

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2025 AT 8.00PM IN CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE 7.30PM EUCHARIST**

Present: Sarah Canham (Churchwarden)(Chair), Richard Spurgeon (Churchwarden), Lynn Winter (Deputy Safeguarding Officer), Marian Haughton (Anna Chaplain), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Anne Morgan, Sue Hodgens, Sara Schillemore, David Cavey, Sara Pask (Treasurer), Malcolm Brewer (Assistant Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

In attendance: Fr Charles

Fr Charles took the Eucharist service before the PCC meeting and stayed for the meeting.

		<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p>Apologies for absence: None</p> <p>Jane read out an email from Dawn Hyett offering her resignation from PCC.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last PCC meeting on 4th February</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Page 1, Item 3 – emails</u> – people still appear to not be getting emails. Ask John Johnson to send a test email on the next available Friday to all on the mailing list and a note will be put in the Bulletin to this effect asking people to let John know if you did not receive it.</p> <p><u>Page 1, Item 3 – Anna Chaplaincy</u> – Sharon from the Baptist Church would like to be an Anna friend with Marian but would need to be DBS checked by Sonja. Marian will also bring in the form in case people from St George's are interested in becoming an Anna friend. Marian confirmed that services have been held at Two Beeches and South Africa Lodge and these will carry on.</p> <p><u>Page 3, Item 7a) – Noticeboard</u> – Helen, Parish Administrator put Sara in touch with a company to provide a quote for the noticeboard in memory of David but she has heard nothing so will chase this up.</p> <p><u>Page 3, Item 7b) - Flower Pedestal in memory of Eve Inwood</u> – Sarah and Jane have arranged for this to be made at The Forge in Petersfield and it is nearly finished (Jane showed a photo). This still needs painting and we need to get the memorial plaque to give to the Forge to put on the pedestal.</p> <p><u>Page 3, Item 7c) – Mothering Sunday</u> – Lynn has got the bookmarks. Richard said Julia has offered to sponsor daffodils as well and Lynn will speak to her about this.</p> <p><u>Page 4, Item 7e) – Health and Safety at back of church</u> – This area has been tidied up and everyone needs to keep an eye on this to make sure the Fire Exit is not blocked. At the moment the key to the door is kept in the safe and it was suggested that whoever is on sidesperson duty on a Sunday should unlock the door before the service and lock it back up again after. Richard will get another key cut which will be kept on the same hook as the chapel key in the Sacristy.</p> <p><u>Page 4, Item 7f) – Fire Risk Assessment</u> – David said he has been in touch with other churches but had no replies. Sara knows 2 people who might check the fire extinguishers and emergency lighting for us. David suggested finding the last report, going through it to see if anything needs doing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RS</p>

			<u>ACTION</u>
		<u>Page 4, Item 7g) – Lent Courses</u> – Fr Charles confirmed that these are taking place both on a Monday evening and a Wednesday after the lent lunch although tonight’s meeting will take place on Wednesday evening. A total of 25 people have signed up altogether.	
4.		Safeguarding Report	
		Sonja’s report has already been circulated on 16 th March. There were no questions.	
		Committees and Reports <u>ONLY</u> to approve any proposals	
5.	a)	Charity Treasurer’s Report	
		£76.08 was collected for The New Blendworth Centre during February.	
	b)	Treasurer’s Report	
		<p>There is little to say about the Parish finances for this year. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have only been able to record our income and expenditure for January 2025. Looking at the overview we appear to have taken more funds in than we spent, however, please note that we did not make a payment in respect of our Parish Share. We hope to make a payment as soon as possible in line with what funds we currently have available.</p> <p>I sent you all a copy of the Parish audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024. I would ask the PCC to accept these accounts so that they can be presented at the forthcoming APCM.</p> <p>David Cavey asked if it is fair to say that we are not in a very good position financially. Sara said yes that is correct. Over the last 3 years we have underpaid our Parish Share and need to look at ways of saving money. Jane asked if we still have to pay this money back. Sara said it is still called a debt but the parish share is a voluntary contribution but we should look on it as a moral debt.</p> <p>Richard and Sara went to the first meeting of Cornerstone since we enrolled but F&F has not met since the last PCC. We should recognise that we achieve a great deal and are a thriving parish and should be proud of this. A questionnaire was sent to 15 members of the congregation not directly involved with the finances of the church and there were 8 replies. It appears we are doing some things well but not scoring highly on what brings them back week after week. The congregation profile has changed enormously over the years. People are encouraged to give if they know what their money is being spent on. We have 30+ tasks that we can focus on.</p> <p>Sara said she needs the PCC to approve the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements for the APCM. These were proposed by Richard Spurgeon and seconded by Lynn Winter and agreed unanimously. Sara was thanked for all her hard work on this.</p>	
	c)	Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report	
		<p>Not met.</p> <p><u>Update on Heating</u> – David said that as reported to the Eco Church Group there is nothing further to report as he is waiting for a response back from the electricity company on the upgrade of the current electricity supply to three phase. He has had an acknowledgement.</p> <p><u>Church Hall Roof and Kitchen Ceiling</u> – Richard said he put in an application to the Minor Repairs & Improvements Grants at the Diocese and received a grant for 50% of the overall work. This will come to £4,800 as we are going with Chris North who quoted £9,600 including VAT. A question was asked about whether we should be spending all this money on the Hall and what had happened in the discussions with</p>	

		<p>the consultant about selling off the Hall for development of 10 flats and a Hall approximately half the size of the current hall underneath for church use. They only offered us £30,000 + use of the hall space. Richard said he doesn't think now is the right time to do this.</p> <p><u>Church Hall Fire Door</u> – it was agreed that this needs to be done urgently. Richard said we have had 3 quotes in which he will pass to Malcolm so the Hall Committee can meet urgently to agree which one to go with. This will be paid from the proceeds of the Cinema and the money returned as and when.</p>	<u>ACTION</u>
			RS Hall Committee
6.	a)	Pastoral Committee	
		Not met.	
	b)	Church Hall Committee	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 5 th March have already been circulated.	
	c)	Mission and Stewardship Committee	
		Not met.	
	d)	Families Ministry and Young People's Ministry	
		<p>Nothing to report at this meeting on Dragons or Sunday School.</p> <p><u>Toddlers</u> - Amber has asked PCC if they can tell her the maximum number of children who are allowed to attend Toddlers. It was suggested that Amber does a risk assessment of the space she needs for toys, games, activities etc and how many children/parents she can comfortably fit in around this and come up with a proposal of what she thinks is the right number of children.</p>	AM
	e)	Social and Fundraising Committee	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 12 th February have already been circulated.	
	f)	Eco Church Group Committee	
		Minutes of the meeting held on 6 th March have already been circulated.	
	g)	Deanery Synod	
		<p>Candy attend Deanery Synod last Wednesday 12th March which was a very interesting evening. Andrew Sheard spoke very kindly about Fr Colin and has been in touch with Richard and Sarah and spoke kindly of how well St George's have coped. Talked about Mission for Justin Welby's 10th anniversary with mission statement on Jesus Central and about kingdom seeking rejuvenating our faith. A lot is happening and the main words are Revitalise, Revive and Renew. Different groups have been formed around the Diocese with our Dragons being one and High Tide. Some churches have set up extra creches and Bedhampton has started bubbles for little children and their parents etc. Rev Andrew Hargreaves is the Diocesan acting Head of Mission. There have been 3 lots of £50K grants for encouraging extra mission - growing people in Leigh Park and someone going into secondary schools for prayers and activities during lunchtimes which is proving very popular.</p>	
7.		Correspondence / AOB	
	a)	<u>Update on Flower Pedestal in memory of Eve Inwood</u> Under matters arising.	
	b)	<u>Any plans for VE Day – 8.5.25?</u> This is a question from the blind veteran who comes to the Remembrance Services. An idea to take to Social and Fundraising to see if we might be able to do a 1945 style lunch in picnic boxes with tea/coffee in church grounds if nice or church hall.	
	c)	<u>Various Maintenance Items</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace altar cloth – 5 young people came into church and set fire to the prayer cards and there is a small burn in the altar cloth. 	<u>ACTION</u>

		<p>Police have been informed. Bespoke altar cloths start at around £600. David to see if any churches have one the right size they are not using. Ask Dawn Hyett if there is anything she can do to mend it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace lamp (insurance claim) – the lamp in the Lady Chapel was accidentally knocked over and smashed. Malcolm will check the excess on our insurance to buy a new one. • Church toilet blocked – Richard has now managed to unblock this. • Lights over PCC noticeboard not working – Richard to look into this. • Church lights – several bulbs need replacing – It was agreed that it would be a good idea to replace all the bulbs with decent ones so hopefully they will not go so often. David will look into this and organise some George's men. 	<p>DC SC MB RS DC</p>
	d)	<p><u>Reminder from Jane for APCM reports</u> Most reports have been received and reminders given to those still outstanding.</p>	
	e)	<p><u>Approval of St George's Ladies Group events for 2025 for insurance purposes</u> Rosemary Monk has produced a calendar of events for St George's Ladies for 2025 which needs approval for insurance purposes. This was agreed unanimously.</p>	
	f)	<p><u>St George's/WMF Fleeces and polo shirts</u> Jane has been in touch with Designs Alike who still have the artwork for St George's and WMF fleeces and polo shirts. Jane will send Sarah something to put in the Bulletin.</p>	JC/SC
	g)	<p><u>Confirmation classes</u> – Fr Charles said that confirmation classes will start after Easter on Sundays after the 10am Eucharist.</p>	
8.		<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
		<p>The next meeting will be the APCM which will be held on Sunday 13th April 2025 after the 10am Eucharist. This will be followed by the Parish Lunch.</p>	ALL
		<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.</p>	