

**Building up • Going out
to see lives and communities transformed by Jesus**

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 25 January 2024 at 7.30 at St Martin's

Those present:

Revd W Warren	Mr S Purslow	Mrs B Stibbons
Revd J Haywood	Mrs M Pallister	Mr D Anderson
Mr D Loades	Mr G Purland	Mr D Broughton
Mr I Kimble	Mr D Orsborne	
Miss A Cottingham	Mrs A Orsborne	
Mrs S McCandlish	Mr D Tuthill	

1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, Revd W Warren.

Apologies were received from Judith Anderson, Julia Chamberlin, John Hodgkinson and Mary Howard.

2) OPENING WORSHIP

The meeting began with sung worship led by Simon Purslow and a reflection by the Vicar on St Paul's ministry:

- Paul's ministry was centred on Jesus, we want Cromer Church to be a place where Jesus is at the heart of our ministry;
- The purpose of Paul's ministry was developing mature disciples in the likeness of Jesus, we too are work in progress and becoming more like Jesus doesn't stop even if we've been Christians for a long time;
- The power behind Paul's ministry was the Holy Spirit, we also need to trust in God's power.

A time of prayer followed.

Opening Business

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

None.

4) MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING OF 23 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the PCC meeting of 23 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

The following matter was arising:

A water meter has been installed at St Martin's. All three church buildings now have water meters.

5) MINUTES OF THE STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 10 JANUARY 2024

- a) The quote for 'making good' following installation of the new window at St Martin's is £745 +VAT and includes re-puttying the high level windows. This cost will also come out of the bequest made to St Martin's.

It was AGREED to proceed with this work.

- b) IK reported that the application for a heating grant towards the destratification fans had been unsuccessful.

6) NOTES FROM COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM (CLT) 14 NOVEMBER 2023

The notes were received.

There had been positive feedback on the signs outside the Parish Church and the Parish Hall providing information on the building works and services.

7) NOTES FROM MISSION LEADERSHIP TEAM (MLT) 17 NOVEMBER 2023

The notes were received.

At its meeting on 19th January, it had been agreed to have quarterly reports from MLT in future.

8) NOTES FROM FABRIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (FLT) 20 NOVEMBER 2023

The notes were received.

- a) The recommendations relating to winches for the destratification fans and installation of a new water heater in Parish Hall had been previously approved at PCC on 23rd November 2023.
- b) The request from the musicians for a storage cupboard would be considered properly at the end of the Parish Church building works, after the scaffolding had been taken down.
- c) Glass doors at the Parish Church: PCC APPROVED the recommendation to proceed with exploring option 1: to replace the corroded metal outer gates with frameless glazed doors.

9) REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD NOVEMBER 2023

The report was received. Members expressed their thanks to Caroline Herbert for her helpful reporting.

Church Life and Growth

10) FINANCE

The finance report was circulated electronically at the start of the meeting. Members were requested to send any follow up questions to the Treasurer by email.

- a) The Treasurer noted that accruals will be dealt with at the end of January with an end of year report to come to PCC following that.
- b) The budget stands at 108% of income and 96% of expenditure.
- c) The GoodBox card payment machine hadn't been working reliably and although it was connected to the wifi in the Parish Hall, payments weren't always going through successfully. The Treasurer will investigate.
- d) Benefice Share Request
 - i) The Vicar had spoken with the Archdeacon regarding the incorrect wording
 - ii) The Vicar had reassured Bishop Jane that it is our firm intention to pay our Parish Share.
 - iii) A revised, correct Share Request is needed from the Diocese and suspending the existing Direct Debit may be necessary until this is resolved.

PCC approved a motion for the Treasurer to request a fresh Benefice share request for 2024 be issued by the Diocese for the legal Cromer Benefice alone, and that we would be unable to pay until a fresh one had been received.

11) LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

A paper had been circulated in advance setting out what had happened since the General Synod meeting in November. The Vicar explained that churches such as Cromer Church who hold to a traditional view of marriage were being encouraged by the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) to consider three particular aspects going forward:

- a position on the use of Prayers of Love and Faith;
 - alternative spiritual oversight;
 - financial contributions.
- a) Prayers of Love and Faith
 - i) The Vicar noted that whilst not legally necessary it would be helpful to have an agreed resolution on the use of prayers of blessing for same-sex relationship.
 - b) Informal temporary alternative spiritual oversight
 - i) CEEC has offered that Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, former Bishop of Willesden and former acting Bishop of London, also formerly on the leadership team of Spring Harvest could provide informal, temporary, alternative oversight.
 - ii) In response to a question, the Vicar confirmed that +Pete would have no legal standing in the Diocese but could be a valuable 'senior friend' with a wider perspective. He could offer support, counsel and prayer as well as an occasional preaching visit.
 - c) The Ephesian Fund

- i) We are called to honour God with our wealth and we are accountable to Him.
- ii) CEEC has established the Ephesian Fund as a means of enabling evangelical churches to fund the mission and ministry of other evangelical churches within (or beyond) their own Diocese.
- iii) In response to a question the Vicar confirmed that the Ephesian Fund is a legally established Trust, with Trustees and conforming to charity law. Further information can be accessed via the CEEC website: <https://ceec.info/ephesian-fund/more-information/>
- iv) Giving funds to the Diocese via the Ephesian Fund ensures that the money is used for the benefit of churches signed up to CEEC, funds cannot be released to the Diocese until the Ephesian Fund Trustees are satisfied.
- v) There is no cost to Cromer Church to use the Ephesian Fund.
- vi) It was suggested that the portion of our Parish Share set aside as 'Other Support for Mission and Ministry' could be channelled to the Diocese via the Ephesian Fund.
- vii) It would be important to clarify for church family that giving via the Parish Giving Scheme comes back to Cromer Church, and does not go direct to the Diocese as some may mistakenly believe. Gift Aid is collected by PGS on any eligible gifts.
- viii) The Treasurer will be writing a piece for 'Weekly Update' with the year end financial position and will use the opportunity to remind church family about the benefits of using the PGS.

Following a time of discussion the Revd W Warren vacated the Chair and he and Revd J Haywood left the room. Mr D Loades, PCC Lay Chair, took the Chair.

PCC passed 3 resolutions:

This PCC affirms the Church of England doctrine that marriage is between one man and one woman and is intended to be for life, and the only place for sexual intimacy, since we believe this to be the pattern given to us in scripture. We also affirm the beauty of celibacy - recognising the goodness of both biblical positions. We seek to provide good pastoral support for those who may struggle to live by this teaching and welcome all people to Cromer Church, regardless of their sexual status or orientation. We seek to be a church which is a loving Christian community, an extended family, and a place where we hold to a traditional Christian view of Marriage, as set out in the Book of Common Prayer, 39 Articles and Ordinal, and to do so with grace, love and generosity.

In the light of this affirmation, this PCC resolves not to offer prayers of blessing for same-sex relationships at either Cromer Parish Church or St Martin's Suffield Park.

This PCC requests, on grounds of theological conviction and to safeguard the unity of our congregation and support for our clergy, that arrangements be made for informal, temporary, alternative spiritual oversight from a bishop upholding in both understanding and practice the traditional Church of England position on marriage and sexuality

This PCC resolves that the figure relating to the 'Other Support for Mission and Ministry' portion of our Parish Share, is given through the Ephesian Fund to ensure that it is spent supporting faithful ministry within the diocese.

Revd W Warren and Revd J Haywood rejoined the meeting and WW returned to the Chair.

In light of these important matters the Vicar will write a pastoral letter to the church family explaining these decisions. He will also write to Bishop Graham.

12)MISSION PARTNER RESEARCH

- a) The PCC Secretary had provided relevant PCC minutes from 2018 where it had been agreed that individual mission partners 'should be offered a 5-year term of support, followed by review.' The review of individual mission partner Michelle Proctor had not happened.
- b) In future the Incumbent would contact the individual mission partner, via their Mission Partner Champion, in order to review their current situation and mission.
- c) Following review PCC AGREED that support should continue for Michelle Proctor as a Mission Partner for a period of time not exceeding 5 years, or until such time as her mission ceases.

13)LIVING OUT AUDIT

The Church Audit provided by Living Out is a starting point for discussions about how Biblically inclusive we are as a church. The questionnaire had been circulated and PCC members are asked to fill it in and return it to the Vicar or email it direct to the PCC Secretary.

It was noted that there was a helpful, challenging video available which accompanies the questionnaire: <https://vimeo.com/280927726>

There would be an opportunity to explore and discuss this further at PCC in February.

14)SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The report was received.

AO noted that an extra person is needed to help with verifying ID documents for DBS checks, in particular her own as legally she cannot check her own documents. DL offered to help with this.

15)HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The report was received. D Anderson was thanked for his continuing help in PAT Testing and being the Health & Safety link for PCC.

16)ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

There are 288 people on the Electoral Roll, with 6 applications pending.

17)CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kintsugi Hope

Sue Brocklehurst has completed her Kintsugi Hope training and a group has commenced. Church Insurance for this has not yet been approved. The Vicar will contact SB to talk over next steps.

b) CPAS

An acknowledgement for our quarterly donation had been received.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 22nd February, 7.30pm at St Martin's

Note change of date for March PCC: Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm at St Martin's