

All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames Parochial Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 18th July 2023, 7.30pm at All Saints Church

Minutes

Present

Revd Joe Moffatt (Chair), John Dewhurst, Roshan Jathanna, Julian Adams, Sheila Bryant, Alastair Deller (Treasurer), Liz Deller, Eithne Fray, Isabel Isaacson (Secretary), Daniel Kelly, Keith Long, Graham Nash, Reena Patel, Peter Reddell, Samantha Taylor, Paul Thompson, Joni Timmins, Philip Walker, Mary Warman, Sarah Williams.

1. *Opening Prayer*

Sarah opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. *Apologies*: there were no apologies.

Minutes of the last meeting (23rd May 2023): the minutes were agreed with no changes.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising

3. *MAP updates*

Children and Youth

a. *Lifting Young Voices*. This initiative feeds into the Mission Action Plan by offering music expertise to schools. It is hoped that this will inspire young people to join the Church choir and also help with the formation of a junior choir. There has already been good progress with this initiative. Two schools have been selected at which David can begin to pilot the scheme from September this year: St John the Evangelist Church of England School and St Joseph's Catholic School. Under the pilot scheme there will be one hour's contact time per week at each school, the success of which will be assessed with a view to rolling it out elsewhere.

Junior choir. David is already promoting this and planning recruitment assemblies. Children from the two Schools in the pilot scheme will be encouraged to join as well as younger siblings of current choir members. Singers from the schools and the junior choir will be involved in singing with the Church Choir as well as at appropriate services/occasions.

It was agreed that a choir administrator would be needed who could work for two hours a week to line up the assemblies and also to provide follow-up to these. A recruitment process was carried out and Kate Shrimpton (parent of one of our choir members and churchwarden at Christ Church New Malden) has been appointed. Kate will start her admin work in August so that the project is ready to begin in September. Following the agreement at the last PCC meeting to extend the role of Director of Music, an increase in working hours and salary has been agreed with David. The remainder of the budget will be taken up by administration costs. We have received £2,000 funding from the All Churches Fund; Alastair is examining the possibilities for other grant applications. Joe will be discussing our plans with Simon Toyne (former Director of Music at All Saints) who administers similar schemes nationally.

b. *Youth Café*. The time slot for this will be on Sundays between 4pm and 5pm. The most recent confirmation group (including the URC candidates) is interested in participating and a programme for Autumn is already being devised. Sarah Cogger is keen to support it along with Eithne.

Help with childcare. An additional initiative has been suggested following a meeting held by Sarah Williams, Sandy Cragg, Aruna Jennings, and Anne Nicholson with the director of Welcare. This organisation provides support for families struggling to manage problems

which are often accommodation related. Welcare's current focus is refugee families living in single rooms. There is a great need for these families to have creative, positive, social activities that parents can do alongside their children. Space for these is needed over the summer and it was felt that this was something we could offer at All Saints.

Communications

a. *Comms Strategy*. Good progress has been made in laying foundations for the work needed in relation to communications. Talks were held with three different consultants to discuss the platform that we want to build. Emma Perries of 'Digital Mother' (who works with Kingston First), came across as the candidate best-suited to our needs and was appointed to the role. Two workshops have been organised, one on either side of the summer break. The first, on Tuesday 25th July, will cover how we might go about identifying our demographics/market; the second, in September, will explore actions needed.

b. *Kingston Faith Talks*. The meeting welcomed the news that local clergy are keen to support the 'Kingston Faith Talks' and that there was a greater ambition for the talks than the simple lecture format. There is a desire to establish a network for discussion on relevant topics, e. g. the theological background to contemporary faiths, with an ecumenical approach. With a general election in the offing, Christians' thoughts on politics and a faith perspective on the politicians' agendas would be topics of interest. We need to make sure that these events happen within a regular timetable (ten times a year, so once a month except in August and December, and on certain fixed days). It would also be good to live-stream them for internal use within churches in the parish. There will be a programme of keynote speakers plus a panel to lead discussions. An administrator would be needed to organise this. The meeting was enthusiastic about the suggestion agreeing that it was ambitious but do-able. Various suggestions were made as to whom we could approach in relation to this, including: our new Bishop (Martin Gainsborough) who is a political theorist; Theos; Centre for Cultural Witness. Some funding may be available from the Archdeacon. Joe is co-chairing the local Major Churches Group through which he will be able to speak to a wide range of people which will help in launching this initiative (the National Conference theme is faith in the public square).

Partnerships

We have yet to form a group for this MAP priority but work is already being carried out around this topic. We have identified local charities to support through our annual Christmas Tree Festival, as follows: Welcare, KCAH, Refugee Action Kingston, Kingston Samaritans. We also chose a children's charity: The Children's Society. The festival will be launched in the second week of December and the charities will decorate trees dedicated to their particular charity. We will explore connections with Refugee Action Kingston, as mentioned under 'Children and Youth' above, specifically in relation to space needed over the summer.

a. *Bereavement Café*. There has been a good response to the two training sessions arranged in relation to this project. We have had nine volunteers from All Saints plus three or four others who want to help in some way. There are also people interested in the training because they wish to run their own bereavement cafés elsewhere in the Borough. It was emphasised that this is not intended as a counselling service. Those undertaking the training will be facilitators to help people talk to each other, offering companionship rather than professional therapy. The meeting recorded thanks to Sheila for helping with the Princess Alice connection and to Sarah Cogger for her support. The Director of Kingston Bereavement Service is also participating. There is an awareness as well of the work of Cruse Bereavement Support and some of the volunteers have connections with it.

Eco Church

The work of the Eco Church group will be based on the Church of England fifth mark of mission: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. We have previously registered with Eco Church and will use the Eco Church survey as

a framework for our plans. Eco Church identifies five main themes with which a church should engage to enable it to qualify for an award:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Our aim will be to achieve a Silver accredited award in 2026 and Gold in 2030. Interaction with the Communication Group will also be key for this.

Energy Footprint Tool. Isabel is currently gathering together All Saints' energy data and other related information for 2022 to complete the Diocese Energy Footprint Tool submission. When submitted it will generate a results page that will give the church's carbon footprint. This will provide a point of comparison for the Eco Church project.

Recycling. Liz is currently collecting information in relation to this to enable the Church to set an example and to be able to share information.

Lighting upgrade. At a recent meeting, Councillor Roger Hayes, who is involved in environmental projects, expressed interest in our plans for upgrading to LED lighting. He felt it was a good example of not being deterred by potential difficulties (e. g. the age of the building). He has asked to use this example for their 'Sustainability September' initiative and would like to bring together the wider community to celebrate when the upgrade is complete.

All Saints Gardening Group. The gardeners are interested in being involved in the Eco Church group, e.g. when 'Management of Church land' is analysed.

Next Eco Group Meeting. This will take place in September and Jack Edwards, from the Southwark Diocese Environment Team, will be joining us.

4. Finance Report.

The Analysis of Income and Expenditure Report covering 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 was circulated to the meeting. It was noted that it was just about level pegging with a couple of things to come (e. g. the Gift Aid claim for the second quarter (approx. £6,000)). It was noted that Church usage is never even throughout the year with the period from September to the year-end being the busiest. Church accounts stand as follows:

APRF: £116,280.

Parish clerks account (payment of bills etc): £2,050.

Treasurer's current account: £23,152; Deposit account: £55,676.

Fabric fund: £73,844; Saxon Kings embroideries: £17,224.

Choristers development: £1,858; choir robes: £7,142.

Assistant Priest' Residence Fund. Alastair proposed the following resolution in relation to this fund:

'In order to facilitate payments for the major upcoming works on the church lighting and the organ, we request that all the shares held on behalf of All Saints PCC by the SLCF/SDBF in CBF Church of England Investment Account 137002062S – T590 Kingston All Saints be sold and the account closed. The proceeds of the sale should be paid in to the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund All Saints Kingston Upon Thames Account number 637058010D – Fabric Fund.'

The resolution was seconded by John Dewhurst and was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Parish Support Fund 2024. This is explained in the documents circulated in advance of the meeting. The meeting felt that it should also be explained at our next stewardship campaign. The amount of the PSF pledge is not covered by our planned giving so we need to improve our income streams across the board. We would expect that momentum generated by the work involving the Mission Action Plan groups should engender sufficient energy and vision to help generate income.

Alastair proposed that we increase our PSF pledge by 3.3% as suggested by the Diocese: this would result in an increase from £117,624 in 2023 to £121,512 in 2024. This was seconded by Philip Walker and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

5. Projects & Faculties

We are currently awaiting the report from the Quinquennial Inspection, carried out on the 13th June. The building is generally in good shape but there is some work needed on the tower roof (re-coppering) and the flagpole.

Lighting upgrade. John and Alastair will shortly be meeting the lighting consultant. The required emergency lighting has been incorporated into the plan.

Organ repairs. We have been given the go-ahead for these. Work will begin over the summer. We will manage with the chamber organ in the intervening period.

Choir vestry A/V modifications. The faculty for this has now been submitted.

Pigeon wires/roof work. The roof work is currently taking place. The meeting recorded thanks to John, Paul, Alastair and Roshan for their input into the project.

6. Any other business.

a. The volunteering event first mooted around the time of the Coronation is taking place on Thursday 20th July from 6pm to 8pm. There is a need for volunteers to welcome visitors: 100 tickets have already been booked. The Mayor and the Leader of the Council will be attending.

b. *David Nield.* The meeting was sorry to hear of the recent death of David Nield. David was former Director of Music at All Saints and very influential in this area. A memorial service is being organised for him by Simon Toyne. The service will take place on Sunday 15th October, followed by a reception at the Rose Theatre (David was a key player in the founding of the Rose). It is hoped that Dominic Barrington, Dean of York Minster, will conduct the service and that Tiffin School Choir will take part.

c. *Notice of PCC meetings in pewsheets.* Isabel will let Jenny know the dates of forthcoming PCC meetings so that a notice can be included in the relevant pewsheet to ask whether there are any issues that Church members would like to raise.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Next PCC Meeting. The next meeting of the PCC will take place on **Tuesday, 19th September.**