Minutes of St Francis of Assisi AGM

**Held on Tuesday 18th April 2023**

**Present at Meeting:** Rev Anika Gardiner, Keith Minty,Martin Burton, Sue Cook, Robert Cook, Pat Daniels, Robin Boswell, Anne Edmondson, Les and Margaret Herbert, Steve McDonnell, Elhana Derrick, Caroline Hughes, Clare Hudson, Sally Burton & Judith Shore

1. Anika welcomed everyone to the meeting with a reading from Hebrews 12 v1& 2 and prayer ‘ we must put aside each heavy weight .......’we are in it for the long haul’.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Rachel Shaw & Jenny Minty
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th April 2022 & Matters Arising–** Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting, these were signed as correct by Anika.
4. **A) Financial Statement and Treasurer report –**

Keith had already circulated the accounts and a précis prior to the meeting. Planned giving is down slightly. Cash collections are up, mainly due to the Eco service. Rentals have increased.

Mission – our aim is to give 10% of our income. We gave £4150 to Ukraine, Rice centre and other charities last year.

The Diocesan share is up from previous year – we’re paying a slightly higher rate to help the Diocese.

Energy contract is fixed for 5 years until Oct 23, and will be fixed for another 3 years but there is a big increase in costs

Caretaker wages have increased but we pay Katie 6hrs caretaker and 3hrs for toddlers.

Income is down but still owed some rentals money

Thanks to Keith for all his hard work and looking after the finances so well.

b) **Churchwardens report and Fabric report**

Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Martin thanked Sally for all her support and also to Sally and Robin for choosing all the hymns.

c) **Secretary’s report**

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Nothing to add. Thanks were given to Sue for all she does

d)  **Electoral Roll –** 33 on the register with 3 joiners and 1 leaver over the year.

1. **Vicars Report**

Another year has passed, another vicar’s report.

One highlight was the Christmas period. Our carol service was well attended, we were able to have refreshments afterwards. Thank you! We also took our worship to the Charlton when we treated them to our carol singing. This was the second year of us doing that. We were in the pub this year and people seemed to really enjoy and appreciate it, some came especially for the carol singing. Needless to say that we will do that again in December 2023.

Due to advertising and also a successful craft event, our Christingle service on Christmas Eve was packed with 70 people attending. We just had enough oranges.

**Building**

Our building is busy throughout the week, with lots of regular bookings as well as one off party bookings and we are very grateful to Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter for their hard work, and their dedication. People always comment on the lovely welcome they get.

In April 2022 we had a working party of clearing the stage, which meant that the toddler toys were moved from underneath the stage to the top of the stage which makes it a lot easier to set up for toddlers. It was a brilliant team effort. We have also had the floors done over October half term.

We have started to look at updating our heating as the church doesn’t get very warm in the colder months.

**Community**

We continue to be a centre well used within the community and I was invited to speak at Brownies and St John Ambulance over the last year. Both our toddler groups (WLTDO and Wednesday mornings) are going well. So well in fact we have had weeks where we have to turn families away because it is so busy. We want to ensure everyone in the building is safe and has a good time. While it is great to have this many families come, it also then provides a challenge in as far as looking ahead. Where else do we meet these families? What do we invite them to?

During the Christmas holidays we put on a craft morning which lots of local families enjoyed, it was busier than I had anticipated and a great way to meet families.

I am also keeping up the link with Castle School, having taken a number of assemblies over this last year.

We did a litter pick and afterwards enjoyed coffee and cake in the hall.

2022 was the year the fellowship meals started up again, thanks to Keith and Sue for organising those.

We also tidied up the garden at the Rice Centre, near the RUH in Bath.

**Future**

Looking ahead, it feels right to build upon the events from Christmas which is why as DCC we have agreed to run 4 Messy Churches this year. The first one will have happened by the time we have our annual meeting. It feels right and exciting to engage with families from our community, trying to build up relationships with them.

We also ought to look at what next step we can offer our WLTDO and Toddler group families as they are a bit too young for Messy Church.

Being aware that some of our members are lonely or could do with a friendly chat, we will start a coffee morning once a month to enable people to get together and enjoy a nice cuppa.

Also, as the clergy situation will change over this coming year, we will have to be adaptable.

Finally, a thank you. To all of you for all you do and bring to St Francis. Thank you for your continued support, for being willing to embrace new things. Thank you for those fulfilling a variety of roles, to those on DCC and PCC, on all sorts of rotas, to Martin as churchwarden and all those working in the background.

1. **Nominations for two Churchwardens.**

Martin is willing to continue as church warden and was proposed by Clare Hudson and seconded by Steve McDonnell. All were in favour. There were no other nominations for Church warden

1. **Election of up to two members of Keynsham Parochial Church Council**

Robert Cook already on PCC but needs to be re-elected. Proposed by Steve McDonnell and seconded by Judith Shore. All in favour

1. **Election of members of St Francis DCC** –

Sue Cook, Keith Minty, Jenny Minty Elhana Derrick, Caroline Hughes and Steve McDonnell all willing to continue on DCC.

Pat has decided to step down from DCC this year. Anika thanked her for all she has done and continues to do for St Francis.

**AOB –** 7th May Eco-service at St Francis will be cancelled as Parish service at St Johns for the coronation of King Charles.

**Anika closed the meeting in Prayer**

**9 – Brief meeting of newly formed DCC to elect officers.**

Lay Chair – Robert Cook was proposed by Martin and seconded by Keith

Keith Minty was elected as Treasurer and was proposed by Robert and seconded by Caroline

Sue Cook was elected as secretary, proposed by Caroline and seconded by Robert.

Next DCC Meeting

Thursday 25th May at 7pm