

8 09/05/2025



St Michael's
Wandsworth
Common

St Michael's Church Wandsworth Common

PCC Meeting Thursday 7 May 2025 6pm The Vicarage

Present:	Revd Tif Ewins (Chair - TE)	James Cunningham (JC)
	Connie Parker-Dhinakaran (CPD)	Lara Haggar (LH)
	Justin Walford (JW)	Ebenezer Appiagyei (EA)
Apologies:	Mike Bankole	Tom Holmer
	Mark Horley	Fiona Holmer

Opening prayer

Minutes of the last meeting

- JC - Minor corrections to spellings and financial report information changed
- TE made changes to the document while this was being discussed – new version of the minutes saved.
- No further comments
- JC proposed approval of the minutes; LH seconded

Safeguarding report

- Submitted by Sarah Taylor (ST)
- ST working on DBS's for new PCC members (emails on their way) & for additional Sparkle volunteers. Please remind new PCC members to look at Southwark Diocese safeguarding website re training they need to undertake.
- **ACTION DBS for the new PCC members and additional Sparkle volunteers. Applies to CPD, JW and FH – each need to do the online courses and let Sarah know once it's done**

Presentation of Treasurers report

- JC: Overall the report outlook is fine. There are some changes to summer bookings from Jake (physical training) and Kevin (Karate) dropping from two sessions to one session. E.g. Karate change accounts for approx -£350
- Benefact Trust - TE to inform them when the Children's Worker starts
- ST had a conversation with both nurseries about general market / operating environment and risks - TE raising for general awareness with the PCC
- No further comments or questions

Feedback on Easter

- Discussion of each element of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services/events
- **ACTION TE to produce a document to reflect the feedback on all aspects of Easter services**

Children's Worker

- Sally Newman has been appointed! She has applied for a Support Worker's Grant which is currently stuck with the DWP. Proposed start date was 1 May, so we are waiting until



confirmation of the support worker comes through to finalise and sign the contract. Sally's notice period is 1 week.

- JC asked about whether there is an old laptop - TE to double check. The laptop she uses will also be used for services (screen projector). We will also get a phone according to her accessibility requirements.
- JC: Will the support worker come with relevant DBSs? Yes. Will they be a believer? Not necessarily and it isn't a requirement; main thing is to enable flexibility to support Sally from home or church.
- CPD asked about how the news of the appointment will be announced in church (especially to children)
- **ACTION TE to follow up with how it's shared with the children**

Summer events

- Lots of wonderful past events - eg pub quiz, walks: discussion of what we are doing this year and TE proposed that each PCC member takes a lead on at least one activity. All age participation would be good (across different kinds of events).
- Pilgrimage will be later (in October - possibly St Albans)
- MB might like to do pub quiz
- LH and TE are running the being with course
- JC will do a walk to the pub (the Waterfront)
- JW asked if it could be a walk somewhere around the parish? Discussion of the
- CPD doing Ioana's concert (7 June) but also thinking about games outside (after church?)
- EA raised the idea of food and fellowship, also with Sherene. 3rd August?
- **ACTION PCC MEMBERS TO CONFIRM THEIR EVENT WITH TE**

Discussion of outdoor services

- TE recently talked to Cecelia about the outdoor services in the summer. Love how it draws people in. Difficulty is losing depth. It's hard to teach and hard to sing. Do we do something different outside instead? Is there something unique about it that we can't replicate?
- Best one was the Windrush Sunday
- JC: how many outdoor Sundays are there? Since Covid we've done one Sunday outdoors from April-September
- Could reduce the number of outdoor services
- LH: could it be a TMS kind of service? Good idea to be considered
- **ACTION TE to confirm dates for two outdoor services only over the summer term.**

Gather the Tribe - Women's event

- Need to market it and sell tickets!
- Gone out on the church WhatsApp a couple of times; TE sent out to other local churches and will also go on Southwark notice board
- CPD: Will you need hosting team support? TE: yes - will schedule logistics discussion with the speakers.
- **ACTION TE to host logistics meeting**

Other new / discussion

- Archdeacon coming on Pentecost on 7/8th June

Men's group idea

- Space to be created in line with our values. Attentive to need: what are the needs of men within our congregation?
- LH and TE had some time with Tom Holmer (TH) recently talking about men on the periphery – came out of a sense of the lack of community for men. Conversation didn't get resolved. TH came it from a discussion with a prison minister who was bringing more of a men's accountability circle.
- LH there has been a past discussion about mentoring and men's Bible group. When TE first started as vicar we did a listening exercise - can we do something similar?
- JW: Could it be a men's breakfast?
- Key questions: what's the need it could meet, and who would organise?
- TE to work on questions around that listening exercise
- JC: managing the balance of what's in our hands and the culture of try. London life is busy.
- James Ewins reminded TE that when we started it the Monday Bible study was for women and the Sunday 'walk and talk' was for men. Should we revert to men walking and talking?
- LH: Last time I did notice it is the people who don't necessarily have family who go to that. So that's why the walk and talk changed
- JC: Always enjoyed walk and talk as a good way of connecting. Quarterly breakfast? General need comes from the fact that men don't typically talk enough. Could create the space for people to get to know each other better
- EA: Everything started from Walk and talk
- **ACTION: TE to draft some questions, meet with Johan Dhinakaran and James Ewins to input on questions. Ideas to centre around walking to enable conversations or eating to enable hospitality.**

TE Sabbatical

- 1st Sept to 13th Oct
- Some training required on putting services together (tech stuff)
- Cover will be in place for Holy Communion services
- JW to receive training on leading midweek service
- ST will lead the staff team
- TH will lead worship and other local clergy will be informed of TE's absence.
- Six Sundays out but also comes straight after August (summer holiday). 3rd Aug will be the last service with TE before sabbatical.
- **ACTION TE to communicate to the church in due course.**

AOB

Curate

- TE would like to apply to be a training incumbent and have a curate. Seeking PCC's support. Is it a good thing?
- TE explained what a curate is and does. After training period, they are assigned to a church effectively as an apprentice. First year as a deacon and then ordained priest but still undergoing training. Three year position. Person could be any age. Diocese matches you up. We would be required to pay something towards their housing (for curacies starting in June 2026) - not sure of the level but need to be willing to have that conversation. Flat next to vicar's house is owned by the diocese of Southwark; in theory should be used for ministry.

- JW: What would the cost of the three years be? TE: Ministry division of the training department (diocese?) pay their salary. Cost to us would be expenses and a conversation about contribution to housing. No hard and fast rule about this.
- LH: Cost would also depends on who they are – e.g. single person, family.
- TE: We would have an initial meeting to check out if it will work
- LH: Can you make any requests about the person?
- TE: Yes, there is a form where you can identify things you need / prefer
- JC: Read the instructions as 'we have to be prepared to pay for the accommodation'. Fantastic idea, definitely behind it and there's enough here to stretch people to be trained.
- TE: We've applied for this six years in a row and we have been turned down. Likely to have been due to housing. TE in discussion with the Bishop about transparency in this process.
- All PCC members supportive
- LH: Propose yes. CPD: seconded

Invitation to apply for the Benefact Trust Mission Money - max £5000 (Due 16th May)

- Purpose: To launch messy church
- JC: is it the same as what we applied for last year? Check we aren't duplicating. TE to check
- Agreed to apply
- LH's question about serving team was covered earlier
- Need a warden's rep for a funeral on Thursday 15th May (10:30-12). ST will be there but TE will ask around for additional person.
- JW: do we have plans to run a short course like Alpha? TE: We start 'being with' on Tuesday 7:30-9:15pm. Alpha runs at SMBR. We try to offer a course once or twice a year.
- **ACTION Question about out outreach to be discussed on July PCC agenda.**

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