



Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 February at 6.30pm at the Trevelyan Hall.

Present: Fr Philip Chester, Jonathan Aitken, Melanie de Blank, Mary Brown, Alastair Callcutt, Maria Gayle-Rogers, Nigel Groome, Fr Peter Hanaway, Grace Hoskin, Fr Jamie Johnston, Jane Kennedy, Simon Lello, Sue Lawson, Abi Omotoso, Eithne Risner, Rachel Whittaker, Toby York.
Isaiah Atwiine (Pastoral Assistant) was in attendance.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Pinney, Liz Lyle, Miriam Cook, Rachel Jewitt, & Ryan Williams.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2016

The minutes of the previous were agreed and signed as a true record.

3 Matters arising *not covered by the Agenda*

Fr Philip had agreed to raise the need for more information about the responsibility for safeguarding during weekday activities with the Archdeacon.

4 Report of the Parish Priest

♦ **Podcasts in Lent** – Every morning during Lent, there would be a podcast consisting of a reading starting with the theme of the desert, solitude, the city encounter and letting go. Volunteers to read were needed. On Sundays, the podcast would also contain music. Technical assistance was being provided by the University of the Arts.

• **Lent course** The Lent course would be run with St Stephen's, Rochester Row and would consist of a series of talks by different speakers on the theme of 'Heartfelt Anglicans'. The talks would be followed by Compline. The speakers would be: the Bishop of Kensington, the Revd Lucy Winkett, Bishop Josiah Fearon, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, Canon Anthony Ball and Jane Williams.

Canon Jeremy Davies would be conducting Holy Week for us. Details would be published in booklet form and online.

♦ **Pigeons** Fr Philip would investigate a cheaper electronic deterrent for pigeons which was used in Stepney, which cost £300.



5 Finance

Draft annual accounts for approval Toby York presented the draft management accounts, for the three key areas of activity (church, house, and conference centre) which showed an overall net surplus of £39,313 for the previous financial year. The market value of unrealised gains (investment assets) was £22,654. The PCC noted these accounts which would be sent to the Independent Examiner and the statutory accounts would be presented to the APCM. The house had been re-carpeted and decorate; the building costs were less than in the previous year.

6 Fire Risk Assessment – review of outstanding action

Some of the outstanding actions were not costly and could be incorporated in to routine procedures. It was agreed that Claire could help with this. A conscious decision had been made not to replace the nice doors in the house with fire doors; they had been left on purpose as they were part of the character of the house. Fire resistant paint could be used on the doors. A temperature alarm should be installed in the vestry as recommended by the Abbey Security adviser. Fire resistant paint could be used on the doors.

7 Strategy Day recommendations – agree next steps

Fr Philip reminded people who attended the Strategy Day that they had made a commitment to do a number of activities and progress was reviewed.

- Melanie de Blank was keen to start work on fundraising.

Fr Philip clarified that only people/organisations in the parish could be approached regarding fundraising for St Matthew's.

Action: Fr Jamie to send map of parish to Rachel Whittaker.

- Fr Jamie would organise a meeting of a working party with Melanie de Blank, Simon Lello, copying in Liz Lyle and Isaiah, regarding fundraising for the new lighting.
- Jane Kennedy would arrange a meeting with Nigel Groome and Fr Jamie re advertising the musical activities to local workplace music groups.
- Fr Philip agreed that there would be a sermon slot on the day of the APCM to report back on the Strategy Day to the congregation.
- Fr Philip suggested that same-sex marriage could be discussed in the near future in the light of the recent paper from the House of Bishops.
- Toby suggested asking a consultant who was working with the Conference centre about communication.
- Simon Lello suggested organising another commitment campaign on the last Sunday of the church year (Christ the King).

8 Report on music at St Matthew's



St Matthew's Westminster

Fr Philip welcomed Nigel Groome, Director of Music, to his first PCC meeting. Nigel was very grateful for the warm welcome which he had received together with his wife and son.

Nigel outlined his plans for music in the coming months. Activities included:

- Lunchtime recitals on Wednesdays from February – end April, which included other instruments in addition to the organ.
- Children from St Matthew's School would be invited to the recitals.
- Choral Mass on the first Sunday of the month.
- Encouragement of young singers to perform through scholarships, with one scholar per part. Funding had been received through a gift (£1500). £2000 in sponsorship would also be provided.
- More singers, including a recent Cambridge graduate, would be singing during Holy Week.
- Choral Masses on special festivals e.g. Candlemas and Ash Wednesday together with other choral midweek services.
- A sung service every day during Holy Week. An evening service on Palm Sunday with music and readings.
- St Matthew's would be used as a base for Church Music Future.
- Possibility of a choral festival later in the year – to be discussed with clergy first.
- Musical notes in the order of service – Jane was thanked.

There was also a need for a piano in the church for recitals in the future. Nigel was impressed by the standard of the congregational singing. He thought that new signage might help attract people to the church. He felt that St Matthew's could provide more of a sense of community than Westminster Abbey whilst at the same time, offering a high standard of music.

9 School report

Sue Lawson presented the school report. The roll was the highest that it had ever been (217) which marked a significant increase. The Governors had been reviewing risk in different areas. The school was becoming well-known for its music and the choir had sung at the Burberry HQ among other places at Christmas. Whilst at Lambeth Palace to decorate the Christmas tree, the choir had sung *Adeste Fidelis* and film of this was sent around the world immediately.

Nigel suggested asking the school choir to sing at a Sunday service; he had already visited the school. It was suggested that details of the music events at the church could be circulated to parents.

The PCC was reminded of the community event at the school on Thursday 2 March to which all members were invited.



St Matthew's Westminster

Five children were involved in the Guild of St Nicholas which had re-started in January. Fr Philip praised Rachel Jewitt's commitment to the school.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 – Trevelyan House The previous owners of Trevelyan House had wedged unwanted gates into the fabric of the church building and equipment had also been erected unofficially. To cover the infringement and after a long discussion, the previous owners were willing to pay £10,000 to be shared between the church and the school. No legal advice had been received on the value of the infringements. It was proposed by Grace Hoskin and agreed nem con to accept this offer. The new owners, the Indonesian Embassy, would be moving in during March / April. It was proposed by Grace that the £5000 should be used for the first payment for the redevelopment appeal.

10.2 Anniversary of fire at St Matthew's Fr Philip announced that the 40th anniversary of the fire at St Matthew's in 1977 would be marked on Wednesday 10 May with a thanksgiving service in the evening. Fr Jim Rosenthal had been invited to preach. There would be a display of pictures of the church at that time.

Action: Jane to research pictures in archives.

11 Dates of future meetings for 2017

The date of the meeting scheduled March had been changed to **Tuesday 4 April**.
APCM – Sunday 7 May, Monday 5 June, Monday 17 July, Tuesday 12 September,
November meeting – date to be confirmed in September.