

St Bride's Church, Fleet Street

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting Held on Tuesday 18 November 2014

Present: Rev'd Canon Alison Joyce (Chair), Peter Silver (Vice Chair), Gerald Bowey, Geoffrey Burgess, Eric Davies, Paul Dyson, Helen Fraser, Valerie Locks, Peter Longland, Ashley Painter, Ingrid Slaughter, John Smith, Terence Smith, Grace Stedman, Jerry Wright

1. **Opening prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers.

2. **Welcome and introductions**

Peter Silver welcomed the Rector to her first meeting of the Council.

3. **Apologies for absence**

These were received from Guy Black, Rachel Corp, Chris Cottrill, Clive Hill-Archer, Janet Kitchen, David Lowish, Mary Walker and Katharine Wilkinson.

4. **Business matters**

4.1. **Conflicts of interest.** There were no reported conflicts of interest.

4.2. **Non-disqualification.** No members declared themselves to be disqualified.

4.3. **Non members in attendance.** Christopher Betterton, James Irving, Claire Seaton and David Smith were in attendance.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2014**

5.1. At item 9, the minutes were amended to read that the rectification work to the tower was almost complete.

5.2. Peter Longland proposed and Helen Fraser seconded that the minutes be accepted.

5.3. Peter Silver signed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. **Matters arising not on the agenda**

There were none.

7. **Rector's report**

7.1. The Rector commented on a varied and interesting first 16 days in office.

7.2. Morning Prayer was being held every morning in the crypt and a weekly staff meeting had been instituted.

7.3. The Rector noted that there were some anomalies in the charging of marriage fees which would need looking into.

7.4. The Rector noted that work would be required on the London: Capital Vision 2020 project, including the commissioning of Ambassadors at Easter 2015.

7.5. The Rector encouraged the Church to reflect on its ministry of welcome and to perhaps better use the natural warmth of the regular congregation and the Guild in helping visitors to the Church. The spiritual nourishment of the congregation would be delivered through preaching and music.

7.6. The Rector encouraged Council members to talk to her about any concerns they may have.

8. Financial report

- 8.1. Ashley Painter (Treasurer) spoke to the report which had been circulated. The main aim for 2014 was to try to reduce the deficit to around £26,000 from the current budgeted £40,000.
- 8.2. Budget planning for 2015 was underway. The Treasurer noted that the main challenges for 2015 would be less reliance on the church rate income, an increase in collections and giving and preventing the erosion of the Appeal Trusts Fund.

9. Inspire! Appeal report and Wren Legacy update

- 9.1. Gerald Bowey reminded the Council that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application had been submitted and that a response was due in early December.
- 9.2. It was planned that an INSPIRE! Update would be published in December giving details of the progress to date and the work still to go.
- 9.3. It was noted that Julie Christie-Webb had been appointed Chair of the congregational appeal committee.
- 9.4. In responses to a question regarding the work which had been sponsored by the 'Wash the face of an angel' programme, it was noted that more money would need to be raised before work could commence and that some of this work was tied in with the Wren Centre project, which in turn could not begin until sufficient funds could be raised. It was hoped, however, that the December publication would ensure that the project was being better communicated.
- 9.5. James Irving (Head of Operations) noted that the Council would need to raise half of the £400,000 HLF bid money, and that pledges had been received to cover that amount.
- 9.6. The Council agreed to a proposal by Gerald Bowey, seconded by Peter Silver, that Julie Christie-Webb should be co-opted onto the Council.
- 9.7. On behalf of the Council the Rector thanked Gerald Bowey, John Smith and Julie Christie-Webb for their work on the appeal.

10. Architect's report

- 10.1. John Smith (Architect) spoke to the report which had been circulated. Redecoration and upgrading works had taken place in the Rectory and the Church. Quotes for electrical and other works were being sought.
- 10.2. The architect also reported that the family of broadcaster Derek Jameson had requested a plaque be sited in the churchyard in his memory. The family had already commissioned the plaque, but there were some doubts whether it would receive the requisite approval from the City or the Diocese. It was agreed that the Architect would consult the Diocesan Registrar before the family were further consulted.

11. Safeguarding report

- 11.1. Ashley Painter (Church Evidence Checker) reported that no safeguarding issues had been raised since the last meeting.
- 11.2. It was noted that two people had put their names forward for consideration as Safeguarding Officers.
- 11.3. DBS checks - it was reported that not all the Sunday School volunteers had been DBS checked. It was agreed that one DBS submission would be made to include all those who required a check.

11.4. Sunday School. On behalf of Katharine Wilkinson it was reported that Sunday School was going well, with cover arranged for all the Sundays until Christmas. The dates Sunday School would meet would continue to be published in the Sunday Service sheet. It was noted that there was currently a minimal budget for children's ministry and that this would be reviewed for the 2015 budget.

12. **Database update**

Ashley Painter reported that the data collection exercise had been completed at the end of October. Testing would be carried out in November, with an anticipated 'go-live' date of end December.

13. **Electoral Roll**

13.1. Claire Seaton (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that two individuals had asked to be removed from the roll, which stood at 326.

13.2. The Rector advised the Council that the Marriage Act 2008 no longer required prospective wedding couples to join the roll, although they would continue to be invited to join. The Act allowed couples to be married in a church after having worshipped there regularly for six months.

14. **Any other business**

14.1. Peter Longland advised the Council that the Rector would become a Governor / Director of the St Bride Foundation and that the Council would be required to pass a resolution to that effect. Peter Longland proposed and Peter Silver seconded that 'the Council nominated Rev'd Canon Dr Alison Joyce as a Governor / Director of St Bride Foundation Trust and that Jerry Wright and Ian Locks were confirmed as the other nominees'. The Council unanimously passed the resolution.

14.2. Paul Dyson asked what the church was planning to do regarding raising money for the Ebola crisis in West Africa. It was agreed to highlight the CAFOD appeal in the Sunday service booklet and to possibly designate the appeal at services during Advent.

14.3. Valerie Locks asked about the floodlighting of the steeple. It was noted that this was outside the church's control, as the fixings and power supply were in 120 Fleet Street.

15. **Closing prayers**

The meeting ended with prayers and the Grace.