**St George-in-the-East Parochial Church Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 20 February 2022 at 12 noon**

Attendance: Tricia Bing; Jane Earl; Mr Alanna Harris; Phil Hogan; Ivonne Lojan Maldonado; Francelise Mamilonne; Annadale Ramanoop; Revd Richard Springer (Rector, Chair), Hannah Edwards ( observing via phone); Ramond Rogers

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Dorji; Rob Hayward Fr Angus Ritchie, Fr Josh Harris, and Nathaniel Darling

**1.  Welcome and introductions**

The Rector welcomed colleagues to the meeting of the PCC. He particularly welcomed Alanna back from maternity leave, and Hannah Edwards who joined the meeting by phone, and observing it with a view to joining the PCC. The Rector opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 6 December 2021**

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated and were shared at the meeting. The minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

3. **Matters arising**

The following issues were noted: –

* RS was following up on safeguarding training. He reported that Claire Deegan was still acting as Safeguarding officer
* Stella he’s not able to take on the vulnerable adults champion role at this stage, but will review in May – RS to follow up
* PCC membership – Hannah and Nathaniel are both considering joining the PCC and JE will continue to follow up with them
* The budget had been approved by the PCC via correspondence prior to Christmas
* Climate action group will report to the PCC in March, and to the APCM in May
* KP had investigated the impact of phone mast rentals but it seemed that there was nothing affecting London at present

**4. Property matters**

JE introduced the paper circulated in advance setting out the background and history to the current property issues within the church, and also making reference to the need to regularise the position in relation to the Old Mortuary. She explained that the diocese are now interested in making a clarification to the land registration , connected with insurance for the mortuary, and are also keen to offering the church practical support in consultancy to make a plan for the long-term use of the mortuary, and for the development of the church. Kevin Rogers, the diocesan property advisor continues to be supportive, and has identified potential candidates, who he would fund, who would help with both the specifications of work and the fundraising needed to pay for these works.

In the discussion of paper, the following issues were raised:-

* Joel Harland was meeting with Fiona to look at the building and to form a view about some of the next steps.
* A desire to know how much money we might need to raise, and how we might prioritise the spending and the project elements
* Concern about the current standards of accommodation in the flats and the works needed as a matter of urgency
* The need to ensure that the entire congregation are aware of this large project, and have the chance to make an input
* The need to ensure that the work on the buildings was linked into the wider activities through Create Streets, the swimming pool project, and the aspirations for housing in the area

The PCC NOTED the report, and the direction of travel ,and ENDORSED the decisions needed on the insurance and landownership in relation to the old mortuary.

On a separate issue, the PCC noted a paper on the cost of housing for curates, and that a discussion was to be held with the diocese in early March. A further report would be presented to the PCC at the March meeting.

**5. Finance matters**

The PCC dealt with four items in connection with finance and administration: –

1. Management accounts- it was noted that in spite of significant efforts by Katie Peel to obtain information from YBH, this has not been forthcoming, partly due to recent bereavement linked to their staff team. Whilst the PCC was sympathetic to this issue, there was a concern that there was a lack of visibility of the financial position of the charity, and it was AGREED that the Rector would write to YBH expressing concern about this
2. Summary of investments - as requested at the last meeting, a paper was presented setting out the current value of the investments. Questions arose about some of the detail on this, and it was agreed that TB would speak to KP about the calculated value per share
3. Data privacy notice – to meet our data protection responsibilities, it was necessary to agree a statement about data handling for our website. The PCC AGREED the draft policy circulated.
4. Amendments to the financial procedures – a paper had been circulated containing an addition to the agreed financial procedures to cover circumstances where equipment purchased for individual members of staff might be disposed of to them when they left the service of St George in the East. The PCC AGREED the circulated policy.

**6. Review of worship and liturgy**

Ramond Rogers attended the meeting and presented a summary of the work which has been undertaken on worship and liturgy over the past two years. His presentation has been sent to the PCC members under separate cover.

The PCC endorsed the points raised, and reflected on some of the highlights of worship as well as the learning from worshipping in different ways during the pandemic. The positive benefits of new ways of using music and involving the congregation were welcomed, and there was also a discussion about how best to ensure that there was a process for continuing feedback about what works ,and where things could be developed for the future. It was noted that Raymond was already proposing to undertake a listening exercise to enable people to express their views, and the PCC endorsed this approach.

**7. Actions**

* RS to continue to search for Vulnerable Adults Champion
* JE to continue to talk to Hannah and Nathaniel about joining the PCC
* KP to add data privacy notice to website
* TB to talk to KP about investment paper
* RS to write to YBH
* Continue to pursue Diocese over curate housing costs – ACTION RS/JE/ KP
* Implement the agreed update to financial procedures -KP
* Think about the way of involving congregation in giving views on worship and liturgy – RS/RM

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20 March at 12 noon. The APCM will be held on 15 May.

The meeting closed with Alanna leading prayer at 1.15 pm