

Minutes of P.C.C.meeting of Parish of St.Thomas Church, Werneth on Thursday 14th March at 7p.m via Zoom.

1. Welcome and prayers.

Meeting was led by Revd. Darren Quinlan who opened in prayer.

2. Present: Revd. Nick Andrewes, Revd. Zahra Shafiei, Revd.Darren Quinlan, Abigail Okbesusi, Michael Albrow, Ann Batchelor, Janet Campbell, Mercy Ekhoesuehi, Graham Lees, Kathy Lees.

No apologies. Richard McEwan is not joining us at the moment because he is continuing his training with two other churches.

3. Minutes of meeting of 11th January 2024.

Accepted as a true account. Proposed by Graham and seconded by Janet and passed unanimously.

Matters Arising

- We didn't receive £50,000 grant from Suez but are waiting for Valencia to come back to us. Nick hopes to get £50,000 for immediate work, or whatever monies we can garner from diocese or other grants and start a.s.a.p.
- Not heard from Mike Moran.
- Carl (architect) hasn't checked diameter of vehicle access gates. Graham suggests we look at design for gates again. Need to apply for faculty again. Pedestrian gates need renewing and it might be sensible to do this work at same time as vehicle access gates.
- Eucharist booklets. The new ones, in English and Farsi are very acceptable.
- Sung Gloria. We will use Peruvian Gloria along with "Father we adore You" but not during Lent.
- **To Do List.** Positive Representation of our church members' countries of origin. Graham to co-ordinate and ask members of groups to comment, perhaps looking at Paradise Lane Studios – etsy.com

4. Correspondence.

Graham has received an e-mail from City of Trees to see if we want to plant trees in the autumn.

5. Vicar's Update.

- We're happy to accept the legillum. Proposed by Nick. Seconded by Darren.
- Room Hire. Website has been updated.
- Some discussion about whether to use readings and hymns from screen rather than give out Bibles and hymn books. A difficulty arises with the displaying of the hymn numbers.
- Zimbabwean Church will have a convention over Easter and won't be using church.
- Eco-Church. Have received Bronze certificate. Nick will do a poster asking people to turn off inside and outside lights.
- Daniel and Mei Whetham will update us on their work on 23rd June and we'll possibly have a shared lunch after.
- We'll be celebrating as Zahra officiates at communion for the first time on 14th July and Richard will officiate as deacon.

6. A.P.C.M.

Nick has received reports and P.C.C. are happy to present these as part of Annual Report at A.P.C.M. Proposed by Graham . Seconded by Kathy. We need to encourage as many people as possible to attend, even though they may not be on the electoral roll.

7. Richard McEwan.

P.C.C. fully support the appointment of Richard as Assistant Curate in this parish. Proposed by Nick. Seconded by Abigail.

8. Cleaner and Cleaning.

Maz has resigned as our cleaner- to take effect from end March. Now looking for a replacement cleaner but we'll aim to have a working party to clean and work in grounds once a month, usually on a Saturday morning. Our Iranian and Afghan friends would be warmly welcomed too and lunch would be provided for them. Need to check on bus fare provision for them.

9. High Altar.

Accepted the suggestion to use it at Holy Communion at Festivals i.e. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and St. Thomas. It would bring the whole of the church into use, and would be an enjoyable addition.

10. Management Plan

Approval of Management Plan for the building was deferred. We discussed a request to allow groups to use the building after 10p.m and rejected this request.

11.Safe Church Policy.

Needs to be updated but was deferred. Carpet in choir vestry is a trip hazard. Needs to be either taken up or glued down firmly.

12.Reports.

- **Safeguarding.** Mercy has given us a link because as P.C.C. members we need to do training. To give Mercy the accredited copy once completed.
- **Use of Church.** If we have a big event, eg. wedding or funeral, we need more chairs as it`s difficult to borrow from school. Diocese recommends that 10% of chairs should be armchairs. Grant to be applied for.
- **Financial Report.** We looked at it and briefly discussed the Parish Share. Financial Report was accepted and thanks were expressed to Janet. Janet has contacted Oldham Camera Club as we owe them £80. No reply from them.
- **Mission Community.** Laura Tebay, a diocesan worker within our mission community, engages with children on the transition from primary to secondary school and with our children and young people generally. She will visit us on 7th April 2024.

13.Dates. Next meeting of P.C.C.is 2nd May 2024.

14.A.O.B

By next P.C.C. meeting it is hoped that scaffolding will be up. If a big decision needs to be made beforehand, we can meet on zoom. Further grant applications may also mean that we might need to meet on zoom.

15.Future Agenda Items.

Eco Church – next steps.

Church Porch.

Trees in grounds - what to do?

16.We closed by saying the Grace.