



## WARFIELD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 20 February 2024  
at St Andrew's Church, Priestwood Ct Rd, Priestwood Ave, Bracknell RG42 1TU

**Present:** Paul Allen (PA); Penny Brinkley-Brown (PB); David Chislett (DC); Andy Colpus (APC)( Chair); Juliet Date (JD); Chris Drage (CD); Phil Durbin (PD); Ashley Hill (AH); Lili Mirza (LM); Amanda Palethorpe (AP); Kevin Pearcey (KP); Jon Watts (JW).

**In attendance:** Sarah Colpus (Interim PCC Secretary).

**Apologies:** Gaynor Boulton; David Brown; Alex Fry; Beth Gomm; Gary Rivington; Kate Tyson.

		<b>Action by</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>24.25</b>	<b>Opening</b> The meeting opened with Dwelling in the Word from Psalm 46.		
<b>24.26</b>	<b>Declarations of interests</b> PD will send these to SEC for inclusion but confirmed that none relate to this meeting.	PD/ SEC	23.4.24
<b>24.27</b>	<b>Where have we seen God at work?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warfield Church North – it was encouraging to hear Morgan Pearcey preach and to see younger church members using their gifts.</li> <li>• Warfield Church West – it was encouraging to see the way Paul Crowhurst is integrating young people into assisting with sung worship.</li> <li>• Share Bracknell – encouraging to see the growing confidence of a person who is involved with Share and coming to St Andrew's.</li> <li>• The Bereavement Course – a participant is now attending the St Andrew's 8:30 service and attending Warfield Church East.</li> <li>• A period of change may allow different people to 'step up' and explore God's giftings for them.</li> </ul>		
<b>24.28</b>	<b>Minutes and Correspondence</b> <p><b>(i) Minutes from meeting on 16 January 2024</b> Minutes of the meeting were approved Proposed: Paul Allen    Seconded: Ashley Hill Agreed: Unanimous</p> <p><b>(ii) Matters Arising</b> None other than updates covered in (iii) below</p> <p><b>(iii) Progress with Actions</b> 24.5 PCC Decisions APC and DGB had checked the Church Representation</p>		

Rules.

M29 (3) Decisions made outside of PCC meeting are to be reported to the next PCC Meeting by the secretary.

#### 24.7 Casual Vacancies

APC felt elections at this point might be difficult and proposed waiting until the APCM. The PCC were content with this.

DC asked what the minimum number of PCC members was for the number on the Electoral Roll.

**Action:**

SEC to check Church Representation Rules

SEC 23.4.24

#### 23.145 Finance – Procurement and Expenses policies

The Finance Committee are reviewing the policies especially as three ministers have left. There will be revised procedures for authorising congregational expenses.

#### 23.111 Safeguarding Foodshare

JD confirmed Marion Drew and Alan Ridell have each received a copy of Foodshare's safeguarding procedures.

#### 22.31 The Servedy at St Michael's / legacy gift

The use of a communion table as a coffee servedy is an 'irregular situation' and Warfield Church has been asked by the Archdeacon to regularise it. The Finance Committee have found that providing water and drainage will be difficult.

**Action:**

The Fabric Committee is asked to provide updated options and whether the balance of the legacy gift of £13,500 from the family of the late Maurice Wright would cover the cost of a new servedy.

Fabric Com / PD 23.4.24

#### (iv) Correspondence

##### Martyn's Law

APC explained that this arose out of the consequences of the Manchester Arena bombing.

The proposal is that attendance of more than 100 people in a public building will require people trained in protection of people and buildings.

The concern expressed by the Church of England and others is the unintended consequence whereby it would affect the requirements for many church services and events such as weddings.

**Action:**

APC will circulate 2 emails. The Archdeacon is asking for people to respond by the deadline of 18 March.

APC 28.2.24

**24.29 Budget for 2024**

Update on Parish Share

CD advised that the Parish share is now confirmed and that the budget is therefore correct.

Ali Wilkins has updated the cashflow chart which is stable.

Investments

CD presented the paper regarding investments.

JD requested clarification of the three funds shown in the papers and CD confirmed the monies are invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, a CCLA Investment Fund.

AH asked if the loss in 2022 was reflected in all funds and it was felt that this loss was typical of all investments at that particularly turbulent period.

Proposal that funds remain invested in the CCLA.

Proposed: Chris Drage Seconded: Kevin Pearcey

Agreed: Unanimous

Accounts

CD commented that it was marvellous to see a surplus.

Gift Aid

Ali Wilkins has worked extremely hard to catch up on Gift Aid matters.

Giving Day

One off giving was higher due to the Giving Day in October 2023.

Legacy Giving

APC commented that the Diocese is encouraging churches to consider legacy giving, which forms a large part of general charitable giving, but is rarely mentioned by churches which are also charities.

The Income Working Group Party

CD is encouraged by the interest shown by a variety of people.

This will focus on Grant and Fund applications.

**24.30 2 Portia Grove**

APC presented his paper and proposed the options and implications of retaining the property and selling it.

PD emphasised that it was bought for ministry purposes and not as an investment. As one of the original people involved in the purchase, he felt disquiet at retaining it solely as an investment .

APC answered queries regarding maintenance & repairs, and current possible market rental income. He emphasised the

practical difficulties of acting as a landlord, even with an agent.

CD felt it was advantageous to have investments in assets with greater liquidity, and requiring less time managing them.

Proposal : That notice be given to the Tenant of 2 Portia Grove Wardens to contact three agents and for them choose an agent to sell the property

Proposed: Phil Durbin Seconded: Jon Watts

Agreed: Unanimous

**Actions:**

APC to contact the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd and the tenant to terminate the tenancy agreement from 31 July 2024. APC 29.2.24

Wardens to contact three agents and for them choose an agent to sell the property. APC / PD 31.3.24

The Finance Committee is to be tasked with exploring and obtaining advice regarding investment of the sale proceeds. CD 31.7.24

**24.31 PCC& Congregational Teams Meeting re LLF on Wednesday 20 March**

Whilst Bishop Olivia had mentioned in her talk that the only decision that needs to be made is whether the Prayers of Love and Faith are used, DGB, PD and APC felt it was important to sense the mood of the church on both this and wider issues of sexuality. They felt it was important for voices from the regular worshipping community of Warfield Church to be heard and had considered ways to facilitate this.

APC proposed that the meeting on 20 March be divided into two sections. The first section would be for pre-prepared statements to be read by members of the congregations of no more than 300 words. The statements would be screened beforehand by DGB,PD and APC to avoid inflammatory language and, whilst publicly could be anonymous, DGB,PD and APC would know who had written them if read out on a person's behalf.

There was discussion regarding to what extent congregational members are aware of the complexity and range of issues involved; how to measure differing opinions or absence of opinion; quantifying the views of a 'silent proportion'; possibility of a survey; time during a Sunday service to 'post' written thoughts/comments; the dilemma PCC members feel as to whether they are expressing their own views or trying to represent others; expression of 'views' not leading to consensus; the importance of people's own 'stories' ; the importance of being heard; the need to emphasise that the 'statement' need only be a brief sentence; the importance of clarifying what the PCC will be voting on in April.

APC proposed that the second part of the meeting would be for members of the PCC and congregational teams to discuss matters. It was emphasised that this is the opportunity for congregational teams to discuss this together with the PCC. APC wanted to explore whether the PCC felt congregational members should be allowed to stay and observe this part of the evening.

The consensus was that it should be a separate meeting on a separate day. APC emphasised the difficulty of finding another date.

The meeting was minded to hold an additional meeting for members of congregational teams and PCC on 9 April.

**Action:**

Wardens to communicate with DGB, congregational teams, and the wider church regarding meetings on Wednesday 20 March and Tuesday 9 April.

PD/  
APC 3.3.24

**24.32 Communion Administration**

The list of people authorised by the Bishop to distribute as contained in the PCC Papers circulated.

Proposed: Ashley Hill Seconded: Kevin Pearcey  
Agreed: Unanimous

APC mentioned that previously children had been involved in assisting with communion.  
DGB is interested in exploring how we can continue to do so.

**24.33 Future Meetings**

Next meeting: Tuesday 23 April.  
An updated schedule will be distributed.

In June the PCC will need to make decisions as we go into the vacancy. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11 June and an Away Day for Saturday 22 June

**24.34 Churchwardens' matters**

None

**24.35 AOB**

Ashley Hill was thanked for preparing the room.

**24.36 Safeguarding update**

Report of February 2024 was noted

**24.37 Electoral roll officer update**

Report of February 2024 was noted

**24.38 Offsite activities**

The Relentless Social on 16 February 2024 was noted.

**24.39 Fabric Subcommittee**

Minutes of the January and February 2024 meetings were noted

**24.40 Mission Subcommittee**

Minutes of the November 2023 and January 2024 meetings were noted.

**24.41 St Andrew's Subcommittee**

Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were noted.

**24.42 Close**

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair:

Date: