

**Parochial Church Council Meeting  
Monday 30 October 2023  
Congregational Life**

**CONGREGATIONAL REPORT**

The PCC meeting on Monday 30 October was one of the two held each year which looks at congregational life rather than business matters (which are the subject of the four quarterly PCC meetings for that purpose). As usual, it was a good turnout with most PCC members meeting in person and two online. We started with prayers and personal introductions.

Despite the main purpose of the meeting there were some business issues that needed urgent attention. One was to note the welcome news that the Diocese has agreed to allow all the works associated with the Wren Project to proceed. Faculty permission has officially been granted! It was recorded that of the many gravestones that were discovered during the HS2 building works near Euston Station from the old St James's burial ground (and which were by order going to be destroyed) some thirty of the more legible and intact ones have been saved by some deft intervention by our Rector and Operations Director and are currently in storage. The plan is to reinstate these in our courtyard incorporated into the Wren Project works. The more urgent business was an examination of our Business Plan for 2024 and the current financial situation and whether this needs to be changed in the light of current circumstances. We are in line to just about break even by the end of the year but this is based on the expectation that a further £150k of income will be generated by that time. It will be touch and go but it is hoped that the Christmas Appeal, the appeal to the Congregation recently, the activities of the Development Department and other matters will see us on the right side. The issue and remarks of the PCC will be reported in the following week to our Audit & Finance (Risk) Committee which gives detailed scrutiny to such matters and makes comments. This Committee (with both independent and PCC members on it) is a valuable safeguard and external scrutiny to ensure that SJP is responsible in its management of our finances. Key financial discussions are the necessity to generate surpluses, or is it sufficient to break even. The reserves level was discussed, and advice will be taken from the independent Finance and Audit (Risk) Committee.

There will be online safeguarding training to be undertaken by PCC members (Basic and Foundation courses) which will take place in November. PCC members (who by virtue of that elected position are also trustees of the church as a charity and, therefore, are subject to oversight by the Charity Commission) are also being encouraged to undertake free training provided by professional firms of accountants and lawyers in what the exercise of those duties entails.

Now that the proposed partnership with St Pancras, Euston, has been made public and that our Rector will also become the Priest in Charge at St Pancras we shall be, in time, sharing services with them in the interests of efficiency. The Rector outlined a new staffing structure in an organogram to replace the present one of a Senior Management Team with a series of

managers responsible for different areas of our work but stressed that none of this re structure can proceed without the associated necessary funding.

After a close examination the PCC was content unanimously to endorse the current Business Plan.

The main business of the meeting was a discussion about all of SJP's Sunday activities and which ones the PCC were most favourable towards. Unsurprisingly, there was general support for nearly all of the Sunday activities with just a few suggestions such as to a lesser frequency for newcomers' lunches etc. There was strong support for a continuing cultural programme but an acceptance that we cannot afford to allow this to be loss-making. Savings will be made in that department and our Creative Director, Richard Parry, attended the meeting to inform the PCC that he is moving to a new job and so this was his valedictory meeting. He was wished well and warmly congratulated on all that he has done, especially the Cugoano programme, to raise the cultural life of SJP. One of the savings for the future is that his post will not be renewed but, instead, a new part time Programme Manager may be appointed.

**Keith Best**  
**PCC Secretary**  
**31/10/2023**