



St George's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Summary of the PCC Minutes

For the meeting held on 19th November 2024

MAIN FOCUS OF THE MEETING

Outreach and Vision Priorities:

Children and Families Worker - The position has been re-advertised but with no responses. A strategic review of this and other 2021 priorities will take place at the PCC Away Day on 8th February 2025.

Church Renovation - Updates were given on progress, with some work started on the hall. Efforts are underway to divide the project into smaller, more manageable components. The project needs a "project hero" to lead the initiative as it is too large in scope to be embraced by the current F&F team especially given the demands of the maintenance and repair schedule. Active recruitment, prayer and discernment needed for a volunteer project manager.

Vision Setting for 2025 and Beyond

A review of successes, such as the café and Café Communion, highlighted their impact on community connections. Discussions included strengthening benefice unity, addressing gaps in outreach, and the opportunity for St George's to integrate with future housing developments in Wash Common and Wash Water. The Away Day in February will create the focus and begin new strategy for the next period of St George's life in the community of Wash Common.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Working Groups Refresh and Reform:

PCC agreed that discussion and review will now take place in the new year as an outcome of the strategy review.

Charitable Giving:

In addition to the charitable giving generated by church events the PCC agreed to allocate £1,000 each to West Berkshire Homeless and Mosaic Middle East charities.

Finance Update:

The treasurer, Francis Clayton, provided the finance update to the end of October. There is a budget deficit for this year of £25k below target giving and unplanned expenditure mainly due to the failure of the Ground Source Heat Pump, and planned giving not rising at the same pace as inflation.

Budget for 2025:

A £6.8k deficit is currently forecast for 2025. The PCC is resolved to address this shortfall and identified various responses, including improving electronic donation accessibility, focussing on encouraging planned givers to understand and adopt the PGS automatic inflation increase mechanism, to move our stewardship Sunday focus to earlier in the year in 2025, explore how to generate more income from rentals and hirers, ensure the ground source heat pump is fixed as soon as possible. Also noted that more needs to be done to flag how and why to leave a legacy to the church. The PCC accepted the budget, noting the importance of addressing the shortfall.

Safeguarding Update:

The PCC reviewed the safeguarding update and confirmed Safeguarding record arrangements during a clergy vacancy. It was further agreed that all Volunteer Agreements should be held centrally.

Health and Safety:

It was noted that following a recent incident the Tower for high level work will not be hired without a trained operative to use it.

Benefice Celebratory Weekend:

The event was celebrated as a positive experience, with future opportunities to strengthen benefice connections encouraged.

Attendance 66.6% Full approved minutes on our website after the next meeting on 21st January 2024.