

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24th May 2022 at Dedham Vicarage

At 7.30

Present: Peter Wilson (PW) (Chair), Vee Druitt (VD), John Reed (JR), Liz Reed (LR), Sharon Sarson (SS), Lynne al-Sad (LAS), Helen Sims (HS), Gabbie Watson (GW), Akshay John.

Apologies received from Richard Hopkins and Linda Redlich

1. PW opened the meeting with prayers.
2. PW welcomed Akshay John to the PCC following his appointment on 15th May
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March were approved without amendment.
4. Matters Arising:
 - (a) Item 3: JR reported that prior to the APCM, all PCC members had confirmed they agreed that the signed off 2021 Final Accounts could go forward for adoption at the Annual Meeting.
 - (b) Item 5: PW reported that a supplementary Organ, in case of emergencies, had now been purchased for £1,000 and the PCC expressed their gratitude to the DELT for covering the cost.
5. Finance:

JR gave a report on the Q1 Management Accounts that had been circulated to the PCC, and stated that the General Fund had made a small surplus, but cautioned that this was only because the Parish Share contributions had been at a modest level of £4,000 p.m.

Attention was drawn to the increased costs of printing the Parish Magazine, and the need to make 3 purchases of Boiler oil at escalating prices. The inflationary increases in third party costs were of concern, and the Finance Committee would be reviewing the impact on the budget after the Q2 results. More “giving” was stressed at the APCM.

6. Interregnum Update:

Advertising for two Missioners was now in progress, and the Churchwardens would be meeting with the Archdeacon on 8th June to review the next stage of the process including the interview Panel and the logistics in visiting all parishes. The PCC were invited to put forward questions beforehand that the Churchwardens might consider helpful in the process of engaging suitable candidates.

After that, the next step would be the interviews on the 15th, and PCC members were asked to keep the evening of Friday 14th and the 15th July free in order to engage in the process of showing leading candidates around the Church, etc.

It was hoped that an announcement could be made towards the end of July.

7. Fabric Update:

Boiler: The Faculty having been agreed by the DAC, has still not been signed off by the Chancellor, and PW had asked Archdeacon Ruth to intercede on our behalf.

The gas supply contract with Cadent has been paid for in Q1 (£5003), and we need final approval urgently to avoid having to re-apply to the Contractor.

Additionally, assuming sign-off, the original quotation from Thameside Mechanical to carry out the installation, was undoubtedly going to have to be revised in the light of inflationary issues.

Similarly, although funding has largely been secured, re-costing of the project was going to be necessary.

8. Ukraine/Citizens UK Update:

SS informed the meeting that the Parish did not have enough houses to qualify for the Refugee support scheme, and the Diocese has now said they have enough houses to put up immigrants, but we can help support other Parishes.

PW proposed that we should consider a Tea Party event for those in the local area, and Ruth Higginson has some contacts, and SS would make some enquiries.

9. LYCIG:

Following the weekend course of meetings, and the follow-ups, 26 ideas had been identified by participants, and at the meeting on the 18th May it was decided to focus on just three key points.

The first related to starting a children and parent group, but there was already a group meeting in the Sports Pavilion, so this initiative has been dropped for the present.

Secondly, "Mission" was seen as the best way for the Church to reach out and broaden it's appeal to local people.

The PCC agreed that the pandemic Helpline had been a success, and that this could be re-started as a Helpline for the needy, providing food, clothes, etc. With support from local stores, and the parishioners, it was felt that it would meet an increasing need, as the cost of everything was likely to get even more expensive alongside energy "poverty".

The proposal was to start it in September, with a "hub" for collection points, and the scheme would need to have very clear guidelines as to what help we can provide. (e.g. not money)

It was felt that Ardleigh should be included, hubbed from Dedham, and that it was important to get our message across via the Parish Magazine, etc.

Claire Arculus would be approached to see if she can re-set the database line with a new message.

The third point was to make the Welcome area at the back of the Church more inviting to all who visit. The Hospitality and Toilets project has provided us with a much improved environment, but it could be made more welcoming with an appropriate seating area, better chairs, etc.

We should perhaps consider moving the font, to make more space.

The PCC agreed Points 2 and 3

10. Services Review:

This was also discussed at LYCIG on 18th, and it was felt that the Rise & Shine Service needed to be attractive to all-ages with contemporary worship, without becoming another version of Revive at Five. It needed to be able to provide the kind of service that people who don't currently attend, would like to have.

PW expressed thanks to Rev.Merv Mc Kinney for all he does including the Services rota, and also to Ann Marie Partick.

A licensed Minister had led Revive at 5 in May, and was now going to help lead future Revive Services.

The arrival of a new Missioner would undoubtedly bring ideas and support, but we must all be prepared to help pull our seasonal cycle of worship together. The Churchwardens would appreciate the PCC forwarding their ideas and thoughts to make sure that the Church remains the spiritual heart of the village.

11. Parish Magazine:

LR reported that Charlotte Parker has resigned as editor, and there will be a new editor identified and announced soon.

Liz had recently been trying to include a wider range of articles, having slightly more emphasis on faith, and the different facets of Church life. The aim is to have a balanced magazine of interest to more people, with interesting articles, as well as helping to promote Church in all it's forms.

The result is 48 pages split between articles and the advertisements, the latter being vital to the Church finances.

One area that was proving difficult was the liaison with Dedham School, and this would be followed up when the Deputy Head had more time.

12. Fund Raising:

HS gave a detailed outline of her plans for the Flower Festival, which had a theme of “Creation”, and would take place between Friday 7th and Sunday 9th October.

Vee and Jill Strangward were responsible for general planning, marketing and fund raising. Liz Hopkins was organising Workshops alongside the Festival in the Assembly Rooms. Other support would come from the Allotment Association, the Horticultural Society, and Dedham School.

Entry would again be by donation. The Workshops would be £25 for a 2 hour session, booked in advance.

Good promotion was the key in attracting visitors, and the Dedham Pharmacy had agreed to have a window presentation.

The festival brochure costs would be supported by advertising, to help cover printing expenses, and the cost of flowers would be covered by local sponsors.

Selling flower arrangements in advance helped last time, and this would be repeated.

HS appealed for someone to take on the task of reviving the “Angel” frame used at Christmas, and append feathers.

13. Organ Update:

The Kelvedon Singers were giving a concert in Church on 3rd July in aid of the Organ appeal. David Druitt was selling tickets but to date only 35 had been sold. We have all of June to improve on this.

JR explained to the PCC that the Organ Appeal fund was still part of the overall Church funds, held in one Bank account. The Organ Appeal fund had £1366 residual money from past donations to support organ maintenance, and any new monies raised would be ring fenced in this fund.

13/Organ cont'd

PW and VD had met with Antony Watson on 23rd May, and had issued a report with 7 points clarifying the present status of the project. Points 6 and 7 identified the fact that there is currently no Fund-Raising Committee or a Chairman, and a DAC Faculty still needs to be put together and approved before any work could commence.

PW felt that Antony Watson should continue to try and identify an experienced Committee Chairman with fund raising ability for this size of project.

The PCC agreed with point 7 that the above all needs to be put in place, before any serious fund-raising can take place.

Meantime, it was agreed that Antony could now approach those people who had at a previous meeting, indicated that they would pledge money to the Organ fund. On condition that these donors understood the basis by which they are turning their pledges into hard cash, and have provided their full details to the Treasurer, the PCC were prepared to accept monies into the fund, as refundable Deposits towards the Organ Appeal project.

14. Health and Safety:

VD reported that a meeting had been held and a satisfactory Assessment taken place. Vee would notify all involved in H & S of any issues. An Emergency Evacuation would be undertaken at some time in the near future. Our Ecclesiastical Insurers are satisfied with the review.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th June 2022

