



**St James's
Church
Piccadilly**

**Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday 30 January 2023 Congregation Report**

The PCC meeting on the evening of Monday 30 January was packed full of interesting items and some important decisions.

The 2022 PCC initial end-of-year numbers were discussed in detail and there was satisfaction that the end of year outturn was better than had been anticipated in the budget with both income increased and expenditure reduced more than was forecast. It was agreed to set up a Finance Committee consisting of some PCC members but also co-opting external people with appropriate expertise in order to examine carefully our financial systems and procedures so as to ensure that they are fit for purpose and to give support to our staff who manage the finances. This will be separate from our Audit Committee which takes a more independent view about compliance and our adherence to our financial strategy and budget.

SJP has a living Risk Register which is updated regularly but this will now be available for PCC members to scrutinize at any time via a link and not just when presented at PCC meetings. This will mean much closer oversight of our risks and how we manage them by our governing body, the PCC.

At every meeting of the PCC there is a standing item on safeguarding so that any new developments or issues can be raised – this is an issue taken most seriously by SJP.

As is the practice at every PCC meeting we select certain policies from the Handbook for regular updating and this time the PCC approved revised Health & Safety and Procurement policies. We are still actively considering changes to our Business Continuity (formerly called our Disaster Recovery) Plan which specifies what we should do in the event of a major incident such as our offices becoming uninhabitable etc.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to discussing security measures for SJP so as to ensure that all who use our premises can do so safely and without fear or danger. In addition to changing our security provider, we shall be seeking permission for the installation of some CCTV cameras outside the church but also removable ones for events inside the church (there for some events but removed for prayer and church services).

The PCC received exciting programmes for the year from both Richard Parry our Creative Director and Brian Willetts our Development Director. Richard set out his plans for 2023 through a Powerpoint presentation including the Piano Festival; Burial Ground Exhibition (17-31 March and 10-23 April working with the Museum of London Archaeology with five figures made out of cardboard which will be seated in the church); PREACH on 3 March (also May, July, September & December) which is an early evening drag night; possibly a Courtyard Outdoor Stage/Pavilion which would be

made out of bamboo and fabric for the summer; *Cugvano250* in September/October with permission sought for a permanent art commission in the narthex for the 250th anniversary of Cugvano's baptism in the church; Christmas with a mixture of events. In this way we hope to be a seat for nurturing talent by investing in potential which should be part of the narrative. It is also an opportunity to chip away at the historic cruelty of the Church towards LGBTQ communities.

Brian Willetts commented on ongoing fundraising from our American Friends towards the Wren Project. A new Corporate Friends has been established in which businesses undertake to pay at least £3,500 each which is the daily cost of running the church – if we can get 365 businesses to join our hopes would be fulfilled! There will be the inauguration of the annual lecture “Imagine the World to be Different” with exciting speakers delivering it. The Christmas Gala will have a new SJP Song Book and new song for Christmas.

We very much hope that you will want to participate fully in our programmes and in the life of the church.

It is not too late for me to wish you all a very happy and fulfilling New Year.

Keith Best
PCC Secretary