

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 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), Richard Hopkins (RH).

1. Apologies received from: Paul Brebner, Akshay John, Linda Redlich, Gabbie Watson and Helen Sims

2. Minutes of the PCC meetings held on 24th May and 14th June were approved without amendment

3. Matters Arising:

-The question as to whether more recyclable paper could be used with the Parish Magazine had been investigated since the last meeting, and unfortunately the cost would be prohibitive

-An Emergency Evacuation drill had taken place on Sunday 17th July, and was successfully completed after two minutes.

4. Past Events:

PW and VD stated how successful the Deanery Churchwarden's Service had been, and also the Concert performed by the Kelvedon Singers in aid of the Organ Appeal funds. Thanks to all who helped.

5. Missioners:

Three applicants had completed the interview process, but there was no further news to announce as yet regarding appointments.

6. Organ:

The PCC were delighted, that following an anonymous donation of £100,000, further donations had been received, and more expected, which it was hoped would all qualify for 25% Gift Aid.

PW explained that he and Antony Watson were working on a pathway which included setting up a new Committee with a Chairman, and preparing a detailed list of prospective donors to contact, with a view to also attracting Grants for the Organ Appeal from outside organisations. The target was probably going to be in the region of £300k.

Importantly, with PW's support, AW would be preparing a Faculty for Diocesan approval.

Discussions had re-started with Nicholson & Co., to update the project, particularly the removal of the Organ from the Harvest Church in Glasgow into storage.

The urgency to move forward was emphasised by the fact that our current organ is again in need of maintenance.

7. Boiler project:

PW reported on significant progress with the Gas boiler project, and Thameside had provided a cost update of £85k, and all the material had been delivered, and installation was in progress. Cadent were due to commence trench digging on 25th July to provide a gas supply. The Delt had kindly agreed to contribute £75k towards the project, the balance approaching £25k would come from our Repairs & Maintenance Fund.

8. Finance:

JR confirmed that the Quarter 2 Management Accounts had just been finalised, and a report would be circulated later. In summary, Income was up on last year by a small amount, and expenses were expectedly up on last year, but on budget at this half-year stage.

Overall, Church funds were at the same level as at the start of the year. The Goodbox Card giving console was doing quite well, with visitors tending to give the £5 "set" sum. Goodbox had gone into Administration but our funds were secured separately, and a buyer probably being sought by the Administrators.

JR gave notice that under the new Parish Share system, the Assessment for 2023 would be announced in August, and explained how the new system would work. The change relating to the retention by the Diocese of all of the Wedding fees, etc was likely to have some impact on our income.

9. Quinquennial:

The Survey had been carried out thoroughly on 4th July, and we await it's findings. The state of one of the stained glass windows came in for particular comment during the visit.

10. LYCIG:

Deferred to the next PCC Meeting.

11. Safeguarding (SG)

RH gave an update on Safeguarding across the Benefice, and explained the nature of his role as SG Officer, and that of the SG Administrator, a post held until her departure by Charlotte Parker. It did appear that there was a backlog of records administration to be brought up to date, and that by definition, his role was separate to the one undertaken by Charlotte. RH felt that someone should be appointed to bring the records up to date, and then it would be possible to move forward and ensure all SG issues were being covered, and the relevant people appropriately certified.

It was agreed that Safeguarding should be on all future PCC Agendas, and that it would be useful for RH to attend Pastoral Group meetings, as some of the Pastoral activities had SG implications.

12. AOB:

VD asked for and received PCC members authorisation to the Risk Assessment document in respect of the upcoming Sunday BBQ/campout.

The Meeting ended with a prayer by Richard Hopkins.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday September 13th at 7.30