

## Minutes of St. Mark's PCC Meeting: 7.30 pm on Monday 29.1.24

**Present:** Ben King (Chair), Peter Arnold (Treasurer), Ann Arnold, Janet Bone, Charlotte Mouzer, Leonie Upson (until 7.57 pm), Sharon Yates, Mike Richardson, Beth Yates, Michael Semuguruka.

**Apologies for Absence:** Bola Ogunfowokan

The meeting began with Ben King reading from 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 15 and then leading in prayer.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous PCC meeting held on 13 November 2023 were approved as an accurate record, with the following amendment: Advent and Christmas: Sharon Yates *requested* (not proposed) a budget of £1500 for Advent and Christmas services and activities.

#### a) Action Points and Matters Arising

Sharon Yates informed the meeting that the Movawall repair will take place on Wednesday 14 February.

#### b) Standing Committee Resolutions

Standing Committee had approved Beth Yates spending £200 from donations received for youth work and £50 out of the Christmas budget for the youth hangout on 21.1.24.

#### c) Review of Advent and Christmas

- Pleasing number of people from outside the church family attending at Midnight and on Christmas morning.
- Natasha at Slate Yard once again gave us the Christmas tree as a gift.  
*Action: Charlotte to write to say thank you on behalf of the church.*
- The musicians from Without Borders Church were much appreciated. Ben has since met with the pastor and a group will play in church on 18 February and on Mothering Sunday. It is hoped that this will be the start of a partnership.  
*Action: Charlotte to write and thank Without Borders Church .*

## 2. Finance

Ben King introduced the topic by saying that the overall picture and what it says about the church's recent work was encouraging. God has been faithful to us, and it is right that we remember that He is our provider and that we should trust in Him regarding our finances as the harvest begins to come in. He also encouraged members to continue to invest in the Kingdom of God and to choose faith over fear in light of our current financial position.

#### a) Accounts for 2023

Peter Arnold presented the 2023 accounts and a commentary. He talked through the income, expenditure and balance sheet. Ben King proposed that the shortfall in planned giving from 2023 (0.8%, representing £624, be carried over to our 2024 giving. This was seconded by Peter Arnold and passed unanimously. A legacy for £50 from Val Adkins will be added to the accounts figure from collections.

*Action: Peter Arnold*

The accounts were approved subject to minor amendments, proposed by Peter Arnold and seconded by Charlotte Mouzer, and passed unanimously.

Peter Arnold proposed asking Jagdeep Ghataore to examine the accounts once again. Sharon Yates seconded and the proposal was passed unanimously.

### **b) Budget for 2024**

Peter Arnold presented the 2024 budget projecting a deficit. The amount may change depending on the outcome of the LOB youth grant and increases in giving arising from the forthcoming stewardship campaign.

Discussion took place around funding development spending from reserves. Beth Yates suggested labelling pop-up café donations as designated for further development of them rather than being used for ordinary spending. This would show commitment to LOB if we request another grant towards pop-up café funding in 2025. Janet Bone said that LOB look on this kind of commitment favourably. Further discussion centred around the increase in the deficit doing so would entail. Ben King proposed as a step of faith designating pop-up café income from the card reader (not cash) for their future development. This was seconded by Janet Bone and passed, with seven votes for, two against and no abstentions.

Beth Yates presented a proposal for a "Mighty 30" stewardship campaign approach to help cover the church's £20,000 deficit. She proposed asking for 30 people to commit £60 per month, which would cover the deficit. In the discussion that followed, Peter Arnold expressed concern about asking people to increase their giving substantially. Beth responded that the amount could be broken down affordably. Other ways of doing this were suggested including more than one person working together, and the young people being involved. It was felt that a target such as this was less abstract for some people than the way in which we have presented the stewardship campaign in the past. There was discussion about the exact figure to be presented given that by the time the stewardship campaign ends, the first two months of the year will have passed, Ben King proposed that the stewardship campaign seeks 30 givers to start giving or increase their giving by £60 per month. This was seconded by Beth Yates and passed unanimously.

**Action:** Peter to revise 2024 budget spreadsheet to reflect Beth's youth work costs being 1/4 not 1/3 of total.

Sincere thanks were offered to Peter for all his work in producing the accounts and budget and for making everything so accessible.

## **3. Vicar's Report**

### **a) Annual motto**

Points of view were: relevant to what God is doing among us; sometimes we have to take things slowly, waiting upon the Lord and seeing where exactly we have to go; the harvest of new people joining the church is exciting, bringing renewal, fresh ideas and enthusiasm; uniting around a common vision; a journey.

**Action:** PCC to read the rest of *The Church of Tomorrow* if they have not already done so. Much of what it contains is already happening at St. Mark's.

### **b) Alpha and Discipleship Explored**

Alpha very successful. A number have returned for the Discipleship course. Positive feedback on both courses from participants.

### **c) Stewardship Appeal**

Covered earlier in the meeting.

### **d) Lent, Holy Week and Easter**

Programme in place.

#### **e) Prayers of Love and Faith**

Ben King attending a meeting with Bishops at Chelmsford on Wednesday 31.1.24.

**Action:** *Ben King to update PCC.*

#### **f) Church WhatsApp Group**

New group to be set up. Terms of use had been circulated to PCC previously. Ben King proposed accepting them, Sharon Yates seconded and the terms of use were passed unanimously.

**Action:** *Beth Yates to set up new group, inform church members and close the existing group.*

### **4. Parish Worker's Report**

In addition to the contents of her report, Beth Yates proposed:

1. Purchase of a further TV and stand up to £300, so that two youth groups can study simultaneously on Sunday instead of one group needing to watch on a laptop. Mike Richardson seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. A subscription of £25 per month for Youth for Christ resources for use with our young people on Sundays. Seconded by Ben King. Passed unanimously.
3. Purchasing up to 26 day tickets at £40 each to the OneLife youth conference at Hammersmith on 17.2.24, costing up to £1040. Seconded by Sharon Yates. Passed unanimously.
4. The request for £200 for resources for Messy Church on 12.2.24 has kindly been covered by a gift.

Thanks were expressed to Beth for her work.

### **5. Churchwardens' Report**

In addition to the contents of the report, 21 people had attended the welcome gathering on Sunday 28.1.24, 14 of whom were new adults and children. A further nine people had been unable to attend, and there are a number of others who will be invited to the next such gathering. The gathering served as an introduction to St. Mark's and its life and was well-received by those attending, as was the food. The blessing of new members is reflected in increased numbers attending Sunday worship.

The churchwardens will approach PCC members to take on some of their duties in services on certain forthcoming dates. This will model shared leadership to the church family.

The APCM will take place during the morning service on Sunday 5 May 2024.

Thanks were expressed to Sharon and Mike for their work.

*Mike Richardson left the meeting for the duration of item 6. Sharon Yates minuted this item.*

### **6. Proposed Arrangements for Polling Day – 2.5.24**

Ben King explained the many duties required to cover us hosting as a polling station. Mike Richardson has proposed to oversee these arrangements, as he has previously done. Ben King proposed that Mike be approved to oversee the arrangements on behalf of the PCC. Charlotte Mouzer seconded this, and the proposal was passed unanimously.

## **7. Safeguarding Report**

Janet Bone spoke about three possible options to ensure the safety of small groups meeting in church.

Ben King proposed taking more time to think through these options rather than deciding at this meeting, and feeding back to Janet between meetings. Mike Richardson seconded this proposal. All were in favour and none opposed.

Ben King thanked Janet Bone for her work on safeguarding and also her and Mike Richardson for their work on DBS and records, which are important aspects of safeguarding.

## **8. Deanery Synod Report**

Janet Bone provided an update on lay training and support from Deanery Synod. Ben King informed the meeting that a Deanery Synod speaker may meet with their young people.

## **9. Correspondence**

We have received five letters of thanks for donations.

The meeting concluded with open prayer and ended at 9.48 pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4.3.24 at 7.30 pm.