

Minutes of St. Mark's PCC Meeting: 7.30 pm on Monday 4.3.24

Present: Ben King (Chair), Peter Arnold, Ann Arnold, Janet Bone, Charlotte Mouzer, Bola Ogunfowokan, Mike Richardson, Michael Semuguruka, Leonie Upson, Beth Yates, Sharon Yates.

Apologies for Absence: None

The meeting began with Ben King reading from 1 Peter 2:4 – 6 and 9 -10, and then leading in prayer.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous PCC meeting held on 29 January 2024 were approved as an accurate record, with the following amendments:

2. Finance

- a) Accounts for 2023: A legacy of £50 from Val Adkins will be added to the accounts figure from the collections figure.
- b) Budget for 2024: 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.

a) Action Points and Matters Arising

All actions points from previous minutes completed.

There has been no further word from the council re polling day on 2.5.24.

Charlotte Mouzer has kindly offered to help out with warden duties on Easter Sunday and Sunday 7.4.24.

b) Standing Committee Resolutions

Standing Committee had approved:

- £185 for 50% of the cost of Beth Yates' attendance at the New Wine conference at Harrogate, £337.50 for the purchase of 30 real Easter eggs and 250 small Easter eggs for the Easter pick-up in the parish.

2. Discussion Paper on Spiritual Gift and Shared Leadership

Ben King introduced the paper by thanking PCC members for their input at the café church service on 25 February. The church family had really engaged with the spiritual gifts discovery activity; there had been a real buzz during the service and much positive feedback afterwards. He thanked Sharon for analysing the data.

PCC members then discussed this paper for 25 minutes in the following groups:

Ben King, Peter Arnold, Lonnie Upson, Charlotte Mouzer
Sharon Yates, Ann Arnold, Bola Ogunfowokan
Mike Richardson, Beth Yates, Janet Bone, Michael Semuguruka.

There was then a plenary session for a further 35 minutes.

Key discussion points:

- Administration, hospitality and mercy came out as the top three gifts in the congregation's survey responses.
- Pleasing variety of gifts discovered but noted evangelism and prophecy were areas with no/low responses.
- Some gifts like administration may have scored highly because they seem more practical than spiritual.
- Teaching is needed on gifts like evangelism and prophecy that some may not understand well.
- The group discussed how gifts like mercy could relate to pastoral care. Agreed that pastoral care already happens informally through certain conversations and activities.
- Proposal to mentor people in their gifts and working alongside them to draw out the spiritual dimensions.
- Important to enable people to practise their gifts for their own spiritual growth and the church's benefit.
- Possibility of grouping together people with the same gift.
- Possibility of developing gift of mercy into gift of pastoring.

Key action points:

- Ben King to follow up with congregation members who completed the spiritual gifts survey, to encourage them to serve in matching areas.
- Consider having current team members model how to serve in their gifted area when forming new teams.
- Ben King to revisit spiritual gifts with the congregation after Easter, potentially matching people to new teams.
- Lonnie to look into developing the hospitality team further as it was a common gift.
- Include more intercessors on the intercessions team as it was moderately common.
- Take pastoral care as a priority for the next shared leadership area.
- A team of assistant wardens to be established
- All PCC members to have personal conversations where appropriate, inviting and encouraging people to serve in matching gift areas.

Sharon Yates was assured of the PCC and church family's prayers as she goes forward for ordination.

3. Vicar's Report

a) Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ben King asked PCC members as leaders of the church to invite at least one person to a service or event over this period.

b) Deaf Members' Ministry

Disappointing response to planned lunch with deaf community to discuss provision. Ongoing.

c) Report from PLF Meeting on 31.1.24

Ben King reported that prayers of love and faith have been rolled out in the Church of England for a year. However, the synod's own constitution says that any fundamental changes to

liturgical practice and doctrine, such as these prayers, cannot be introduced by the bishops alone and must be approved by two-thirds of each of the three houses (bishops, clergy and laity). The lack of appetite for the bishops' current proposals meant that members voted to defer the debate until the next synod. Ben King noted the bishops now need to come up with something new to present to the synod in July.

4. Finance Report

Item 1 – 2023 Accounts

Peter Arnold took PCC members through the revised accounts, pointing out and explaining the changes.

He proposed accepting these, Charlotte Mouzer seconded and they were approved unanimously.

Item 2 – Annual Report to Charity Commissioners, the Diocese and the Examiner

Peter Arnold proposed accepting this. Lonnie Upson seconded and it was accepted unanimously.

Item 3 – 2024 Budget

Peter Arnold took PCC members through the 2024 budget and pointed out updated figures following the stewardship campaign, based on further responses. There had been a generous response, with 10 new givers and increases by existing givers.

Action: *Ben King to invite anyone who has not yet responded to the stewardship campaign do so as soon as possible, even if there is no change in their giving.*

Peter Arnold proposed accepting the 2024 budget, Janet Bone seconded and it was accepted unanimously.

Sharon Yates proposed donating £624 from our ad-hoc giving to the Bishop's Lent appeal.

Thanks were offered to Peter for his work.

5. Parish Worker's Report

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

1. £260 for the printing of the Easter card to be distributed to households in the parish. Seconded by Lonnie Upson. Passed unanimously.
2. £200 for Easter Messy church. Seconded by Michael Semuguruka. Passed unanimously.

We have been invited to the Forest Gate Festival on Saturday 6.7.24. It is pleasing to be approached in this way and to know that our presence there is valued.

As part of the report on Beth's annual review, thanks were expressed to her for her work. Beth's growth and investment in St. Mark's are a blessing to the church.

6. Churchwardens' Report

Mike Richardson detailed how ChurchSuite is helping us understand trends and the make-up of our church family. He thanked the PCC for their foresight in accepting the proposal to invest in the system in July 2022.

Thanks were expressed to Sharon and Mike for their work.

7. Safeguarding Report

It was agreed that at small groups there should always be a male member of PCC present if Ben King is unable to attend as well as a minimum of three people.

Janet Bone has a list of designated drivers for church events where people may need transportation, such as for the Alpha course. She explained that the church is now expected to have designated drivers who fill out a form with their information and proof of eligibility. Janet was asked about informal lift arrangements between members, and it was clarified that these would still need to follow the designated driver policy. It was suggested that designated drivers should have their insurance checked to ensure coverage for transporting others. Expanding the pool of designated drivers was proposed to address properly people's transportation needs.

It was agreed that where someone became ill during a church event and no designated driver was available to take them home, a minicab would be called.

Ben King thanked Janet Bone for her work.

8. Correspondence

Charlotte Mouzer had received an email from four members of the church family who attend the Cranmer Road homegroup informing the PCC that this group has ceased to be a St. Mark's homegroup. This is because as the two people who regularly lead it have left the church, the group believes it would be inappropriate to continue meeting as a church group.

Ben King informed PCC members that he would be in touch in due course as Vicar regarding this matter.

The meeting concluded with open prayer and ended at 9.30 pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 22.4.24 at 7.30 pm.