



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 11th November 2020**
at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), Janet Cooper (Churchwarden), John Setchfield (Churchwarden), Anne Morris, Caroline Pascoe, Christine Cattanach, Gerald Altree, Freda Davies, Bryan Jones, Mark Sanderson, Paul Cummings, Paul Eward, Paul Mason, Peter Reynolds, Rachel Lewis, Rosie Winyard, Roy Milnes, Tiffany Jackson and Tim Waters

1. Chairman's welcome and opening prayers

Today was Armistice Day and the feast day of St Martin, who gave up his life as a soldier to become a monk and later Bishop of Tours. Sean read the Collect for St Martin's Day.

2. Apologies

None

3. Closed Churchyard

to receive a report from Cllr Taylor

- Cllr Taylor reported that a branch obstructing the floodlights would be removed soon.
- He explained that where trees are removed within a conservation area, they should, if possible, be replaced in a similar location. He suggested that when this was necessary, the council might like to plant trees found in the bible. Members felt that the position of any future trees planted needed very careful consideration.
- Cllr Taylor asked who had authorised the removal of the rose beds. John Setchfield explained that they were of a low standard and many were diseased and as part of the new entrance, they had been removed and the beds grassed over.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 7.09pm

4. Orientation

- i. An introduction to membership of St Mary's PCC

The Rector began by welcoming new members to the PCC explaining that we are here as trustees to make things happen. He referred to a leaflet entitled **The Role of our PCCs in taking forward our 2020 Vision** which had been distributed to everyone and gave a clear description of the purpose and the role of members of the PCC.

- ii. An explanation of the Inspiring Faith, Hope and Love portfolios

Sean continued by inviting the conveners of the three portfolios to give a brief CV.

Inspiring Faith – Peter Reynolds (former Royal Marine, led an Anglican church group while living in Spain); and for *Inspiring Faith* in schools, Paul Mason (former deputy head teacher and chairman of governors at our church school)

Inspiring Hope – Paul Cummings (former military career, extensive work with veteran charities, benefice treasurer)

Inspiring Love – Rosie Winyard (employed by the NHS in public health with experience working with drug and alcohol addiction charities)

Sean thanked them for offering their gifts and experience in taking on these important roles. He also thanked Caroline Pascoe for the work she had put in in getting this off the ground. Sean asked for questions.

A question was asked – how does all this fit together and when we don't know people very well, how do we fit in? Sean asked the conveners to answer:

Paul C – we offer support not leadership

Peter – by facilitating

Rosie – there is strength in not knowing as there are no preconceived ideas

Peter added that the response the PCC had given to the Bishop's questionnaire (available on the PCC section of website under Deanery) showed that this PCC was ready to move forward. We have reordered the church building, now we need to exploit it.

It was agreed there was overlap between the three headings which will help us with joined up thinking.

5. **Minutes of the last meetings**

to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 9th September and 7th October 2020

Proposed: Paul Eward

Seconded: Janet Cooper

Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 9th September and 7th October 2020 be accepted as an accurate record.

6. **Finance**

- i. to receive a report from the Treasurer and to agree the 2021 budget

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Charitable Giving**

The Treasurer drew attention to the charitable giving which he had now worked out to be the sum of £3,800, up from £3,600 last year. Discussion took place to decide how to it should be distributed and suggestions including the church in Namutumba, Uganda (the town's twin town) and the Ross Charities (including the Alms Houses). It was agreed that Roy would consult with the Faith, Hope and Love conveners and put forward proposals to the next meeting, and ensure that there would be proper accountability for money donated. Paul Cummings also agreed to prepare a grant application document for the charitable giving for consideration.

- **Administrator's salary**

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Tim Waters

Unanimous

It was resolved to increase the administrator's salary by 25p per hour from 1st January 2021.

- **2021 Budget**

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved to accept the budget for 2021 with the opportunity to review it in three months.

- **Parish Share**

A letter had been sent from the diocese to all parishes asking them to reconsider their parish share. Our offer is already based on a deficit budget and Ross will do its best to maintain that offer. It was felt that if, later in the year, we had additional available funds, consideration could then be given then to increasing our offer. The treasurer would respond accordingly.

7. Mission - Intergenerational Missioner's Report

to receive a report from Christine

The report had been circulated. Christine added that restrictions changing all the time make it difficult for this particular ministry which involves bringing new congregations to church. However, although there was provision in the law in the latest lockdown for toddler groups to meet in real life this was not practical as numbers are severely limited. Toast helpers are making videos which are proving popular for families to use, as zoom has been difficult for them with very young children.

8. St Mary's Church building works

to receive a report from John Setchfield

- Phase 2 is complete and Phase 3 is nearing completion with the doors finally in. The work has been to a very high standard. While the builders are still here, John has arranged for the last of the quinquennial repairs, the repair of the choir vestry ceiling, to be carried out and this will be done next week.
- Floodlighting is now working and has received many positive comments, particularly the use of purple and red for All Souls and Remembrance respectively. There are still modifications to complete to the cages they are contained in.
- The church has been offered a grand piano on permanent loan. Subject to an inspection by Mark Sanderson, it was agreed to accept it and dispose of the old upright piano. The Standing Committee will agree the removal costs once they are known.

9. Brampton Abbots School

to receive and note changes in the new admissions policy for Brampton Abbots School

Paul Mason explained that as a stakeholder, St Mary's needed to be consulted on any changes to the Admissions Policy. A variation had been added due to Covid 19 because it was difficult to determine who was a regular worshipper in a church which had been closed. The changes were noted.

10. **Safeguarding**
to receive a report and agree any actions arising from it

The Safeguarding Officer had submitted a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions on the report. Sean added that he had now completed his C2 training and reminded members that they were all required to complete C0 as a minimum. If anyone needed any help they could contact Judith the Safeguarding Officer safeguarding@rossparishes.uk.

Sean added that safeguarding was far from being an academic exercise – there was an ongoing issue and Sean was grateful to Judith for the help she was giving.

11. **Health and Safety**
to consider and agree any actions required

Bryan Jones had no new issues to report.

The spyhole in the office door had been installed and he was waiting for extra lighting outside the office to be put in.

12. **Date of next meeting**
to note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.00pm (venue to be confirmed).

Noted, with the hope that we might be able to meet in person!

Tiffany closed the meeting at 8.15pm with a prayer.



RECTOR