

**PCC Minutes: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**  
**St Luke's Church, Grayshott**  
**Meeting 415 of the PCC in the Timothy Room at 7.00 pm.**

**Present:** PCC Members: Revd. Jeremy Haswell, Sheila Austin, Clive Loder, Hilary Loder, Alice Murphy, Clive Purkiss, Viv Ward, Susanne Wavre, Anna Lescure, Anne Gale-Jones  
**In attendance:** Edward Tobin (PCC Secretary) from 8.00 pm.

**1. Welcome and opening prayer**

The Chairman read a text from Isaiah chapter 55 (vv 1-7) and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Apologies**

Jeremy Hassell, Philippa Whitaker, Susie Millard (LLM).

The Chairman explained that Graeme Bowerbank had resigned from the PCC as he was now working in Saudi Arabia. He thanked Graeme for his contribution as a PCC member.

**3. Minutes of PCC Meeting 414 on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3a Review of the Action List** (Matters arising)

- i. **Safeguarding** – nothing to add under this heading
- ii. **Appeal for restoration of the Weathervane on the Church Spire.** Sheila explained that she could not submit a faculty to the diocese until the funds were available from the appeal. She was not entirely sure how much the total cost would be but thought it was around £7.5k.
- iii. The meeting to discuss the **Vision for St. Luke's** has been arranged with Mission Enabler, Mat Ineson on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00 pm. Sheila had invited several other church members to attend in addition to PCC members.
- iv. **Home Groups.** The Vicar reported that the evening home group that Susie has started is successful. "Hymns we Love" books have been ordered. Hilary asked for a list of the Home Groups and the people leading them and the Vicar agreed to produce this list
- v. **Funding & Staffing for the Base.** This is covered in Hilary's Report.
- vi. **Church Rooms insulation & double glazing** – Sheila reported no progress so far with this.
- vii. **Parish Share discussion with neighbouring parishes.** The Vicar reported he had attended a Parish Needs Process Meeting at St, Andrew's Church in Farnham. Many churches are finding difficulty paying their Parish Share. Suzanne and Sheila had also attended the meeting and they also reported that other churches are struggling and are angry.
- viii. Sheila reported that there had been no action on **hiring the church rooms.**
- ix. Sheila reported that **volunteers are still required** – particularly intercessors.
- x. Sheila had updated the **"Sharing the Load"** document on one-drive for further consideration by the new PCC after the APCM.

**4. End of year Accounts & Charity Commission report**

The treasurer presented the General Fund accounts for the year. The actual £(10k) deficit was better than the budget of £(25k). Regular giving had reduced but donations had increased as had the gift aid reclaimed. Expenditure had reduced

following a cautious approach. There is now a separate fund for the magazine, Grayshott Today, which had made a surplus of £2k.

The statutory accounts had been circulated but only a day or so before this meeting. The Finance Working Group had reviewed the document in detail and the information has been passed to the independent examiner. The treasurer explained that the largest expenses are the Parish Share and for salaries.

The section of the report written by the Chairman of the PCC was considered. Amendments were recommended including the comments on diversity (Page 3, Para 2) to be reworded as "Fantastic representation from an international congregation".

On page 4, under the Parish Council & Local Groups, mention should be made about the Community Profile work that the youth worker (Rhys) is doing with the Parish Council. This is funded by the Parish Council (£350.00). *Since this is in the present financial year, this is to be included in next year's report.*

Hilary asked for the statement on "Holiday Clubs" to be clarified – workshops serving children aged 4 – 10 and a 3 day summer holiday club run by Rhys which averaged 45 children last year.

She asked that the BASE be described as providing **secular** provision of youth services for the village. The description of WAFFFL services on the third Sunday of the month should be an **acronym** (not acrostic).

On page 5 paragraph 2 it should be corrected that the youth club is **not** mainly attended by Grayshott School pupils. Paragraph 3 mentioned a Sunday School but no Sunday School operates at present.

Hilary also noted that people who are not trustees are mentioned in the report even though it is published in the public domain and asked that, in this respect, they are anonymised (unless they are trustees) – only stating their titles / positions.

Viv emphasised that the Chairman's report is important as it is our (the PCC members') report.

The Treasurer continued on the accounts.

The General Reserve can maintain the church expenditure for at least three months. Overall, there is a pleasing surplus of £11k. Regarding income, there is a surplus of £11k. However, the surplus is in Designated Funds, not in the General Fund and these are likely to be spent over the next year. The Weathervane Appeal stands at £5,689.

Suzanne Wavre raised a point about donations to a child in World Vision (not a sponsorship).

In view of the number of amendments to be made, the PCC's approval was deferred. **A revised report would be circulated to the PCC members electronically and approval by email\*.**

The chairman thanked the treasurer for his hard work.

## **5. Reports**

- a) **Vicar's Report** – The Vicar asked for clarification in payment of the £8k. Suzanne asked for clarification about live-streaming while people are going up to Communion and Clive Loder reassured her that people are not seen on live

streaming. The safeguarding officer emphasized that only people who give their written permission can be seen on live streaming. Suzanne asked for clarification about a powerpoint talk she will be giving.

### **b) Churchwarden's Report**

Sheila reminded PCC members to make sure they complete Electoral Roll forms. This was Sheila's last report as a churchwarden. She thanked her Assistant Churchwardens for their support.

### **c) Safeguarding Report**

Hilary had circulated a brief report on safeguarding. Documents to secure permissions for adults and children in church for use of images/streaming are about to be circulated to key contributors to services and will then be introduced more widely for all members of the congregation.

She asked that these be kept as paper copies in a paper file. In the future, these could be put on computer quite easily.

### **d) Youth & Children's Work**

Hilary had circulated a report to the PCC. She confirmed that the junior bellringing band had started the previous Friday with 3 very keen youngsters taking part. She thanked Stu Aitken, the Tower Captain, for his diligence in getting this project going. It is a milestone for the BASE in having the youngsters involved in village activities.

The youth worker, Rhys McLaren, is working on the Community Profile for Grayshott in association with the Parish Council. He will be leaving in September and the £3k grant from East Hampshire DC comes to an end. An application for £3k is going ahead in the coming financial year. Hilary has spoken to Darren Knight at Seymours Estate Agents seeking sponsorship and the vicar said the St. Edmund's School may be willing to help us. There is also a legacy of £10k available.

Looking forward, it is suggested that Rhys's replacement in September should be a Youth and Families worker rather than just a Youth Worker. After Babes & Toddlers, there is a gap in the church's provision for youngsters. This is partly filled by Susie Millard's work with Grayshott School and partly with the holiday workshops and summer holiday club and WAFFFL monthly Sunday services.

Hilary asked the PCC to endorse the extended role in seeking a replacement youth worker. Despite the uncertain funding, she emphasised the importance of the BASE as a community youth club in Grayshott. Viv noted the support the Parish Council have given in the past and suggested we ask if the £3k grant might be increased. However, Hilary pointed out the constraints.

***The Vicar proposed that the PCC endorse the plan and Suzanne seconded it and there was unanimous approval from PCC members.***

### **6) Prayer Report & Outreach**

The Vicar expounded on the work St.Luke's is doing in local care homes.

### **7) Hospitality**

Anne Gale-Jones had submitted a report and the Vicar thanked her.

## **8) Other Business**

### **Staff Pay Review**

Clive Purkiss outlined proposals for a salary increase for Anna Gilderson, Office Administrator. At present she is on the bottom of Band B but, having discussed this with her, Clive explained that she is getting overstretched with the 12 hours/ week she is working. The PCC approved a 3% increase that was thought to be in line with the budget. The Treasurer was asked to check whether the budget was actually calculated at 3% before going ahead with the increase. Attempts to engage volunteer assistants in administration over the past year had not been successful. The Vicar was aware of a parishioner who is now living in Australia who has offered voluntary services remotely. He would follow this up.

### **PCC Members leaving this year**

The Vicar thanked Jeremy Hassell, Alice Murphy and Clive Purkiss who are leaving at the APCM. He also thanked Graeme Bowerbank who has had to resign from the PCC from work commitments. He noted that Sheila Austin was stepping down as churchwarden leaving 2 vacancies for the post of churchwarden and 4 vacancies for PCC members. There is also a vacancy for a Deanery Synod Representative which has remained unfilled over the past year. He thanked Sheila for all her work as well as the Assistant Churchwardens and PCC secretary.

The meeting finished in prayer at 9.05 pm

**Date of APCM:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

### **\*End of year Accounts & Charity Commission report**

***The revised report was circulated to all PCC members following the meeting and was approved.***