Mary Elliott, Helen Goepel, Andrew Horn, Michael Johns-Perring, Diana Lewis, Chris Madden, Clare Mannall, Andrew Miskin, Toni Mitchell, Dan Nmadu, Rod Pearson, Katherine Reed (minutes), Jackie Robbs, Michael Smith, Robert Stanier (Chair), Ian Wilson, Eileen Wingrove

**Apologies:** Clare Chesterman

**1, The Vicar welcomed the PCC and gave an opening prayer.**

**3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

The Vicar signed the minutes as correct.

**4. Matters Arising**

The deadline for submissions to the Annual Report was 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Andrew M proposed, Carole seconded and the PCC approved the Vicar's proposal to increase Clare Chesterman's salary by 2% which is broadly in line with inflation. PCC also recorded its gratitude for the Parish Administrator's hard work and extreme flexibility over last 12 months

Cheque signatory authority was successfully transferred Gary Buckley and Andrew Horn. Robert Stanier signs as chair of the PCC.

New volunteers for the Audio-Visual committee are no longer needed because Clare Chesterman offered to compose the pew leaflet, as she had done in the past.

**5. Finance Committee fundraising document**

PCC members broke into small groups to discuss the document and then returned. The appeal to the 210 households currently on the church's mailing list aims to increase their amount of giving. One group felt that the document was too long. Others felt that it was good to offer detailed information about why the campaign was needed. Naomi suggested that the committee compose an infographic, a visual medium that conveys complex information in short pictorial format. Some members of the PCC felt that it was better to ask people to donate directly rather than pay 3% to CAF for donations through the website. Permission is needed to publish photographs of people, especially children. The PCC decided to produce both a brochure and an infographic as part of a broader stewardship campaign.

**6. St Marks boiler replacement**

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The property management subcommittee obtained the following quotations from our existing boiler maintenance company, Dunamis:

1. Repair existing boilers. Cost, £9,147 including VAT
  2. Replace the boilers to the same specification, which is a 140KW model. To install the new boilers, fit them and take away the old ones would cost £18,684 including VAT. This would be using the WALLCON 140 condensing boiler
  3. Replace the boilers, but with a lower power specification, a 115KW model would cost £15,738 including VAT. This would be using the WALLCON 115 condensing boiler model.
- The committee, Dunamis, and the Vicar recommend option 3. The lower power boiler is actually more efficient than most boilers, will not compromise reliability and has a long warranty. Boilers that are too powerful struggle to operate properly at lower levels. The churchwardens and property management committee are happy with Dunamis but three quotes are needed for an expenditure of this magnitude. Michael Smith has contacted but has not yet received quotations from two other companies. Chris Madden offered to send contact details for his company, T Brown Group to Michael Smith. Michael Smith will present two more quotations at the April PCC meeting.

## **7. Financial Statements**

At present our finances are about £4-5000 better than expected. The financial statements for 2020 will be presented at the April PCC meeting.

## **8. Green Energy**

Our current gas contract runs out in September. In the past we have always chosen the best value option. This year the PCC is asked to decide whether to continue this practice or select a green gas contract. The ideal of green gas is that it is made from natural materials like food waste and then pumped into the grid. It is more expensive than natural gas. Diana looked at three options:

Supplier / Contract	£ Est Annual cost for both churches	£ Extra cost per year compared to NCT	% Extra cost compared to NCT
SSE National Charity Tender (NCT) from 1.10.21	11,115		
SSE Green	12,692	1,577	14%
SSE Green Plus	13,742	2,627	24%

SSE Green Gas is 25% renewable gas and 75% carbon-neutral gas backed by carbon offsets. SSE Green Gas Plus 100% renewable gas. All the prices are indicative. The Diocesan Environmental liaison suggested three other suppliers, two of which offered the middle option. The third supplier, Bulb, offered the 100% option.

The PCC broke into groups and then returned for discussion. Concerns were raised about carbon offsets, that this may not be properly dealing with the problem of emissions.

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Several PCC members wanted to ensure that the increase in price genuinely flows to the people manufacturing green gas. The PCC then voted on the following options

1. Cheapest contract
2. SSE green
3. SEE Green Plus or another fully green product, should there prove to be a cheaper environmental alternative to the SSE contract, as from the suppliers recommended by the diocese environmental officer
4. Look for more information

The majority of the PCC voted for option 3, to purchase 100% green gas. The next highest number of votes went for number 4.

**9. Being on The Welcome Directory: becoming a parish who is 'on the list' for ex-offenders**

The Welcome Directory is a multi-faith Charity that seeks to link people coming out of prison with faith communities. The plan is to ensure that they don't fall through the cracks right away. Michael JP would be the key contact. He has experience working for the prison service. The Parish Safeguarding officers would also be involved. Two members of the PCC particularly voiced their approval. Members of the PCC were instructed to raise any concerns with Michael. Other local churches are also getting involved.

**10. Janice Price: End of training this summer**

Robert reported that Janice will serve a non-stipendiary curacy here. She will be ordained deacon on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**11. Quinquennial Report: Appoint Architect**

The PCC approved the reappointment of Sue Kent. *Tomorrow, Rod and Katherine will send a letter asking her to prepare the St Andrews Quinquennial Report.*

**12. Parish Administrator report**

Discussion of the report was postponed until next month

**13. Holy Week services: the plan so far...**

Hybrid services will be held at St Andrews.

Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday will be hybrid, with some music, no choir, and the Easter fire outside. Numbers will be limited. The congregation will sign up using Eventbrite.

The Vicar is writing a script for an outdoor Easter journey. Members of the congregation will meet Pilate, Mary Magdalene, and other characters.

Morning and Evening services will be held at St Andrews and virtually.

**14. Reopening, when and how**

The Churchwardens and Ministry team met and decided to open the 8.00BCP service. On Mothering Sunday there will be an event at 9.15, with a trail in St Marks. Hybrid Services are planned at St Andrews on Palm Sunday, 28 March. Children can see the donkey at 9.15 at St Marks, but there will be no rides. The Palm Sunday procession is cancelled. At present we cannot process in a public space

**15. Review of Parish activities and forward planning**

Parish online bingo in aid of the Bishop's Lent appeal is scheduled for children on 21<sup>st</sup> March and adults on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**16. Urgent AOB**

The Charity and Social Action Committee plan is to be introduced in April.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at 8.00pm via Zoom invitation.