

Minutes of the Dedham Parochial Church Council meeting

Held on Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at the Duchy Barn

Present: Peter Wilson (PW), Sharon Sarson (SS), John Reed (JR), Helen Sims (HS)
Lynne Al-Sad (LAS), Gabbie Watson (GW) and Roger Berry (RB)

Apologies had been received from Adrian Beckingsale

In Attendance: Rev Phillip Young (PA) and Claire Arculus (CA)

PW welcomed Claire Arculus to the meeting in her new role as Children & Families Worker.

This was followed by a reading and prayers by the Rev PY.

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2024 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising:

- (i) The Duchy Barn Committee still needed a PCC representative, and the offer of Helen Sims to stand was agreed by the meeting.
 - (ii) PW reported that compliments had been received regarding the improved state of the Churchyard, a tribute to the hard work of Richard Dean and Joe Preston. Rubbish disposal was still an issue and it was agreed that signs should be put up indicating where Churchyard waste was to be placed. The danger of Ragwort to horses was discussed, and it was explained that the Church was keeping to the Guidelines, but would continue to monitor the situation.
 - (iii) It was agreed, that signs should be put up regarding our wilding of parts of the Churchyard
2. Safeguarding: The post of Safeguarding Officer was still open, but one member indicated that they could possibly take on the role in six months time.

3. Finance:

JR reported that the Management Accounts for the second Quarter were now complete, and would be circulated to the PCC once approved by the Finance Committee. The General Fund performance had been positive throughout the first half of the year helped by two fund-raising events, and the Fund-Raising committee should be congratulated in raising a net £3.6k from the Casino evening and the D Day concert.

Church income was slightly higher than the same period last year, and Church expenses were held down to the same level as 2023.

The Organ Appeal fund was closed at £304.9k and there are sufficient funds in hand to meet the remaining costs of installation.

The Parish Share continues to be paid towards the “Hard” target, and it is too soon to be able to predict whether the “Aspirational” target can be met.

4. Rota:

PW confirmed that the Harvest Service would be held on 22nd September, and it had been confirmed that the guidelines on maximum attendance for the Crib Service was 400, so only one Service need be held.

5. Fabric:

(i) Organ- PW confirmed that the Appeal had closed, and that the Standing Committee (PW/SS/JR) had agreed to some extra necessary costs including an organ cover, painting of the pipe façade, and a Bellroom cabinet. PW had circulated a paper outlining the timeline for the installation and commissioning of the new organ, and how to limit the impact on Church activities. After discussion, this was agreed by the PCC. The PCC also approved that the Organ Committee could go ahead and organise a concert for May 10th 2025, where the renowned organist, Jonathan Scott, would perform.

In addition, it was agreed that the fee to be paid to locum organists, when Antony was not available should be increased to £70.

Item 5 Fabric cont'd

- (ii) Stained Glass Windows-PW explained that a Faculty was still awaited from the DAC, but progress was being made slowly. A meeting with the Architect, Auravision, and the Fabric Committee had identified an outline programme with 4 phases for glazing to be carried out in conjunction with glazing specific masonry work between January 2025 and Q1 2026. Auravision will provide a detailed costing for this work in the next few days.

6. Children & Families worker:

CA gave a presentation on her plans since starting in the new role. The interaction with the Dedham School has started well, and other initiatives are taking shape. CA stressed that for some of the activities, volunteers will be essential to their future success.

The PCC was very pleased with how things are progressing, and SS volunteered to be the named PCC representative where Safeguarding was required.

7. Church Clock:

Piers Baker from The Sun Hotel had approached PW regarding the sound of nocturnal Church bells, and a minor number of customer complaints. Having investigated the process for changing the ringing cycle, it was the view of the PCC that PW should write to Piers and state that removal of night hour bells was not feasible.

8. Friends of Dedham:

The cost of the bell ropes being replaced was promised to be covered by a Grant from "the Friends". JR confirmed that the Grant of £1338 had been received yesterday, and he would write and thank Jane Jewell for their help and generosity.

9. Fire Officer Report:

PW had received the full hard back report from the authority and it would be held in the Parish office.

10. Any Other Business:

- (i) Portrait of the King- The PCC agreed that we would be pleased to take up this offer, and it would probably be hung in the Assembly Rooms.
- (ii) Eco Church-Sara Marshall had indicated that she would like to step down from the Eco role, and as we are pursuing the Silver Award, it would be appropriate to appoint someone to take over ASAP.
PY agreed to ask for a volunteer in Church Chimes, and in Notices.

Following the business of the Meeting, PY gave out 4 documents pertaining to recent developments within the wider Church regarding Prayers of Love and Faith (LLF). PY gave an explanation as to their content. After discussion, PY agreed to a request from PCC members that he would commit to producing a paper, summarising the basis on which his thoughts on the subject were founded.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th September. 7.30 at the Duchy Barn.