

## Parish of St Mary the Virgin, East Barnet PCC minutes 23 September 2024

In attendance: Alison, Victor, John, Roger, Katherine, Bettina, Alec

- 1. Welcome and opening prayer**
- 2. Apologies:** Amy Jobson, Angela Johnson, Grant Fassett, Stephen Edwards, Margaret Cranfield, Gail Phillips
- 3. Approval of minutes of 8 July PCC meeting**
- 4. Correspondence received from David White re Elections Review Group.** No corporate feedback.
- 5. Matters arising**
  - a. Minutes of 7 April 2024 meeting signed
  - b. Safeguarding statements signed: domestic abuse and safeguarding
  - c. Standing Committee membership update: Katherine Duncan-Kerr stood down. Margaret Cranfield unanimously approved to join the standing committee.
  - d. Standing Committee spending authority approval: The issue of the Standing Committee's spending power is adjourned until the next meeting when Margaret is present.
- 6. Presentation of church growth priorities**
  - a. Alec presented on briefing paper on the reasons and motivation for growth. Is this the right time to have broader conversation? How do we establish commitment to growth? How do we articulate it? What actions can we put in place to promote a growing church?
  - b. Roger: how to consider our worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and attracting your people to the church.
  - c. John: we need to consider how we quantify numbers, we have a community that are not caught by simply counting numbers on a specific Sunday.
  - d. Alison: there is growth in the special services.
  - e. Bettina: people who participate in online services are part of the service.
  - f. Alec: electoral roll is a very rough proxy. The Messy church is well attended but there are a number of people from the congregation who don't attend.
  - g. Alison: toddler praise was really great for growing young people. Are there churches in the diocese that have done well with young people.
  - h. Alec: churches in the area have done basic things, thinking and praying for growth.
  - i. Discussion followed about how we can make people feeling comfortable in the building and how to include young parents in the service and the community.
  - j. Alison: its important to consider how St Mary's school is included as part of any growth plan
  - k. Alec suggests in January we consider church growth and the mindset. Roger suggested we get someone external to facilitate that session.
- 7. MAAP smart goal confirmation**
  - a. Having surveyed the members, there is not appetite for a quiet day.

- b. Katherine will be lead on taking clear steps on the appointment of a children's worker.
  - c. MAPP number 2 will be amended to 'going for growth' and setting up a specific PCC/congregation session with an external speaker on church growth.
  - d. PCC secretary will email the PCC setting out the MAAP goals and asking for volunteers on leaders for the smart goals.
  - e. Approved a sustained stewardship campaign.
  - f. Smart goal number 4 needs some more thought/work.
  - g. Smart goal number 5 approved.
  - h. Bettina asking if the Thursday morning coffee session could be married up with the open church rota. Roger will put Bettina in touch with the open church people to discuss.
8. **PCC Publicity:** Photos to be taken of PCC and pastoral care group and upload to the website. Katherine will ask Alastair to do photographs [Alastair subsequently agreed]. PCC Secretary to do a short monthly update on news from the PCC.
9. **PCC DBS checks and safeguarding training progress:** PCC DBS checks and safeguarding. PCC Secretary to ask Alec to send out new references for DBS check [this has been completed]. John will speak to the individuals about what aspects of the DBS checks and safeguarding checks they are missing and see if they can be persuaded to complete the checks. If not completed by the next meeting, the PCC will consider whether asking individuals to resign.
10. **St Mary's job fair progress"** Job's fair update noted.
- 11. Reports**
- a. **Children's Outreach Working Group** Not met since last PCC meeting and meeting in October.
  - b. **Communications:** Noted
  - c. **Events and Fundraising Committee:** Thanks given to everyone who has participated in the events and outreach of the church.
  - d. **Fabric:** noted
  - e. **Fabric Project working group:** noted
  - f. **Finances:** The church pays VAT at 5% on gas and 20% on electricity.
    - i. A quote has been received for a roof repair. Roger proposed, Alec seconded PPCC approve roof repair subject to getting a second estimate. Voted unanimously.
    - ii. If anyone has concerns about cash flow with regards top returning to paying full parish share, please speak to Roger in advance of the next meeting.
  - g. **Halls Working Group:** Noted
  - h. **Partnership Enabling Group:** Noted
  - i. **Planned public events:** Noted
  - j. **Safeguarding:** No report
  - k. **St Mary's VA primary school:** Alec reports things are going very positively at the school.
12. Alec will find dates for a growth event in January. Alec will circulate proposed PCC dates for 2025.
13. No AOB

14. Future PCC dates 18 November.