

St George's Church, Wilton

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** held on
Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 6.30pm in St George's Church Hall

Present	Hilary McKegney (<i>Acting Chair</i>); Chris Michell; John Page; Pete McKegney; Clare Steel; Carole Smith; Rachel Neal; Peter Joyce; Rosa Parsloe; Michael Yardley; Bethan Baigent (<i>PCC Secretary</i>).
Apologies	Jenny Norman; Matthew Norman.

Ref	Item and Action	Action	By When
1.	<p>Welcome and Prayer</p> <p>Hilary McKegney welcomed everyone, and explained that the extraordinary meeting had been called at short notice because the PCC needed to take some decisions urgently.</p> <p>Pete McKegney opened the meeting with prayer.</p>		
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies from Jenny and Matthew Norman were noted.</p>		
3.	<p>Finance</p> <p>3.1 Parish Share</p> <p>John Page outlined the process that the Diocese had established to assess the financial situation of parishes, and then provide some support to enable them to respond to the financial challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Applications to the Diocese's 'Discretionary Parish Support Package' had been requested in May, and between then and October he had supplied detailed information about our projected income and expenditure for the rest of 2020. This included reporting in July the value of three months' unrestricted reserves of £28,500, which were considered necessary. However, when a detailed application for support was sent to the Diocese in October, the year-end deficit was estimated to be £14,795, mainly because of the loss of income from hiring out the Hall. He reminded the meeting that he had advised the Diocesan Secretary, Nick May in January 2019 that the Church would struggle to pay the Parish Share in full in 2019, although as usual every effort would be made to do so.</p> <p>On 30th November the Diocese made a Parish Share relief grant of £3,048 to help reduce the impact of Covid-19. This was equivalent to less than half of one month's Parish Share payment (£6,717). At the same time it advised us that our Parish Share for 2021 would rise by £3,153 to £83,768 (+3.9%), reflecting CPI inflation and the slight increase in regular worshippers. The Diocese also advised that we should hold three months' unrestricted reserves at the year-end. In order to do this, John Page estimated that the Church would need to withhold approximately four months' worth of Parish Share payment around £26,000, but this figure could not be finalised until the December Accounts had been processed and the estimated Gift Aid tax rebate had been established. This would be similar to the situation that St George's faced in 2011 when it was unable to pay the Parish Share in full.</p>		

	<p>The PCC was reminded that we had consistently operated with a deficit, as expenditure exceeded income over the past 11 years. The recommended three months' unrestricted reserves had only ever been achieved in four years as a direct result of receiving some generous legacies and donations. The importance of a fund-raising programme to alleviate this situation was emphasised, but this was presently very restricted because of the effect of the pandemic.</p> <p>The PCC unanimously agreed that in view of the projected substantial year-end deficit and the necessity of maintaining the recommended three months' unrestricted reserves, the Diocese should be informed that around £26,000 of the outstanding Parish Share would need to be withheld. A letter to this effect would be sent to the Diocese's Head of Finance and Operations shortly.</p> <p>Hilary McKegney expressed the PCC's thanks to John Page for his very thorough, dedicated work in dealing with this matter.</p> <p>3.2 Bequest & Donation</p> <p>Peter Joyce reported that the Church had received a bequest of £2,500 from the estate of Phyllis Lloyd. In discussing how this might be used, her son had agreed that it would be a good idea to put it towards the cost of installing WiFi and making other improvements to the technology in Church. The bequest had been paid into the restricted Church Building Fund. Peter Joyce had written to thank Roger Lloyd.</p> <p>A generous anonymous donation of £5,000 had also been received from an existing Church member. The donor had expressed two very specific purposes: £2,000 to be used to improve the sound system in Church, and £3,000 to be used towards the cost of removing the pews and replacing them with chairs. A proposal for improving the sound system was already being prepared as part of the intention to upgrade the technology in the Church. However, any possible future scheme to remove all the pews would inevitably take a long time to implement, even if the PCC agreed that it had priority over other potential projects, and also if the considerable funds needed were available. Nevertheless the wishes of the donor would be honoured. The donation had been paid into the restricted Church Building Fund.</p>	<p>JP, PJ, HMCK, BB</p> <p>PJ</p>	<p>18 Dec.</p> <p>31 Jan 21</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>WiFi and Associated Equipment in Church</p> <p>Since the discussion at the PCC meeting on 12th October, a proposal for installing WiFi in the Church using a 'wireless bridge' had been sent to the Archdeacon requesting approval under the 'List B' scheme. This could, if appropriate enable him to grant approval, which would avoid the need to apply for a Faculty. The proposal quoted a recent report from the Diocese that "<i>On-line church is here to stay</i>": hence the importance of pressing on with the scheme.</p> <p>However, as several churches have asked for approval for similar Broadband schemes, the Diocese has asked for an 'Additional Matters Order' to be drawn up. This would allow churches to proceed with such plans as long as they have the Church Architect's approval if any equipment is to be fixed to the fabric of the Church. Peter Joyce had</p>		

	<p>pointed out to the Archdeacon and Diocese that this would involve additional cost and a delay.</p> <p>It was agreed that there would be minimal impact on the Church fabric (a small 'Nano Station' on the North West wall; a small hole drilled through the wall to allow a cable to run down the wall inside narrow trunking, adjacent to some existing trunking). In view of this, and the importance of realising the benefits of the scheme, that the quotation from QSS IT Solutions (the firm that Matthew Norman works for) should be accepted and the work should proceed. Initial funding was available from the recent bequest from Phyllis Lloyd's estate, plus some other generous donations. Retrospective approval from the Church Architect will be requested if required.</p> <p>An article about this project will appear in News Board on 13th December mentioning the intention to appeal for funds to supplement some recent donations for the project, and a letter will be sent out to all Church members before Christmas outlining the project and appealing for donations. It was agreed that this would be an important scheme to support Nick Griffin's ministry. Rosa Parsloe reported that fundraising for the church had already resumed, and this could potentially be used to support this project. John Page confirmed that the funds raised would be paid into the restricted Church Building Fund.</p>	<p>PJ</p> <p>PJ/BB</p> <p>JP</p>	<p>11 Dec</p> <p>23 Dec</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Change of Sunday Service Time</p> <p>In view of the fact that quite a few people struggled to get to the 9am Holy Communion Service, especially during the winter, it was agreed that the start time should be changed back to 10am, with effect from 3rd January 2021. It was acknowledged that this might mean that more people would attend the service, which could make it more difficult to ensure 'social distancing'. However, the situation would be carefully monitored. Rev'd Nick Griffin had been asked informally for his view on this change of time, and he was in agreement. A notice of this change will appear in News Board.</p> <p>It was noted that from 3rd January, the format of the Holy Communion service would change slightly to be more like the Common Worship style than the Book of Common Prayer. Martin Kirkbride proposed to do this to ease the transition to the ministry of Nick Griffin.</p> <p>Also, it was suggested that the 'Coffee Zoom' meeting time might be changed from 11am to 11.15am to allow time for people attending the 10am service to get home and join the meeting on-line. This will be decided after the change of service time comes into effect.</p>	<p>BB</p> <p>PCC</p>	<p>13 Dec</p> <p>15 Jan</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Licensing & Welcoming of Nick Griffin</p> <p>Nick Griffin's Licensing will take place on Tuesday, 19th January 2021, at 7pm in the Church. If Covid-19 restrictions make this impossible, then the ceremony will be on-line via Zoom, in which case it will be organised by the Archdeacon. A Staff Meeting will be held with Nick Griffin to discuss arrangements for the service, which will be organised by the Churchwardens and Bethan Baigent, and formal invitations will then be sent out. The numbers of people that can be invited will need to be limited to around 50, to ensure a Covid-safe</p>	<p>PJ/HMcK /BB</p>	<p>17 Dec</p>

	environment. It was hoped that at a later date when the restrictions of the pandemic had been eased, a proper celebration of the new ministry could take place, perhaps after next Easter.		
7.	Christian Concerns Carole Smith proposed that Church collections in January should be given to support St Paul's Church in Kawama, Zambia, which was linked with St George's. This was agreed.	CS/BB	3 Jan
8.	Archdeaconry Days: "Prayer – Everyone, Everywhere" The Archdeacon had arranged an opportunity for Churchwardens and others who are interested in the Diocese, to sign up to explore and discuss ways of praying, focussing on different themes. This will commence with a recorded service from Wells Cathedral on Sunday 10 th January, and then in a series of short videos between 11 th – 16 th January. If anyone is interested in joining in this initiative, details can be obtained from the Churchwardens.	All	
9.	Future PCC Meetings – Early 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 11th February: A 'semi-social' with Nick Griffin • Thursday, 4th March • Tuesday 27th April: To receive the Annual Report & Accounts • Sunday 16th May: APCM 	BB	
10.	Health & Safety No matters to note.		
11.	Coffee Zoom This will be held as normal on Sunday, 27 th December at 11am.	JN	27 Dec
12.	Review of Meeting The meeting had gone well, and kept to the proposed timing.		
13.	Key Messages Key messages to be publicised in News Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial situation • WiFi Appeal • Change in Service time 	BB	
14.	End The meeting ended after saying the Grace at 8 pm.		

Signed : Chairman.

Date :