

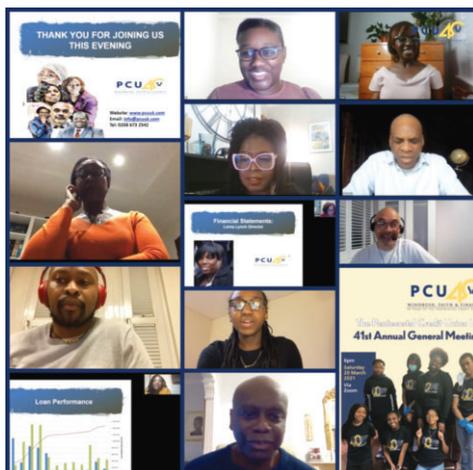
Annual General Meeting

Our second virtual AGM, hosted on 20 March 2021, was one of the most successful AGMs we have ever had – with record attendance of over 120 people coming from all over the country. This was a first and a very important outcome for a national organisation like ours.

Key highlights of the evening included:

- a powerfully instructive presentation from keynote speaker **Lee Ann Diaz**, a solicitor, on wills and tax planning
- the election of **Superintendent Geoffrey Folkes**, from Church Of God in Christ, to the PCU Board
- the election of **Moses Williamson**, Chair of our Youth Shadow Board to the PCU Board, and
- the adoption of an annual dividend of 0.5% – once again comparing favourably to instant access accounts from high street banks.

Thank you to those who came. We appreciate and value you all, as we continue to provide you with the best possible service.



Here are just some of the amazing reviews we received:

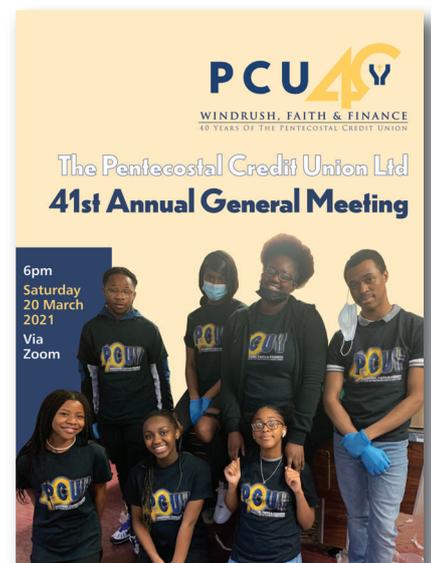
Thank you for the care and support you give to our Pentecostal members and their families.

Well done for an excellent meeting. More power to you. Onwards to our better collective future.

Very important to amplify PCU as a Black-led organisation, setting exemplary standards.

Legacy building is essential for sustainability and longevity. Excellent to see Moses nominated to the Board.

Blessing to Pastor and Sis Jones for their vision and this legacy, which is exploding. Well done PCU Team.



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Rev. Geoffrey Folkes joins the PCU Board

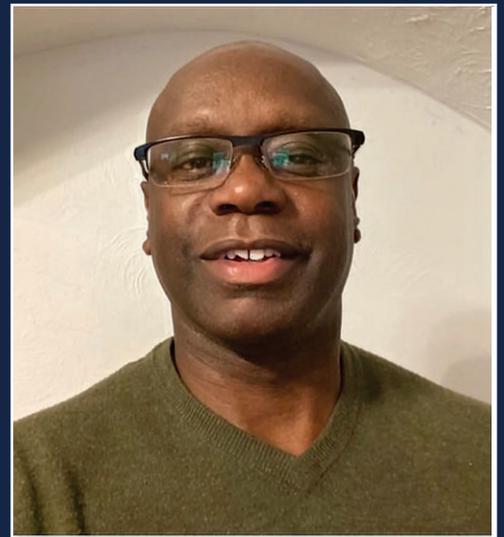
We are delighted to announce that Rev. Geoffrey Folkes has joined the Board of the Pentecostal Credit Union.

Rev. Folkes serves as the Pastor of the Calvary Church of God In Christ, in Northumberland Park, Tottenham. He also supervises four other churches in his district and is Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of the organisation.

Rev. Folkes is involved in a number of local initiatives, including Haringey Multi-Faith Forum, Christian Churches Together in Tottenham, Safer Neighbourhood Board Haringey and Haringey Giving. His Church has been asked to be a safe space for domestic abuse in Haringey, working with Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Rev. Folkes has also been running a business for the past 20 years, which was created to help people set up businesses of their own. He has worked with a number of small and medium-sized businesses, by providing support in areas such as business planning, business strategy, business growth, raising finance and financial management.

We welcome Rev. Folkes to the Board.



UPDATE

PCU digital learning hub

We are making great progress on our plans to launch a digital learning hub at PCU.

As reported in the last issue, our decision to set up a digital learning hub came in response to outcomes from the webinar we held a year ago, on Recession and Black Communities in the UK. We saw a need in our (and in all) communities for digital upskilling and re-skilling.

On 3 June, we held an introductory workshop, where Penny Carbello Smith, who is CEO of Future Think, delivered a frank and truly inspiring presentation about the future of work and the phenomenon of global digitisation.

Carole Litchmore – founder of First Principles Advisory, a training and development consultancy, and one of the facilitators of the learning hub, then walked us through a typical journey for the digital learner.

We are working to create a safe and empowering space, for a journey that, for some, could be challenging but necessary. To find out more about it, go to the dedicated page on our website, at www.pcuuk.com/PCU-DIGITAL-LEARNING-HUB-LAUNCH

We are planning to launch the hub in September, so do get in touch if you are interested in joining. The learning hub is open to everyone and not only PCU members.

There's still time to register your interest for the learning hub. Just call us on 020 8673 2542 or email info@pcuuk.com to find out more. Thank you to everyone who attended the workshop on 3rd June. We are really excited about the prospects for our Digital Learning Hub.



Financial resilience workshops are a roaring success

During July, we held a series of four workshops on Zoom, exploring various aspects of financial resilience.

Over the four weeks, we discussed topics including:

- how to be smart with your money
- debt and your credit report
- legacy planning, and
- financial planning and budgeting.

The workshops were free and attended by more than 250 people.

Thank you to all who attended. By popular demand, we will be running these workshops a second time in the autumn.

Look out for information on our website and social media channels about how you can join.

What you told us

"Hi Elaine – just wanted to say I really loved the workshop yesterday. You really touched on some excellent issues and I loved your honesty, so thank you."

"I really enjoyed the session and loved the connection between emotional intelligence and financial resilience – so important to recognise."

"Thank you for a very informative and enjoyable session. You make money management and knowledge very interesting and enjoyable."

The Pentecostal Credit Union presents

BUILDING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE POST LOCKDOWN

Zoom Online - Starts Thursday 8 July - 7pm-8pm
Join the discussion with the Pentecostal Credit Union



Elaine Bowes



David Frederick

SESSION TOPICS OVER FOUR WEEKS

DATES: July 15, 22, 29

HOW to be SMART about MONEY

WAYS to protect your credit rating

BUILDING a legacy to safeguard the future

The **IMPORTANCE** of financial planning and budgeting

FREE REGISTRATION

To book visit www.eventbrite.com

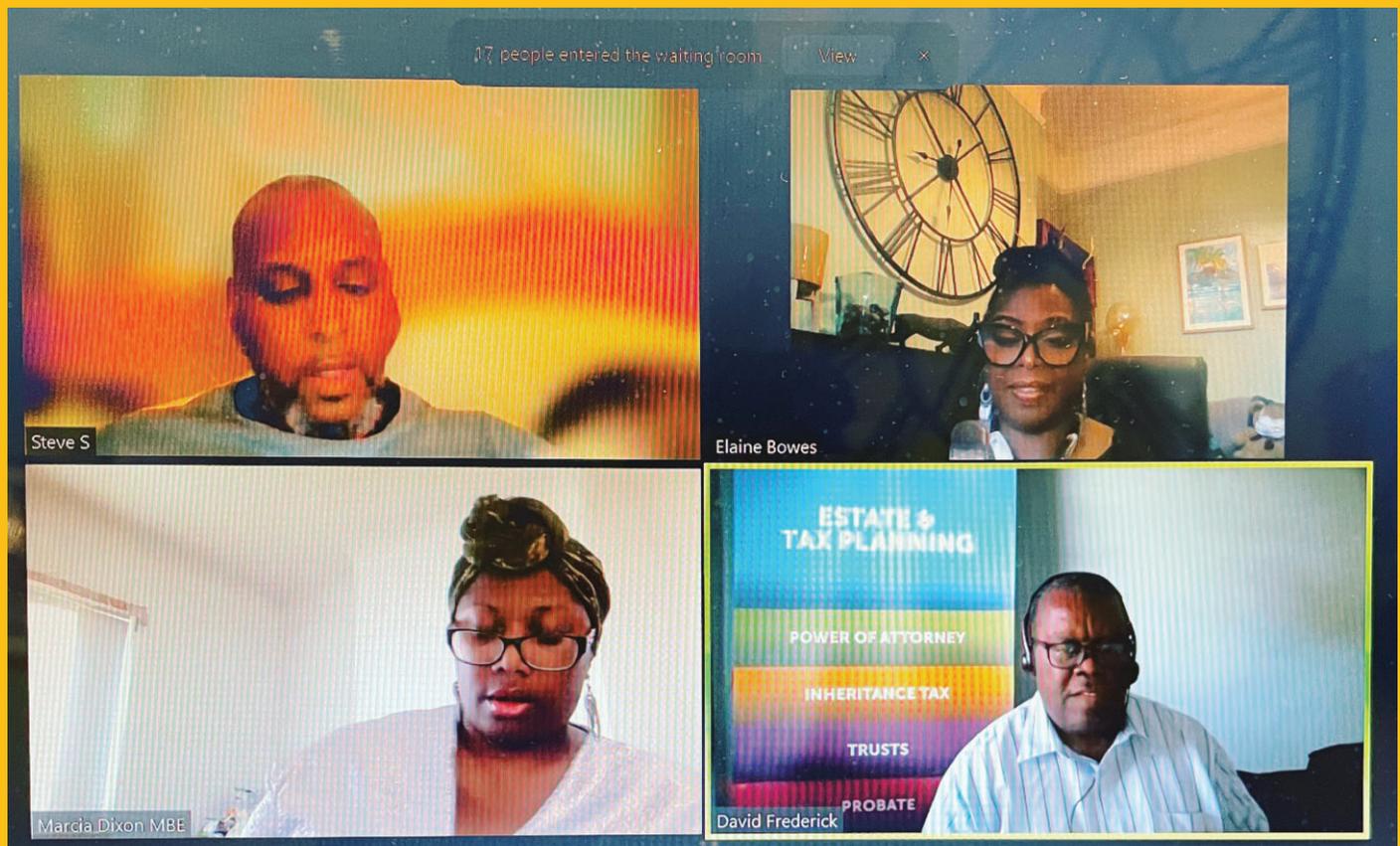
For further details email: elaine.bowes@pcuuk.com Tel: 020 8673 2542

The PCU is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to provide financial services.



"David, you are so funny; poignant points for life, thank you."

"Thank you Elaine and David for an excellent series of sessions. You have given us lots to go on with and change."



PCU gets out and about *Exhibitions, here we come!*

As lockdown is now at an end, we have the opportunity to showcase our business and our work at two very important, and especially relevant, exhibitions in October.

The Christian Resources Exhibition

The Christian Resources Exhibition will take place at Sandown Park in Surrey between 12-14 October.

We will have an exhibition stand and we will jointly sponsor – with the Christian charity, Good to Give – three seminar events over the three days, exploring the legacy of Windrush.

In addition to these seminars, on 14 October, we will host a panel debate



entitled: *John 17:21 – “That they all may be one”: Exploring diversity and difference in the church.*

The panel will comprise of eminent and learned commentators and practitioners in the field of diversity and the church.

The discussion will explore current issues of racial diversity in the church and the 40+ year journey of the Pentecostal Credit Union in traversing

this territory. We will show how, as a credit union, we are responding to prevailing inequalities.

More details

For more information about the exhibition go to issuu.com/christianresources/docs/cre_national_2021_brochure

Do come along to our stand, if you can get down to Sandown Park.

The UK Black Business Show

On 30 October, we will be exhibiting for the first time at the UK Black Business Show at the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Centre in London.



The UK Black Business Show was created to inspire and connect Black business owners and working professionals.

The show will highlight the achievements and contributions that Black businesses have made to the UK economy.

Attendees are promised cutting-edge insight and advice in entrepreneurship, leadership, soft skills and cultural development from some of the UK's leading Black business owners.

Come along and support the PCU. Go to www.ukblackbusinessshow.co.uk for more information and to buy your tickets.

Moses Williamson

Under the spotlight

We are proud and delighted to announce that Moses Williamson has joined the Board of the Pentecostal Credit Union.

Moses is the Chair of the PCU Youth Shadow Board (YSB) and his appointment to the PCU Board is especially important to us, because it fulfils a key strategic aim of the YSB.

Through our leadership development interventions, we aim to see YSB members transcend to positions of leadership. We expect to see our YSB members as leaders in our churches, in our communities, in their careers and at the PCU. The PCU's YSB represents PCU succession planning at its most poignant.

Elaine Bowes, our Head of Marketing and Communications, caught up with Moses, who is currently on a gap year. He plans to go on to further his education and experience, with a view to becoming a teacher.

Elaine: How would you say being a member of the Youth Shadow Board prepared you for membership of the main Board?

Moses: When I first started at the YSB I wasn't that confident and certainly not a leader. The YSB has helped me gain the skills and confidence needed to lead. PCU picked us all up and taught us public speaking so that we could present to hundreds of people – which we have done. Also, I learnt how to represent the interests of a whole group of people, each with different perspectives. There is no doubt that it helped me to develop into the person that I am today.

Elaine: What do you want to gain from being on the PCU Board?

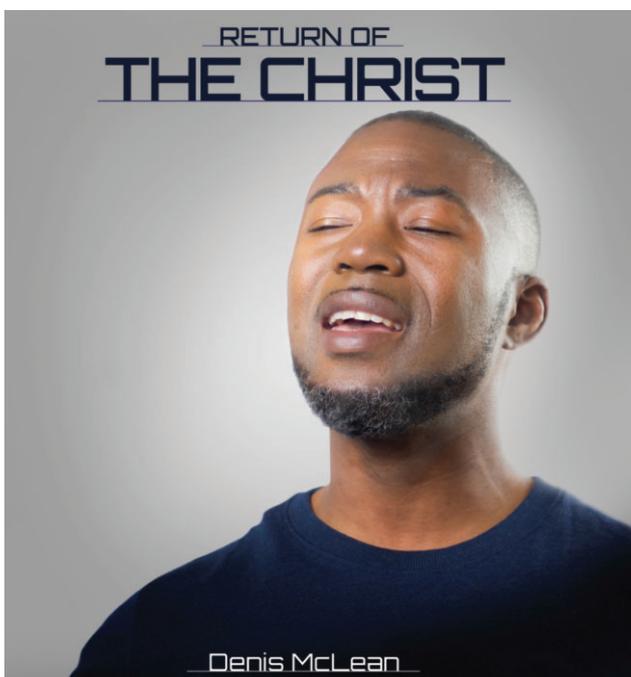
Moses: Experience – this is my first-ever board appointment and, of course, it's bigger and more serious than YSB business. I'm learning about corporate money, finance and investments, as well as other aspects of managing an institution, really.



Elaine: And what do you want to give to the PCU Board?

Moses: The perspective of young savers – injecting a younger voice to the management of the PCU, and, of course, speaking on behalf of the YSB, as long as I am their Chair.

PCU Shares says: Congratulations, Moses and welcome to the PCU Board!



Celebrating member achievements Denis McLean: Return of The Christ

At PCU we are always proud to promote the achievements of our members.

On 15 July, we were able to do just that, as our gospel reggae artist extraordinaire, Denis McLean released his second and latest, 12-track album entitled, *Return of the Christ*.

You can listen to the entire album or buy it here: hyperurl.co/ReturnOfTheChrist

You can link with Denis on social media here: linktr.ee/Denismclean

Please listen to the album and support Denis.

Our Lauren's business: Arbella's Baby Box

Since leaving the PCU, Lauren Humphris, our former Loans Officer and Business Administrator, has set up her own online retail business.



Members will remember Lauren Humphris, who was a key member of our team for six years, from 2013-19. During that time, she had her first baby – the beautiful Bella.

Lauren is now selling exclusive baby and children's clothing, under the brand name of Arbella's Baby Box (go to arbellas-baby-box-co.uk).

Elaine, our Head of Marketing and Comms, spoke with her, after seeing her stunning designs on Instagram.

Elaine: What led you into designing and selling children's clothing?

Lauren: After I had Bella, I realised how much I loved dressing her up. But the clothes can be very expensive. You can spend £100 on a dress that she might only wear once or twice. So, I spotted a gap in the market for good quality dresses at affordable prices. It was a very slow process. I had to build up trust, but I was really passionate about it, and just kept on pushing and pushing, and building up trust and a loyal customer base. As you can imagine, the market is extremely competitive, with big brands taking the lions' share, but I still saw a place for my brand.



Elaine: Tell me about your journey, because you're now designing, not just selling, children's clothing.

Lauren: Yes, this is my second season of selling my own designs exclusively. I'm creating a label I want customers to identify with, so that we are their no. 1 choice. We are an online shop – I created the website myself. I studied other brands and remembered so much from the workshops that I went to at PCU, when we were creating the website. The phrase, "It should take no more than three clicks to view and make a purchase" strongly resonated with me.

Elaine: Tell me about the social media presence and how lockdown has impacted your business.

Lauren: I have a platform on Facebook and Instagram, but Instagram is where we have our main audience. Arbella's really took off during lockdown. We had a steady flow of business before the first lockdown, but during the lockdown period orders peaked. It was building up every month, from April 2020 until July 2021. It has slowed down somewhat since, with changes to Instagram and their algorithms, but it's still very good trade.

Elaine: The name Arbella's Baby Box – I immediately thought of your daughter Bella. Where did you get the inspiration for the name?

Lauren: Exactly that. The inspiration came from Bella – my daughter. I also saw a documentary about an English noblewoman, who nearly became queen, and her name was Arbella, and it sounded like 'our Bella'. I thought it was perfect.

Elaine: Has your time with PCU had an impact on your business?



Lauren: Yes, of course – hugely in many areas. The first is how my time at PCU gave me the confidence to do this. Particularly in relation to my customer service role at PCU. We always got good customer feedback at PCU, and I learnt how important this is to a business. The fact that I knew about good customer feedback built up my confidence to put myself out there. Marketing and the importance of the brand, and the PCU Ambassador programme and brand reps – learning which I thrive on now. I used to do the quarterly returns with Shane, and that really set me up well for my tax returns. I remember how Shane made decisions and, when there are challenges, I frequently find myself asking "What would Shane do?". I worked with Shane for six years and I learned so much from him.

Elaine: Finally, what does the future hold for Arbella's Baby Box?

Lauren: I want to get into wholesale and to have pop ups in every department store, and a complete online service. It's hard work, but I wouldn't have it any other way. It doesn't feel like work because I enjoy it so much.