



St George's Church Wash Common Extraordinary PCC Meeting 17th October 2023 MINUTES

The following documents were circulated before the meeting:

- Renovation Project F&F (item 3)


St George's Vision Statement

At St George's Church we are called by God and inspired by Jesus to encourage and equip one another to grow in faith and love, serving the community of Wash Common, reaching out to all people, especially those in need, and being good and faithful stewards of our gifts and the world's resources.

1.		Opening prayer
2.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies for absence: Chris Foster, Emma Moffatt 2. Attendees: BB, Frances Clayton, Linda Ling, Robin Clugston, Terry Winrow, John Bolan, Rita Ball, John Huckle, Jon Houghton, Philip Read, Ronnie Herd, Sarah Pook, Henrietta High, Kathy Winrow 3. Any Conflicts of Interest? None mentioned.
3.		<p>Strategic review of upcoming Fabric and Facilities expenditure to agree priorities (RB/LL/JohnH)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion on Church Lighting: The replacement of the halogen lightbulbs that was completed a year ago, a necessary and reasonable solution at that point, has proved a short-lived solution. Bulbs are lost on a weekly basis and it won't be long before there are none left in Church. A quotation has been received from the original contractor who installed the system to upgrade to LEDs which necessitates all fittings have to be replaced not just the bulbs; wiring is expected to stay as is. The estimate is £34k. PR queried whether it would be better to address the water ingress into the building before addressing the lighting. RB clarified that time is against us with the rate at which bubs are failing and if we delay too long there is a real risk we will have no lighting at all. JonH queried the environmental waste of new bulbs being embedded in the fittings, meaning the whole unit must be replaced when a bulb fails. It was confirmed that this is industry standard practice and even so LEDs remain the better environmental choice as recommended in the recent eco survey of the church. RH asked about other quotations given the requirements of our own expenditure policy to have at least two quotes to compare, and possible requirements from Greenham or other potential funding schemes. PCC agreed that other quotations must be sought. PR asked how we plan to fund the cost of the works. Various options were discussed, and queries raised about match-funding. Actions were agreed as listed below. RB confirmed that the work would need to go ahead after Christmas but before Easter when the church has fewer services and events going on. It was agreed that we have no choice but to prioritise this project and, subject to the action points, the PCC will delegate the final decision to the Standing Committee. <p>Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F&F will seek two additional quotes for the lighting project • FC will prepare a plan for funding, including deferred regular giving, Greenham Common funding, and the balance from reserves for a temporary period • FC will review the possibility of insurance coverage for the failed bulbs • F&F and FC will explore Greenham Match Funding for this year with a focus on community use. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Restoration of the main structure of the church regarding water ingress: RB provided an overview of the work that has been done to address water ingress in the church. This included two specific actions: addressing ingress on the lower part of the wall by the NMR door on the north side and straightening and sorting the guttering on the south side. Gutters have also been cleared of leaves at high level.

		<p>LL discussed the ongoing water ingress issues and emphasized the need for a comprehensive overview of the church's condition. JonH agreed with the need for a holistic view, recognising that the issues at hand are not isolated. RB noted that some of the water ingress issues are a result of the building standards in the 1930s and a lack of ventilation. Therefore, it's important to find someone who understands buildings of pre-war construction.</p> <p>Due to concerns regarding the need to address this in a timely manner, to avoid further damage, KW suggested F&F form a small group responsible for overseeing this issue.</p> <p>SP stressed the importance of having a vision for the future and communicating this to the congregation to motivate support for the restoration efforts. JonH added that reaching the church's centenary in 10 years could be a goal to bring the church fit for the next century.</p> <p>RB noted that most of the main exterior work has already been identified by the quinquennial report and proposed involving a church architect to pull together the specification, identify the issues, and then appoint a contractor. This approach would involve a project manager. Whilst our current quinquennial Architect has not expressed capacity to take on this project, BB agreed that there are other quinquennial architects that might be more interested in a project of this nature. The Diocese should be asked for recommendations.</p> <p>It was agreed to revisit this discussion at the November PCC.</p> <p>Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F&F will pull together a small group to further explore what needs to be done and work to identify a suitable ecclesiastical architect.
4.		<p>Giving to other charities – capturing what is already happening; identifying how we move forwards (JonH)</p> <p>JonH led a brainstorming session to identify all the ways in which St. George's contributes to charitable giving.</p> <p>One of the responsibilities of the Charitable Giving Coordinator is to celebrate what St. George's is already accomplishing. This encompasses work through Church Groups, reductions in rent for charitable purposes, activities like Lent Lunches and the Christmas concert, as well as various other avenues through which St. George's directly and indirectly supports charitable causes.</p> <p>JonH, in his role as Charitable Giving Coordinator, is responsible for coordinating donations to other charities, following the guidelines outlined in the Mission Giving Policy. FC noted that there is also a budget allocation specifically designated for charitable giving, in addition to reduced rents and funds raised for specific charitable causes.</p> <p>KW and PR highlighted that the annual report extensively covers St. George's charitable efforts. JB and BB agreed that the Charity Commission registration imposes certain obligations on St. George's regarding how the church manages charitable giving. RB suggested that visually representing St. George's charitable contributions offers an opportunity to engage and involve others.</p> <p>Action Points:</p> <p>JonH will work with FC to disburse the agreed-upon sum for St. George's charitable giving in accordance with the Mission Giving Policy and create a visual representation of St. George's activities in this charitable area for the wider congregation.</p>
5.		<p>Any Other Business none</p>
6.		<p>Date of Next Meeting: 21st Nov (Standing Committee date 8 Nov) PCC Dates for 2024</p>

	<u>Standing Committee</u> 10 Jan, 6 March, 8 May, 3 July, 4 September, 6 November <u>PCC</u> 23 Jan, 19 March, APCM 30 April, 21 May, 16 July, 10 September, 19 November
	The meeting ended at 9.10pm with The Grace.


30/11/2023

