



St Matthew's Westminster

Parochial Church Council Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 July, 2015 in The Trevelyan Hall.

Present: Fr Philip Chester, Jonathan Aitken, Maria Gayle-Rogers, Grace Hoskin, Rachel Jewitt, Jane Kennedy, Lee Lieske, Sue Lawson, Liz Lyle, Eithne Risner, Rachel Whittaker, Steve Willis, Toby York.

In attendance: Cameron Abernethy (Pastoral Assistant)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Melanie de Blank, Alastair Callcutt, Fr Peter Hanaway, Tamara Katzenbach, Simon Lello, Margaret Withers.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2015.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Report of the Parish Priest

- 4.1 **St Mary le Strand** Fr Philip reported on developments and future plans for St Mary le Strand. He stressed that this was a joint parish operation with considerable creative potential. Both parishes would hopefully be strengthened by this new partnership. In the autumn there would be a renewal of the ministry at St Mary le Strand focussed on weekday worship and activity. Lunchtime Masses at St Mary le Strand would be provided by a college of clergy. Fr Philip was still planning to appoint a pastoral assistant for SMLS from September as the original successful candidate had withdrawn.



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The new programme for SMLS would begin on Tuesday 8 September at 6.30pm with a Solemn Mass for the church's Feast of Title (The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary). The preacher would be Bishop Graeme Knowles. Members of St Matthew's would be encouraged to attend. There was some discussion on ways the two congregations could learn more about each other.

- 4.2 St Matthew's** Fr Philip reported that the Patronal Festival would be held on Monday 21 September and the preacher would be Bishop Nigel Stock, Bishop at Lambeth.

Cameron Abernethy would be leaving in September and would be replaced by two new pastoral assistants, Michael Currans and Ryan Williams.

A German Lutheran pastor would be staying in Westminster for one year and would be dividing his time between St Matthew's and St Stephen's, Rochester Row. There are no cost implications.

The new lighting scheme would be hopefully be in place by Easter 2016. An electronic copy of the plans would be circulated to the PCC.

- 4.3 Ministers of Communion** It was agreed to license Michael Currans, Ryan Williams and Alan Marks as Ministers of Communion.

5 Finance

- 5.1 Half-yearly report** The Treasurer, Toby York, reported that he was content with the current situation as it was going well apart from the dip in congregational giving. Variances against budget were in part due to the additional income and expenditure generated from Just Festival Westminster which was not in the original budget.

The estimated profit of the Conference Centre for 2015 was £70–80,000 less the cost of refurbishment of the WCs, which was estimated at £40,000. This project would involve some demolition and work on the drains.



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Less use of the dining room and drawing room was being made for practical reasons but this was under review given the pressure to generate income and to meet the commitment to pay full Common Fund.

Negotiations were currently in hand with the Church Union regarding the income and investment of the Tudor Roberts legacy.

- 5.2 Common Fund for 2016** Given the improved financial position, it was proposed by Sue Lawson, seconded by Grace Hoskin and carried unanimously that the PCC should pay the Common Fund in full in 2016.
- 5.3 Parish Giving Officer** Toby had been acting as the Parish Giving Officer as well as treasurer. Simon Lello had volunteered to take on the role of Parish Giving Officer and this was agreed by the PCC. A commitment campaign would be launched in the autumn and a Commitment Sunday held on the festival of Christ the King.
- 5.4 Retiring collections** The recent retiring collection and recital at the Just Festival Westminster had raised a total of £570 in aid of Iraqi Christians in Need. It was agreed that there would be a retiring collection each month. It was agreed to support Bishop Victor of Cape Coast who could hardly afford to pay his clergy together with other suggested causes.
- 5.5 Friends' Secretary** There were about 300 Friends of St Matthew's who generated £6–7,000 per annum. It was agreed that there should be a secretary for the Friends to write a newsletter several times a year. Jonathan Aitken agreed to take on this role. There are three events for Friends in the course of the year.
- 6 Mission Action Plan** Fr Philip had already received some comments about the Mission Action Plan from the PCC and encouraged members to send further feedback. Fr Philip would then compile a paper on the Mission Action Plan.
Action: PCC members to read the initial ideas for the Mission Action Plan and send feedback.



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7 School report Prior to the meeting, a group from the PCC had enjoyed a most interesting visit to St Matthew's School and were shown around by the head teacher, Rachel Jewitt. Further to the visit, Rachel gave a comprehensive report on the school including the following highlights:

- The school had just received the best results across all official tests ever, including SATs.
- The school had undergone an external review by Ofsted which had reported improvements since the last full inspection.
- Children had enjoyed lots of interesting visits in London and had also been visited by a school from Wakefield and Commonwealth fellows.
- Building work was almost complete and the new office and entrance had made the school much safer.

Sue Lawson, Liz Lyle and Rachel Whittaker from St Matthew's were school governors.

8 Just Festival Westminster

Fr Philip reported that the Festival Committee would meet shortly to review the festival which had been held in June. Some events had been well-supported and others had only been attended by very small numbers. £2413 of PCC funds had been used by the festival. Some serious evaluation was required and Jane Kennedy and Fr Philip would meet in early September. Fr Philip was keen for another festival to be held in 2016 as there was no other event of its kind in Westminster but external help was needed.

Action: Jane to arrange meeting with Fr Philip.

9 Welcome Pack

Toby York would design a Welcome pack.

10 Any Other Business

Fr Philip reported that the Bishop of London would be visiting St Matthew's School on 18 September to bless the new entrance and offices.

11 Dates of future meetings: Monday September 14th; Monday November 23rd.