



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 10th March 2021**
at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), Janet Cooper (Churchwarden), John Setchfield (Churchwarden), Anne Morris, Caroline Pascoe, Gerald Atree, Freda Davies, Bryan Jones, Mark Sanderson, Paul Cummings, Paul Eward (from 7.30pm), Paul Mason, Peter Reynolds, Rachel Lewis, Rosie Winyard, Roy Milnes, Tiffany Jackson, Tim Waters

1. Chairman's welcome and opening prayers

The Rector invited Peter Reynolds to read a passage from Luke's Gospel and then introduced the meeting with thoughts on types of meetings (meeting for meeting's sake, disorganised and unfocused or for keeping up appearances), and asking why we were meeting as a PCC – he suggested it is to explore our faith in Jesus Christ and to inspire hope and love. He asked members to think about the number of meetings needed, currently six per year, or if four might be sufficient.

He finished with a prayer.

2. Closed Churchyard

to receive a report from Councillor Rob Taylor

There was no report (Cllr Taylor had sent apologies which had not been received prior to the meeting).

3. Apologies

None

4. Inspiring Faith Portfolio and Inspiring Faith in Schools Portfolios

to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Faith convenors, Peter Reynolds and Paul Mason

Peter presented his report which detailed areas of work going well, the many digital opportunities for meeting, prayer, bible study and worship which hopefully will soon be able to be in person. We need to consider our priorities in order that we do not put too much on individual people. As the church grows, then so should the number of people able to take on new roles. He added that it is important for everyone's ideas to be heard and he is always happy to hear others' views by email or phone.

Paul reported that St Mary's Open the Book Team had made five more videos for Brampton Abbots and Walford schools. Both schools have produced a video in response to a request from the church on the pandemic for use in church during Lent.

5. Inspiring Hope Portfolio

- i to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Hope convenor, Paul Cummings
Paul presented his report pointing out that many activities are on hold but ready to go as soon as they are allowed. There are concerns as to how the job club might continue as there need to be changes.

He asked for the following points to be agreed by members:

- ii to endorse the proposal that Ross Parishes join the Herefordshire Council sponsored WISH (Wellbeing, Information and Signposting for Herefordshire) website, an online service for wellbeing information and local services, groups, activities and events across the county.

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Janet Cooper

Unanimous

It was resolved that the PCC join WISH.

- iii to endorse the proposal to investigate further a proposal to establish a Community Hub for Ross Parishes; to identify likely costs in terms of personnel and resources and identify what funding may be available from Herefordshire Council.

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

Unanimous

It was resolved to investigate further a proposal to establish a Community Hub for Ross Parishes, to identify likely costs in terms of personnel and resources and to identify what funding may be available from Herefordshire Council.

- iv to endorse the proposal to recruit a volunteer Head of Communications.
Discussion and ideas followed this proposal. The Diocesan Communications Officer is able to advise. It was suggested that there needs to be a team of people working together to aid both internal and external communication and to “market” what we do through the use of newsletters, press releases, social media and website posts. It was stressed that the proposal was to look into how feasible it might be to recruit someone to a co-ordinating role, not to go ahead and appoint someone at this stage.

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

12 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions

It was resolved to investigate further a proposal to recruit a volunteer Head of Communications.

- v to confirm the appointment of Paul Cummings as the PCC representative on the Community Development Trust

Proposed: Freda Davies

Seconded: John Setchfield

unanimous

It was resolved to confirm the appointment of Paul Cummings as the PCC representative on the Community Development Trust.

The Rector raised a point about Welcome Packs for people moving into Ross. While it may be difficult to manage, it was agreed to be worth pursuing. Previous packs had been produced by the church and Peter Landau who co-ordinated the scheme would be asked if he still had any material to use as a basis for new packs.

6. Inspiring Love Portfolio

to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Love Convenor, Rosie Winyard

Rosie gave a verbal report. She was having difficulty both contacting and getting people together to carry out the survey for Eco Church but hoped that once restrictions are lifted, she would be able to set up a group, hopefully in May, to meet face to face.

She reported that a new Bishop for the Environment (the Bishop of Norwich) has been appointed to help the Church of England combat climate change and biodiversity loss. She is hoping that we will have a Climate Sunday, perhaps in September.

The Curate asked for the PCC to approve an application to become a Fairtrade Church. There was discussion about Fairtrade shopping through the church. It was felt that online payments would make it easier for people to purchase goods via the website. Paul Mason added that until the pandemic, there had been a stall every month at the Saturday coffee morning.

Proposed: Tiffany Jackson

Seconded: John Setchfield

unanimous

It was resolved to endorse an application to become a Fairtrade Church.

7. Digital Ministry

to receive a report from Mark Sanderson

Mark had provided a very comprehensive report which covered:

- the streaming of services, including funerals, using various platforms appropriate to the service
- the use of recordings made by members of the congregation and the choir
- what happens in the future?
- statistics on visitors to the website and social media sites

Freda thanked Mark for all his work which has proved to be so vital. This was endorsed by the Rector and all members were in agreement.

8. Benefice Vision Day 2021

to receive a report from the Rector

The Rector's report was noted

9. Minutes of the last meetings (circulated prior to the meeting)

to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2021

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Roy Milnes

Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 13th January 2021 be accepted as an accurate record.

10. Finance

- i to receive a report from the Treasurer
The treasurer's report on the current situation and the outcome of the "think tank" was noted.

- ii to authorise NatWest Bank to remove the name of Patricia Bishop from the list of authorised signatories.

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Paul Cummings

Unanimous

It was resolved to authorise NatWest Bank to remove the name of Patricia Bishop from the list of authorised signatories.

- iii to authorise the Treasurer to register for online banking with NatWest Bank, noting that payments made via online banking will be authorised by only one signatory

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Freda Davies

Unanimous

It was resolved to authorise the Treasurer to register for online banking with NatWest Bank, noting that payments made via online banking will be authorised by only one signatory.

- iv to approve the Financial Statements and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 for recommendation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting subject to receipt of the Independent Examiner's approval

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Paul Mason

Unanimous

It was resolved to approve the Financial Statements and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 for recommendation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting subject to receipt of the Independent Examiner's approval and insertion of the 2020 Hall accounts (page 17).

- v to authorise payments of £900 to each of the following charities:
Age UK (in Ross) Kisiki College Uganda
St Michael's Hospice Hereford Diocesan Mothers' Union

Proposed: Paul Eward

Seconded: Bryan Jones

Unanimous

It was resolved to authorise payments of £900 each to Age UK (in Ross), Kisiki College Uganda, St Michael's Hospice and Hereford Diocesan Mothers' Union as the PCC's 2020 charitable giving.

It was noted that £140 subscription to Churches Together should be returned to the PCC as subscriptions have been suspended for a year due to the pandemic.

It was further noted that the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) have now discontinued the payment of £30 to the PCC following a crematorium funeral. The whole fee of £199 will now be paid to the DBF.

11. St Mary's Church building works

to receive a report from John Setchfield

The report was accepted. All work should all be completed by Easter.

There was discussion about the plaster area behind the high altar. It was agreed to bring proposals of both a photographic covering (MS) and altar frontals (JC) to the next meeting.

12. St Mary's Hall

to receive a report from Peter Reynolds

The report was accepted. Addaction's successor will continue to use the rooms upstairs and are entering a three year contract from 1st April 2021.

13. Fundraising Committee

i to receive a report from the Fundraising Committee

The report was noted.

ii to approve the changing of the name to Fundraising and Social Committee

Due to the nature of many fundraising events which offer social opportunities, it had been suggested that the name of the committee change.

Proposed: Gerald Altree

Seconded: Bryan Jones

Unanimous

It was resolved to change the name of the Fundraising Committee to the Social and Fundraising Committee.

14. Correspondence

i to receive and note the Bishop's Instrument to allow digital APCMs up to 31st May 2021

ii to receive and note the Bishop's Pastoral Order for reorganising the Deaneries from 1st April 2021 (The South Wye Parishes Benefice is joining the Ross & Archenfield Deanery).

iii to receive and note a letter from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

The three items were noted.

15. Safeguarding

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

The Safeguarding Officer's report highlighted the letter from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer informing us that a safeguarding audit will be carried out in the summer. The benefice is complying with the rules but we need to ensure that safeguarding is always on the home page of the website.

ii to note that there is a new information guide (available on the website)

Members were urged to read the new guide as well as the letter referred to above.

16. Health and Safety

to consider and agree any actions required

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved to renew the contract for servicing the church clock for three years at a cost of £667 + VAT

Proposed: Mark Sanderson

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved to join the Hereford Churches Tourism Group at a cost of £30 per annum.

17. Date of next meeting

to note the APCM will take place on Wednesday 12th May at 7.00pm (via Zoom as per current government and diocesan guidelines).

Both John and Janet have expressed their intention to resign as Churchwardens. Please submit names for replacements to either of them.

The Rector invited Tiffany to close the meeting with a prayer at 8.37pm.