**Report on the 377th Meeting of St. Paul’s Parish Council – 13/11/21**

The meeting opened at 10.30 a.m. with a prayer and the Minutes of the 376th Meeting were signed by Father Leonard as a correct record of proceedings. The following matters were then discussed:

***Covid update*** – no change to regulations.

**Finances:** October income of €8,338 and expenses of €13,024 led to a deficit €4,686. Apart from Offertory and other donations, the majority of our income comes from fundraising events, details of which are given below. €1,000 still had to be paid to the electrician for new meters.

**Safeguarding:** Safeguarding Officer Lynn Stavrou reported that due to certification being required by anyone having close contact with children there would be no Kids Korner at the Christmas Bazaar and Father Christmas would circulate around the venue rather than being seated. Facepainting would be done by a Safeguarding certificated volunteer.

**Swedish Church:** Father Hokken from Uppsala had visited Athens as part of an assessment of the funding and deployment of clergy outside Sweden and a meeting had been held regarding further cooperation, under the terms of the Porvoo Agreement, which established full communion between 15 Anglican & Scandinavian Lutheran churches. It was therefore possible for Father Leonard and Pastor Bjorn to provide services for both congregations in Athens and a proposal would be drawn up accordingly.

**Fundraising:** It was noted with appreciation that the Greek-themed event held by Father James in the UK had made €1,600. The Harvest Festival had raised €1,610 and it was agreed that this event be published even more widely in future. Organisation of the Christmas Bazaar was underway at the new venue of the War Museum, in central Athens and adjacent to a Metro station and a large car-parking facility. The first Quiz Evening since February 2020 had been held at the Swedish Centre in Plaka and Jean said that there would be more of these than usual in future due to popular demand. The Website Christmas Fundraiser Stars in the Sky was up and running. The revised Church History Booklet would shortly be finalised and the purchase price would €10. Monies raised by the Bishop’s Advent Appeal would go to areas seriously affected by climate change with Greece receiving approximately €3,000 for education programmes for children whose schools had been damaged by forest fires – the congregation would be asked to collect small coins and submit them to Treasurer Nelly after Christmas. Church concert organiser, Christina, had been forced to turn down requests due to Covid restrictions on numbers that made them financially non-viable for the organisers. Council agreed, therefore, that hire charges be temporarily reduced to €150 for 4 hours and €20 for both each extra hour and the cleaning and disinfecting of the church afterwards. Our lawyer would draw up a contract ensuring that the church was not liable for possible infringement of Covid regulations.

**Christmas Programme**: Due to Covid regulations on gatherings it was decided that there would no Carol Sing-Along and no Sing-Along Messiah but there would be a Zoom Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

**Any Other Business**: Council agreed that Melissa Dixon and Oliver Knight be approached regarding co-option for a year onto the Church Council and the meeting closed with the Grace at 12.15 p.m.

*2022 Council meetings*: To be arranged.

*Jean Mertzanakis (Hon. Secretary)*

*10th February 2022*