

## **CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC MEETING - TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**Those Present :** Julian Cox, Roger Cholmondeley, Adam Parfitt, Bryan Ashton, Andy Pound, Maggie Nicholls, Sally Green, Paul Peterson and Caroline Plummer

**Apologies :** Rosie Brydon, Richard Bacon, Richard Ward and Jamie Paddon

### **Welcome and Opening Prayers**

**PP** opened the meeting and read from Luke 19 v 41-44. The group reflected upon Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem and what would come thereafter. We prayed together thinking about what makes us weep in our lives today.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were approved and signed.

### **Matters Arising**

**PP** advised that following the occupational health review **EW** would be in the CC office on a Monday morning each week and working from home the rest of the time. New software is being purchased to enable her to work to full capacity. **PP** expressed his thanks to **MN** who had provided additional support whilst **EW** was unwell.

### **Signs of God at Work**

**PP** invited Members to reflect upon signs of God at work at CC.

**SG** reported that there had been two Vintage Adventures at QR and that 15/16 people had attended. The sessions are held on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. One couple who attended were now unable to come along to church on a Sunday as it was too early for them. They were so pleased to be able to join the afternoon session and really appreciated the Sunday livestream..

**MN** advised that a number of new young families had started to come to church on a Sunday morning.

**PP** commented that Harriet was doing a very good job working with young families in the local community.

**BA** felt that 'church' was moving forward as we are engage with the community through Warm Space Cafe and Vintage Adventures.

**PP** acknowledged the strength of the team at CC - we are in a privileged position.

**APOU** advised that he had helped out recently with the youth at CC and was so encouraged to see so many youth in attendance. Whilst he was there a cheque from the Co-Op was delivered for £4000+. He was so pleased to see the number of young adults leading.

**MN** has received a huge response from members of the congregation to help at Warm Space. 15 people have signed up on the rota and a very generous member of CC has provided funding for 3 months.

**APAR** advised that the vicar recruitment process was ongoing, with no further interviews anticipated.

**APAR** led the group in a prayer of thanks.

## **Giving 4 Life**

In JP's absence, PP reported back from last week's Giving 4 Life meeting. The finances look healthier than they did two months ago but we are still projecting a deficit of £10,000 for 2022. Income is £15,000 less than budgeted. There is £21,000 in the AMP fund towards the cost of the repair of the tower. One grant application in respect of the tower has been turned down, but further responses are expected this week. The bill for the tower is estimated at £50,000. We do have some new 'givers'. We can claim Gift Aid on plate giving up to £8K per church centre. JP had put a note on mailchimp last week encouraging the CC congregation to be 'smart' givers if they are tax payers, so that we maximise our gift aid income.

PP presented the 2023 fees proposal which had been supported by the G4L team.

**APAR PROPOSED**

**MN SECONDED**

**Rental charges** - PP advised that a 5/6% increase had been budgeted for in most cases to reflect higher energy costs. If any church group found themselves struggling due to the new rental costs, it would be open to discussion.

**SG PROPOSED**

**MN SECONDED**

## **Staff Salary Proposal**

APOU reported that he had met with JC and PP recently to look at and review CC employees' salaries. They had concluded that a 12% increase to reflect the likely CPI index would be beyond our means and were proposing more modest increases as outlined in the paper circulated. The proposals included clearing up some anomalies in the hourly pay rates and ensuring that all staff were paid at least the Real Living Wage. The annual salary payment was projected to be £72,278.70 in this year's salary period and based on the proposals would increase to £78,372.22 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The Giving 4 Life group had recommended this proposal.

APAR thanked APOU & JC for all their work involved with this.

**APOU PROPOSED**

**JC SECONDED**

## **Diocesan Feedback re parish share offer**

PP had been in correspondence with Naomi Buckler from the Diocese regarding CC's Parish Share offer for 2023. The diocesan response was circulated and discussed. At this stage we are not in a position to increase our offer, but do recognise our responsibilities and aspirations.

APAR commented that after the wage bill and Parish Share had been paid, CC was left with a limited amount for daily running costs.

## **2023 budget**

**PP** presented the latest version of the budget for 2023 as agreed by the Giving 4 Life group.

This was a conservative budget bearing in mind the energy price rises and cost of living challenges everyone is facing.

### **APAR PROPOSED**

### **APOU SECONDED**

**BA** enquired about the rental income from our 3 sites. Were we maximising our income?

**SG** advised that Church Centre Quakers Road was full to capacity with children's party bookings having picked up again.

**MN** advised that there were a few spare evening slots available for rental in the church, but we were cautious about overbooking and not leaving space for church led activities. Daytimes were becoming quite busy and concert bookings were up. The Parish Hall was busy too but had slots available on Tuesday and Friday pm. **PP** reminded members that the Youth Hub had some flexibility for rental too.

## **Wardens' Report**

**BA** reported that the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust application for a grant had been submitted but would not be discussed until December. **BA** wished to convey his thanks to Roger, Colin and John Ogborne with helping out with the painting jobs recently.

**MN** advised that the original builders from the re-ordering had been in touch offering the help of one of their team of builders. The plastering has been done in the South entrance but the rest of the jobs, along with the work on the Cleaner's cupboard will be done at another time. They have also agreed in the Spring to re-paint the front door of the church along with mending an area of tarmac in the church yard. **MN** reported that the Stone Mason had submitted plans for the scaffolding of the tower and a new estimate of £51,589 had been received which included VAT of £8414 which we can re claim back. According to the Stone Mason the work is ok to be left for now and the tower will not collapse. Some re pointing has been carried out.

## **Parish Hall Committees – Terms of Reference for Approval**

**PP** talked through the proposal for a single halls committee as discussed at the last meeting and discussion followed.

### **APAR PROPOSED**

### **BA SECONDED**

(PP to talk further with the church wardens to clarify membership of this new group.)

## **Parish Safeguarding**

**PP** advised that Laura Green had met up with Laura Powell twice and that the PSO role official handover would be on 31.1.23.

12 DBS have come through since mid September

3 are currently been processed

5 people have recently been invited to complete their online application.

1 person previously invited to re-apply needs to be chased up - PP to discuss with LP.

### **Correspondence**

**CMP** advised that we have received a receipt from Transform Europe Network re Misa in Moldova and CC's contribution to his work of £591.29.

**PP** advised that Philip Rowe would receive his Permission to Officiate on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023. His wife Alison who is a Licensed Lay Minister will also be serving in the parish in the spring term.

**PP** shared that the pledge paperwork from one of our late congregation members was in the hands of the Executors. This generous donation could clear our debt and help enable the work on the tower. It has not been budgeted for as it is not guaranteed and the timing is uncertain.

**RC** commented on a Sermon that Martin Brown had given on the topic of the power of prayer. He would never forget Martin's words. He was reminded about this sermon after watching the Power of Prayer video circulated to members.

The meeting was closed and all members said the grace together.

Signed  .....

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 .....

**Next meeting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**