



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
held on **Wednesday 20th May 2020** at 2.30pm via Zoom

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), Anne Morris, Caroline Pascoe, Fiona Barnaby, (Deanery Synod), Janet Cooper (Churchwarden), Freda Davies, Bryan Jones, Roy Milnes, John Setchfield (Churchwarden), Keith Richards, Mark Sanderson (Deanery Synod), Paul Eward (Deanery Synod), Peter Raddenbury (Treasurer), Peter Reynolds, Rachel Lewis (Secretary) and Tim Waters

1. Opening prayers

The Rector began with a prayer.

2. Apologies

to receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Christine Cattanach and following the meeting from Karen Vitale.

3. Chairman's welcome

The Rector welcomed everyone to the first PCC Zoom meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would not be recorded (an option in zoom).

4. Closed Churchyard

to note that the Council's contractor is keeping the grass tidy in the closed churchyard, the gate is now being kept locked and permission has been given to fell trees as recommended by the Council at the March meeting.

It was noted that the trees in question have now been felled. There was nothing further to report.

Open churchyard

to note that Alan Sonn has been strimming the open churchyard while the regular band of volunteers are unable to do so.

The Rector expressed his thanks to Alan for his work which was providing comfort to many people visiting the churchyard.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

i) to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2020

Proposed: Janet Cooper

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 8th January 2020 be accepted as an accurate record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

SS

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

- ii) to ratify a decision of the Standing Committee made on 23rd April 2020:

The Standing Committee of St Mary's PCC grants permission for the use of Zoom as a suitable videoconferencing platform for use with our Young People and Families connected with activities we are currently running remotely due to the Corona Virus pandemic. We are satisfied that safeguarding advice and protocol have been followed in accordance with the Church of England's guidance.

Proposed: Peter Reynolds

Seconded: Roy Milnes

Unanimous

It was resolved to ratify the decision of the Standing Committee on 23rd April 2020.

6. Mission

- i) to receive a report from the Rector

The Rector's report had been circulated and he asked for comments and questions.

Janet Cooper thanked The Rector for all the work he has been doing over that last two months.

- ii) to receive a report from the Intergenerational Missioner

The IM report was received and accepted. Members were pleased that work with LEAF and Toast had been able to be continued via the internet. Anne Morris added that there had been good outcomes from such meetings with church members being able to get to know the families much better than previously.

7. Finance

- i) to receive a report from the Treasurer

The report was received and noted.

The Treasurer asked if Mark Sanderson could retrospectively act as an agent for online payments, particularly as this was currently one of the only methods of receiving donations to the church.

Proposed: Peter Raddenbury

Seconded: Janet Cooper

Unanimous

It was resolved to allow Mark Sanderson to act as an agent for the PCC in setting up digital payments.

Mark added that it had taken many hours to sort out digital giving to include Gift Aid and asked members to note that the resolution was a retrospective one and that he felt that someone from the Finance Group should take this forward now. Roy Milnes agreed to look into this.

- ii) to agree the Parish Share contribution (letter and report on website)

The Treasurer had suggested that the Parish Share remain at £69,300 as it had been for the last two years in line with the decision of the PCC at that time to keep the amount the same for three years.

After some discussion It was suggested that a compromise of increasing the share by 2% to £70,686 (as opposed to the 4.5% suggested by the Diocese) be agreed.

Proposed: Anne Morris

Seconded: Freda Davies

In favour 14, abstentions 2

It was resolved to increase the Parish Share by 2% to £70,686 for this year and reconsider the matter again next year.

- iii) to receive the resignation of Peter Raddenbury as Treasurer and a member of the PCC

The resignation of Peter Raddenbury as Treasurer and the PCC was noted. Sean thanked him for his service said how much he appreciated his work.

- iv) to appoint Roy Milnes as Treasurer

Proposed: Peter Reynolds

Seconded: Paul Eward

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Roy Milnes as PCC Treasurer

8. **St Mary's Church building works**

to receive a report on progress from John Setchfield

John's report had been circulated and John was pleased to add that as of today, the Church of England was allowing PCCs to authorise building work within its churches. The builder was hoping to be available from the beginning of June. While work is likely to take 12 weeks (plus extra for the glass doors to be added), any of it which could be undertaken before the church reopens would be a huge advantage.

9. **Arrangements for the new curate**

to receive an update on the house at Redwood Close and arrangements for the licensing and ordination of Tiffany Jackson

The Rector confirmed that Tiffany and her family will be moving into the Curate's House on 5th June. Some work has been carried out by the Diocese and it will be ready for her in time. She will be licensed by the Bishop as a Lay Worker on 5th July (possibly a virtual service – to be confirmed) with ordination as Deacon likely to be at the end of October.

10. **Electoral Roll**

to receive a verbal report from the Electoral Roll Officer

Peter Raddenbury reported that the roll stood at 119 as of today. He would complete the return (which must be done by 31st May) with that figure. He agreed to continue for the time being as Electoral Role Officer.

Discussion on how the role is used, what its point is and how active we are in recruiting members took place. While the number is no longer linked to the amount we are asked to pay to the diocese, the church does collect these statistics to measure how the church is doing. For members, advantages include an eligibility to vote at the annual meeting, become member of the PCC and get married in church. The onus on recruiting members lies with the clergy and readers, the Electoral Role Officer and members of the PCC.

11. **Fund Raising**

to receive a report from the fund raising committee.

The report was noted.

Over £2,500 had been received for Sean's stair climb and the committee were extremely grateful to him for undertaking the challenge so enthusiastically. Other events planned during

lockdown had so far not raised any funds. At the supper on Saturday Sean would appeal for donations before the meal (there are just over 30 participants registered to date). The "get creative" initiative had not yet been pushed and this will be done after the weekend's supper.

"Real" events next year will continue with the Wedding Fayre (possible now in the autumn) and a Flower Festival in the spring.

12. Report from the Friends of St Mary

to note that the AGM has been postponed until after lockdown and that John Taylor will be stepping down as chairman (though he will oversee the floodlighting project with Ashley Letts until it is completed).

- The Friends will be looking for a new Chairman and Treasurer but do not have a date for the Annual General Meeting yet.
- The Floodlighting faculty application is still in London - with people working from home, we don't know how long it may take.
- The Friends Committee will be meeting in the next week to consider an additional mini open gardens either in the autumn or a virtual open gardens, as so many people have been working hard in their gardens.
- The display panels purchased by the Friends arrived in church just before lockdown.

13. Safeguarding

to receive a report and agree any actions arising from it

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Since Judith had written it, she had received three more certificates and was delighted with the "flurry of activity" from the PCC! There was concern that some members had completed the course when Simon was here, their certificates had disappeared and they were unable to access the portal. Judith would be looking into this.

Anyone who had not yet completed it was urged to do so as soon as possible.

14. Health and Safety

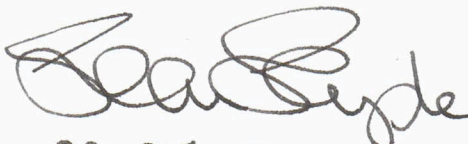
to receive a verbal report and agree any actions arising from it

Bryan Jones apologised for not submitting a written report though he had nothing to report! The Rector had checked the water in the church, flushing cisterns and running water to ensure no bacteria got into the water system. It was also good to see the clock going again.

15. Date of next meetings

- i) to note that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th July 2020, probably via zoom at 7.00pm
- ii) to note that, subject to Public Health England allowing it, the APCM will take place on Wednesday 9th September in St Mary's Church at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 3.41pm.


08.07.2020