

## Dedham Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

At 7.30 p.m. in the Duchy Barn

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

Apologies: Received from Akshay John, Linda Redlich, Helen Sims, Richard Hopkins, and Paul Brebner.

Following the Licensing Service on 4<sup>th</sup> November, the Reverend Phillip Young (PY), our new Rural Parish Missioner was warmly welcomed to the meeting.

PY opened the Meeting with a prayer.

1. Minutes of previous Meetings: The PCC Minutes for the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> July and the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were approved without amendment, having been proposed by SS and seconded by GW.
2. Matters Arising:
  - (a) No-one has come forward to become Tower Tour Guides.
  - (b) The Constable painting had been returned from the Constable Trust .
  - (c) The new boiler had been installed, and should be heating the Church shortly
  - (d) Work on the Chestnut tree and the High Street wall would commence on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, for 6 to 8 weeks.

3. Services and Ministry: \_

There will be a Joint Benefice Service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October at Ardleigh taken by PY.

The entire 13<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Day Service would be held in the Royal Square.

As it was the turn for Ardleigh to hold Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, there were still no plans at present to hold a Service at Dedham apart from the 5pm Crib Service. PW raised the idea for Carols around the Christmas tree on 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> December.

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Plans to incorporate PY's availability within our rota were in hand.

Additionally, LAS was organising the Carol Services for Christian Aid.

PY would speak to Dedham School regarding food parcels for any needy residents.

4. Finance: JR gave a report on the current finances, and in summary, inflation had started to have an affect on our costs, which was largely out of our control, but more of concern was the flat nature of our income from regular giving. The budget had a 2.5% increase year on year built in, and this has not materialised, and our monthly "Givers" were down by a net of 4 on the same time last year. The result of this would be a lowering in our expectation to pay a Parish Share equivalent to 2021.

Quarter 3 Management Accounts would be ready by the end of next week, and a financial Commentary would be circulated to the PCC after the Finance Committee had met on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

It has been a very busy Quarter with the Boiler project, the pre-Flower Festival income, and the Organ Project funding income.

Also 73 Parish Magazine Advertising bills were all paid by the advertisers, bringing in over £20k of income for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Solicitors for the late Carole Duffield had indicated a small legacy had been left to support the Church fabric.

With regard to the Organ Project, the Fund had received £174k to date with a potential Gift Aid claim of £52k making a total of £226k towards a budgeted cost of refurbishment of £285k.

Finally, JR gave a short explanation as to the way that the new Diocesan 2023 Parish Share would work, and the positive impact on our finances next year, as the Assessment for D & A was materially lower than 2022. Discussions were being held with Ardleigh to reach a more equitable split for 2023.

5. Growing Church:

PY's response to our Giving weakness, was that he would give thought before the next meeting to ways to help with a Regular Giving Day, sometime in 2023, and just as important was the initiative could bring new people into Church.

The PCC warmly welcomed the good news that Louise Young was willing and able to set up a Junior Church, and together with SS had circulated a proposal to get this started ASAP. Volunteers would be needed, and one issue might be the relocation of the old font to make room for activities. The PCC considered the financial costs, and PW proposed and LR seconded that the PCC agree to funding this to the sum of £500, and this was unanimously approved.

It was anticipated that there would be an Alpha Course early in the New Year, to be organised by Susan Carne and Christina Volkman. It would again need volunteers, and might be offered to the Rural Parishes, and maybe families of the recently baptised.

6. Safeguarding:

PW reported that Amanda Watts had stated that Dedham had no SG issues, apart from the need for all concerned to complete the Basic Awareness/Foundation Courses, and get their completed Certificates to Deb at the Parish Office.

Areas of activity like the Junior Church would need the adult helpers to have DBS certification.

7. Flower Festival: The PCC expressed grateful thanks to Helen Sims and her team for putting on such a wonderful event to celebrate Creation. JR informed the meeting that the event had a gross income of c. £5k and would generate a surplus of c. £3k after costs of flowers etc. The new idea of having artistic workshops was a success.

8. Big Breakfast: This is to be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November between 8.30 and 11.00 a.m. with entry by donation.

9. Organ Update: Antony Watson (AW) joined the meeting.

AW reported that there had been no objections to the Faculty, and formal approval was anticipated soon.

More donors would be likely to send funds, once approval was received, and a list of potential donors had been prepared.

There was likely to be a concert around Burns Night, organised by the Kitson's. and other offers of interest were possible.

The draft contract with Nicholson & Co. had been received and circulated, and it was hoped to have any amendments made shortly in order to sign a commitment to £189,777 as soon as possible (£2,600 already having been paid re Glasgow work). The PCC gave PW and AW authority to authorise the Contract sign off.

Work on the project was expected to start in late 2024, with final installation and commissioning by mid-2025.

10. Fabric-Quinquennial:

There was still no report back from the Diocese, despite being chased up.

VD reported that the Altar Frontals need repair, and no embroiderer could be found, so PCC was asked for any known contacts.

HS had asked if some of the Flower Festival surplus could go towards more eco urns and plinths to replace oasis-based products. Agreed.

11. AOB: None

12. Following this, PY left the Meeting after prayers, and the PCC discussed the costs pertaining to replacing the Vicarage carpet, and the contributions from other rural parishes.

Date of **NEXT MEETING**: **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** at the Duchy Barn at 7.30

