

## Dedham Parochial Church Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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), Helen Sims (HS),.

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

PW opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 were approved without amendment.

2. Matters Arising:

The only item not included in the Agenda was the Vicarage carpet replacement cost, and JR reported that income from the other Rural Parishes and our own congregation was likely to reach £1,800, leaving another 50% (£1,866) to be met by Dedham P.C.C.

3. Finances:

JR had circulated Quarter3 Management Accounts prior to the meeting, and although the General Fund had slipped to £16,106 at the end of September, he was fairly confident that with some income events in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, the balance at December year end would slightly exceed £20k.

A legacy of £5,000 had been received from the Estate of Ian Sutherland, and the Executors would like the money to be used for pastoral activities.

JR stated that the Boiler project had been financially completed at a 2022 cost of £90,066 of which £75,000 had been gratefully received from a grant by the Delt. In October, we have paid Thameside a penultimate stage payment of £5,295 plus vat, with a final 2.5% (£2,079) Retention invoice falling due in October 2023.

The Organ Appeal continues to receive donations, and the Organ fund stands at £179,065 at 31<sup>st</sup> October, having paid out £22,774 (inc. recoverable vat) in October to Nicholson following the signing of the contract for £189,780. Gift Aid of £42k has been applied for from HMRC.

3/cont'd

The Flower Festival had been a success, and the estimated surplus was going to exceed £3,000.

The Big Breakfast had just taken place and had taken in donations of about £1.7k from 144 diners.

The 2023 Budget was in the course of preparation, and the first draft included a drop in income from Wedding Fees, etc due to the new system whereby the Diocese does not refund fees to the parishes, as a result of a big reduction in the Parish Share assessments.

The 2023 Parish Share Assessment had now been agreed with the Diocese/Deanery, and the final figure is £44,413, compared to the £72,389 requested for 2022. JR had previously circulated a paper, explaining the big changes made, as a result of the new 2 Missioner arrangement for the 9 Rural Parishes.

PW was keen to have another fund raising event in 2023, apart from Big Breakfast, and was also pleased to report that PY wanted to hold a Pledge Day, possibly in November 2023.

4. Future Services Rota:

PW had circulated the attendance figures for the last six months and a very wide discussion of views were put forward regarding the merits of each type of Service and timings.

It was finally proposed that a 6 month trial would commence in 2023, with ALL morning Services to commence at 10.a.m.

The Services would be as follows:

2 Holy Communion

An upgraded Rise and Shine

1 Morning Praise

Matins on any month with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Evensong and Revive at 5 to remain unchanged.

5. Pledge Sunday:

This was raised under 3 above, and there was unanimous support for PY's initiative to bring in more people (and funds).

HS suggested that as November was late in the year, perhaps a Giving Day for the Village in mid-year would be a possibility.

6. Christmas Parcels:

PY had discussed with Dedham School the decision at last month's PCC meeting to help the needy, and VD reported that the School had identified some potential needy families. There was agreement that the PCC would underwrite the cost of £100 to cover the cost of these Christmas parcels, which could be paid out of the recent legacy. VD would now report back to Laura Valentine at the School.

7. Benefice Instagram Account:

PY had asked if this platform could be added to our Parish Website, and the PCC agreed, as it has potential for attracting more younger people in to the Church activities.

8. Christmas Services:

The dates had now been published of all Christmas Services including Carol Services.

9. Boiler Update:

PW confirmed that after some teething troubles, the Boiler was now working effectively, and the new controller, which had caused the problems had been replaced by one that could be phone operated.

10. Safeguarding and Children's worship:

The PCC is at present without a Safeguarding Officer, and one is needed for the future to deal with SG issues.

Progress has been made in bringing the records up to date, and Deb Turner is doing more of the admin, with Claire Arculus providing additional temporary help, including liaising with Louise Young on the Junior Church safeguarding.

JR/VD explained that the Pastoral Group had a helpful presentation on Safeguarding from Claire and Caroline Allen.

10/cont'd

The PCC had been circulated with the papers from Louise Young, relating to the Parish Activity Plan for working with Children in the impending Junior Church, along with the Activity Risk Assessment.

LAS proposed and SS seconded, and the proposal was carried unanimously. The PCC expressed their gratitude to Louise for the work she was doing to get the Junior Church up and running.

11. Friends of Dedham PCC representative:

LR has asked to give up being our representative on the FofD Committee, and PB has agreed to take on the role.

12. Memorial Faculty Requests:

The Churchwardens had sought authority to sign off faculties regarding requests for memorials on Church property.

GW proposed and SS seconded, and the proposal was carried unanimously.

13. AOB:

VD was still seeking volunteers with appropriate expertise, to repair the frontals in Church, and had approached the Archdeacon for any connections. JR suggested VD spoke to David Jewell, who had indicated he had two possible candidates.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 in the Duchy Barn**