**Notes on the 374th Council Meeting held on 3rd July, 2021**

At the Council Meeting held on 11th September the Minutes of the July meeting were signed by Father Leonard as a correct report of proceedings, as follows:

*Financial Report, Protestant Cemetery in Athens, Fundraising*

* Hon. Treasurer, Nelly Paraskevopoulou reported that income continued to suffer from the lack of fundraising events cause by Covid restrictions on gatherings, whilst expenses remained the same, and the deficit for May and June alone was € 4,360. There had been a slight increase in church attendance and therefore in offertories but she stressed the importance of large and regular fundraising events and hoped that it would be possible to hold some before too long. An application had been made to the Diocesan Hardship Fund.
* Negotiations to hand control of the Protestant Cemetery (located in the First Cemetery of Athens) to a Church Committee (Anglican, Greek Evangelical, Swedish and German) were proceeding - St. Paul’s should receive a contribution from monies that were held by the present controlling body. 100 spaces were available and could not be pre-purchased and an area would be set aside for cremated remains now that this was allowed in Greece.
* Organiser Lynn Stavrou said that the Summer Raffle was going well and it was hoped to hold a Christmas Bazaar in early December in the foyer of the National War Museum.

*Covid Update*

Father Leonard reported no changes to existing rules – a congregation of 15 was allowed inside the church building with others in the garden. Coffee after the service was not possible. He stressed that, as members of a ‘guest’ church in Greece and despite the actions of the Greek Orthodox Church, we must adhere strictly to the rules in order to avoid heavy fines. Changes were expected in August, hopefully positive.

*Environmental Report*

At the request of our Local Environmental Officer (LEO), Linda Paparsenos, it was agreed that a mail shot should be done asking for volunteers to form an Environmental Team.

*Swedish Church*

From 1st August Father Bjorn Kling, Pastor of the Swedish Church in Athens, for legal reasons, would join the payroll of the Board of the Anglican Church in Greece, but continue to be financed from Uppsala, Sweden, and Bishop Robert and Father Bjorn’s Bishop, Thomas, would provide a simple and workable contract. As a result, we could look forward to even closer cooperation with the Swedish Church.

*Safeguarding Report*

Safeguarding Officer Lynn Stavrou reported that she and Nelly Paraskevopoulou had completed the Leadership Safeguarding Training Session.

*Diocesan Data Protection Policy*

Hon. Secretary Jean Mertzanakis said anyone wishing to serve as a Council member should note that the Diocese no longer needed written permission regarding dissemination of their contact details - these were distributed only at Diocesan level and never externally.

*Any Other Business*

* It was planned to produce an extended version of the Church Guide Book to mark the 200th anniversary of the Greek State. It would celebrate relations with Britain, tell the story of St. Paul’s since 1843, share our experience during the financial and refugee crises and include some personal reflections from St. Paul’s congregation. Private funding of €3,000 was available and an offer to print received - a copy would cost €10. Submissions for possible inclusion could be sent to Father Leonard.
* The Social Media Policy of the Diocese in Europe had been signed by our Bishops and senior Diocesan staff – an important consideration being the responsible and polite use of email. On receipt of further information Council members would be encouraged to sign also. Regarding the publication of photographs of children under the age of 18, in print or online, not only verbal but written agreement should be obtained from a parent or guardian and consent slips would be kept in the Church vestry.

*Any Other Business*

* The provision of lectern lighting would be looked into.
* In order to regulate use of the church for bookings related to worship e.g. organ practice, as opposed to commercial bookings, Father Leonard, Churchwardens and organist and events programmer, Christine Antoniadou, would decide on a reasonable protocol. Jason Marmaras was to be congratulated on his appointment to a teaching post in the music department of the University of Vienna and thanked for providing an Anglican Evensong service of an extraordinarily high standard at St. Paul’s.
* Father Leonard would arrange for the organ to be serviced and suggested that the German church be asked if they wished their own organ to be serviced at the same time.

***Jean Mertzanakis (Hon. Secretary)***