



## **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH**

To know and share God's transforming love with one another,  
our local community and the wider world

### **Minutes PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING held at 8pm in the Parish Office on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Present; Revd Hannah Gordon (Chair), Jenny Smith,  
Jon Hill, , Kat Wicksteed, Ray King, Madeleine MacCallum, Rosalind Lumberg, Revd John Wates,  
Eamonn Davern, Janice Whittle, Nigel Smith

Guest: Youth Item : Josh Allwith

Apologies: Julia Thompson, Jill Lindsay, Tom Sanderson

**1** The meeting was opened at 8.00 pm with a prayer and reading from Isaiah 51 1-8 .

#### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were approved, and were signed by Revd Hannah Gordon.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

The Standing Committee unanimously agreed not to proceed with discussions on purchase of woodland behind the Church. Amongst several issues discussed it was especially important to note that no Public Benefit Case was identified which would have presented significant obstacles to justifying this expenditure reconciling it with St Margaret's charitable aims.

#### **4 Youth Work**

Josh described changes which will be made to Youth Work following a recent review. The current age bands were considered too broad , covering 4/5-year-olds to age 11. The transition from Junior Church to Youth will in future be at Easter for year 5 children .

The Ignite group has been meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Young People have been assisting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service with music, AV , and occasionally serving coffee.

The Friday Youth Group has been successful with a good spread of ages and an average of 6 attendees. Other options, and possible "spin off" events (e.g. Film Nights) will be considered as possible alternatives to the Friday Group , and Parents views will be sought.

Josh presented a new Vision for Youth Work which will be circulated to PCC members for comments, and then possibly placed on the Web Site. A potential increased role for older youth in Sunday services will be considered to continue involvement beyond age 14.

## **5 Parish Away Day**

Wychcroft has been booked for the Parish Away Day on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to discuss the Mission Action Plan and future Vision for St Margaret's. The cost is £45 per head and donations will be requested.

## **6 Outsourcing PAYE**

A company has been identified to manage staff PAYE to address the issue of a potential conflict of interest for the Parish Administrator. Details will be shared with PCC when potential arrangements have been finalised.

## **7 Treasurer Role**

Andrea Dunhill, a local resident and recently retired accountant, has kindly agreed to take over as Honorary PCC Treasurer. She is arranging a hand over with Martin Mabbutt and will be invited to attend the forthcoming Finance and HR Group meeting.

## **8 Parish Support Fund**

The Secretary explained the background and purpose of the Fund. Following a discussion PCC unanimously agreed to a proposal from the Secretary, seconded by PCC, to increase St Margarets 2025 contribution by 3.5% (as requested by Southwark Diocese) to £103,500 compared to the 2024 figure.

**Action:** Secretary to confirm St Margaret's Support Contribution with the Diocese and forward a brief note to the Archdeacon as required explaining the background to the decision.

## **9 Church Security**

Jen updated PCC on her review of key holding. The key safe is now in place. In future Key Holders will be determined based on need and usage criteria. People who do not require ongoing access to the Church will return keys. People taking and returning keys will sign a register.

## **10 Premises**

Two quotes will be obtained for the planned work to improve access to The Orchard. Planned work will include reducing the gradient of the Pathway, alter the Stairway, and install a Platform Lift.

Heating costs have been reviewed. In future Church central heating will be adjusted so that the building is kept warm when in use rather than maintaining constant heating.

The detailed specifications for the AV Project have been finalised. It is estimated that the installation will take 8 days, with options to commence the work on either 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 or early in the New Year, probably January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. PCC concluded that unless there was a minimal risk of slippage with the timescale for installation it would be prudent to select the New

Year option.

**Action :** The Premises Team will speak with the AV company re installation and advise Hannah on the recommended date.

## **11 Planned Giving**

Parish Finances and Planned Giving will be addressed at the two Sunday Services on a future date TBC.

## **12 Communications**

Hannah updated PCC on her review of Parish communications. The current systems , including maintaining paper records and various parallel lists and data bases, needs to be upgraded to ensure GDPR compliance. Hannah described the functions of the Church Suite system which enables members of the Congregation to identify their interest in specific activities and then be able to “pull information” of interest and “opt in” to receiving targeted information and specific invitations. Hannah will circulate more details to PCC for future discussion.

## **AOB**

This year’s Carol Services will be jointly organised with St Peter’s Woodmansterne . The afternoon service will be at St Peter’s , and the evening service at St Margaret’s . Members of both Congregations will be invited to join the Christmas Choir .

The meeting closed at 10 pm with a prayer.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

*Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> 8pm in the Parish Office*