



# ST MATTHEW'S & THE MINSTER

## CHELTENHAM

### **PCC Minutes**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.45pm, held at St Matthew's**

**Present:** Richard Coombs (Rector), David Evans (Churchwarden), Rachel Hargreave (Minutes Secretary), Stefan Davies, Clare Dyson, Liz Horder, Andy Horton, Anna Gorick, Nerys Joyce, Graham Nicholls, Oli Parker, Natalie Storey, Sarah Tilson, David Warren, Tony Whitbread, Dan Wright

**Prayer, Welcome and Chairman's remarks.** Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly to Stefan Davies, who has joined the church as Curate. He is an ex-officio member of the PCC.

**Apologies.** Adrian Bowcher (Treasurer), Clare Salisbury (Churchwarden), Diane Bruckland, Rupert Cox, Claire Chesworth, Sarah Dixon, Chris Hermes, Julia Sawers.

**Minutes from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022** were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Matters arising:** AOB: Hardship Fund. It has been discovered that there is a discretionary Rector's fund. Any PCC member discovering a need are welcome to approach Richard to discuss. Donations welcome via Clare or Richard.

Richard handed over to David Evans, who presented a proposal for a five-year strategic vision for the church.

### **Five-Year Strategic Vision:**

David Evans presented the desire to have a five-year strategic vision, firstly using Nehemiah 1:1-6 – 'passion for the honour of God with an underpinning of prayer for all actions.

This is to address longer term thinking on growing numbers, staff team and ministry volunteers, Minster Quarter development, diocesan vision and deanery strategy as well as resources of people and finances.

This would be accomplished prayerfully with a biblical framework, identifying and using strategically minded/gifted people. There would be clear parameters, recording processes and a final report deadline, of course with excellent communication to staff and church members. Thus ensuring the whole church buys into the vision and is invested on achieving the goals.

The Meeting broke into smaller groups to discuss and then invited to feedback. David made notes to feed into the process. The Meeting was asked to vote on the proposal:

The Rector and Churchwardens propose to develop a 5-year strategic plan, taking into consideration a number of current and future changes and opportunities, and building on the 1-year strategic aims outlined at this year's APCM under our over-arching mission statement.

Vote: Unanimous.

Thanks extended to David and PCC encouraged to be prayerful on this subject over the summer prior to work commencing in September, aiming to report to APCM.

## **Adult Discipleship**

Stefan presented on the paper previously uploaded. Proposal is for an adult 'Sunday school' – Engage. This is to be a half hour teaching slot after the 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock services. Aims to allow Christians (as opposed to non-Christians on an Alpha course), digging deeper into scripture and discipleship. Topics would be wide-ranging and for a short limited term. Generally the principle was liked but it was felt that the practicalities needed careful consideration on how it is executed. Stefan to go back to the team to develop further.

**Safeguarding.** Richard presented on the uploaded paper in Julia's absence. The four Safeguarding officers have met recently and discussed safe storage of documents. Jonny has reviewed the Children's Policy (due November) so this will be on PCC Agenda for September. Currently five children have additional needs, Julia has provided training explaining trauma in childhood which have been very useful, the team will keep meeting to ensure needs are met. Richard will speak to Julia about extending training to interested PCC members. Julia and Jonny have had termly meeting with Jayne. Becca's meeting will be in August. No children's concerns noted, 3 adult concerns though nothing serious.

Question raised on current ratios in light of a request for many more leaders and helpers. Reassured our ratios are correct but recruiting in anticipation of additional needs and future alteration of ratios.

**Update on Minster Churchyard development (MIS)** Clare updated that new CCTV cameras in the Minster grounds to deter graffiti, plus relevant signage. South and East footpaths in Minster grounds have been re-laid and awaiting top layer to finish. Fencing now moved to North and West sides. Minster will now be using the South Door for visitors and looking to revert to West Door, which saw more footfall once groundwork complete.

## **Mission Support Working Group**

Paper circulated prior to the meeting supporting Lydia Evans as new Mission Partner. David Evans absented himself for this section. The Mission Support Working Group wish to propose that Lydia Evans is adopted as a new Mission Partner with financial support of £300/month from existing Mission Budget. Questions were invited. Lydia plans to be with Amar Dragoste for at least 2/3 years. ECM is the sending organisation and handles finances, she is then seconded to Amar Dragoste.

Vote: 9 for, 3 abstentions (until know more), therefore, it was confirmed that PCC confirmed Lydia as new Mission Partner.

David provides further information below, post meeting.

In reply to OP's question about how Christian is Amar Dragoste since their website does not mention this specifically, on his return to the meeting DE agreed to follow this up and subsequently sent through these comments: Amar Dragoste's website is deliberately careful about what it puts in the public domain because of the nature of its work. It was set up in partnership with a local church in nearby Leganes and the pastor of the church is its President. The director and many of the employees attend that church and the women in the safe houses attend it as well. Anyone working directly with the trafficked women has to be a Christian and provide a reference from their church. While Lydia was exploring to which specific project God might be calling her in Spain, Amor Dragoste was recommended to her by a number of people, including missionaries in Spain, as a powerful Christian ministry, This has been authenticated by the ECM (European Christian Mission) Spanish leadership team, who have recommended to ECM Britain to send Lydia to join Amar Dragoste. ECM Britain will oversee Lydia's general support and ECM Spain have offered any additional local support, if needed, although Amar Dragoste is a very established organisation and will provide Lydia's day-to-day management and oversight.

## **Standing Items:**

- a. **Standing and Finance Committee** no matters

- b. **Treasurer's Report** Adrian sent the report to end of May prior to the meeting. Richard presented in Adrian's absence. Planned giving on track, overall expenditure on track. Other giving is up due to grant for Becca's training and number of one off gifts. Staff costs below budget. Big costs are the building overheads with the gas and electric costs being 109% above budget. Planned givers have increased following the campaign and potentially the deficit has been covered. Contactless donation boxes in the Minster are being well used already yielding a good increase in donations. Box planned for St Matt's noting the shift in how people wish to donate.
- c. **Building and Fabric Committee** Oli updated that the boiler project has finished, Ubique are training four people on how to use the system. Now have two new boilers and two 'back up' boilers – which are the old ones. Radiator valves have also been fitted on all radiators. Having two new and two old boilers will provide enough heat for the church for now, but this solution may not last two winters. Minster Cleaning item relates to high level cleaning, quotes being sought.
- d. **Deanery Synod.** Last meeting had six attendees from St Matthew's & The Minster. The Deanery is putting together their own strategic vision.
- Civic Matters.** Nothing to report

**Any Other Business:** Prison Ministry. Tony has recently completed a three-week zoom prison awareness course to make statement that if ex-offenders went to attend a church they would be welcome here. A similar process would need to be in place similar to Saturday Kitchen and there may need to be Worship Agreements in place in certain instances. Richard asked for more information and in principle the PCC were happy to further explore this to ensure that safeguarding policies would cover this ministry.

Prayer Ministry. Tony proposed that Prayer Ministry be reinstated after the services as it did before the pandemic. It is already happening after the 6.30 service. Many have stepped down from this ministry after the lockdowns so would need new team and someone to co-ordinate. Clare confirmed that the Intercessory Team still prays.

**Meeting closed** in prayer at 9.37pm

**Next meeting:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7.45pm at St Matthew's.