



ST GEORGE'S

St. George's Church, Wilton Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

Tuesday 25 January 2022

Present: Nick Griffin (Chair); Michael Yardley (Vice Chair); Peter Joyce; Hilary McKegney; Jenny Norman; Matt Norman; Pete McKegney; Carole Smith; Claire Steel (via Zoom); Rosa Parsloe and Helen Clegg (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Chris Michell

1. Nick opened the meeting with Psalm 25 and a time of open prayer.

2. Safeguarding

Liz Flower came to inform the meeting that the recommendation from Diocesan Safeguarding is that all PCC members should do 3 levels of training, Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse. Liz gave the instructions as to how to do this on-line and Bethan will send out a link. This should be completed before the next PCC meeting and we are asked to tell Liz when we have completed each training module.

People who take Home communion to others and the Parish Visitors would also need to do this. Hilary will inform Liz who these people are and Liz will contact them

Action All PCC members and Bethan

3. **The minutes of the last meeting** on 16 Nov 2021 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

4. Action points from the minutes of 16/11/21

Contactless Payments

3 Sum Up machines have been bought. It was feared that there was a lack of anonymity in the donations as someone's phone would be used for the App. Matt assured us that we can get stand alone machines which are completely confidential.

Any money given digitally will go to St. George's funds. The cash donations taken at Sunday morning services for a Charity will go to that charity.

Bike racks

There are 2 different types. Pete advised that the more expensive "toast rack version" should be used in front of the church, inserted into the ground of a garden bed and concreted in. There should be room for about 6 bikes there.

The cheaper version could be used outside the hall door.

It was advised that the racks outside the town swimming pool were well spaced and should be investigated.

Pete McKegney was given permission to pursue this matter and get them installed, preferably at a small cost to the church. Some outside funding is available but may not cover them completely.

Action Pete

Hall Cleaning

The hall cleaning has been increased from 2 hours per week to 4 hours by the same cleaner. The cost has risen from £1,300 p.a. to £2,700. This is less than we would pay using a commercial company and the cleanliness is excellent.

Patronage

Nick has met with Charles Doble, vice chair of the Patronage Committee for our Diocese, and has been reassured about our position.

The Diocesan Board of Patronage's duty is to reflect the wishes and will of the parish, except if they wanted to do something the Board considered really ill advised.

Mrs. Cutwith (our Patron) can give her Patronage to who she wishes, which is the Diocesan Board of Patronage, and not the Diocese as was thought at the previous PCC. Nick felt reassured that when a new rector is being selected the appointing panel will have fairly equal numbers representing the parish and the Diocese.

5. Financial Update

As our Treasurer had not yet had time to complete Quarter 4 and is now working on the End of Year accounts, a full financial update could not be provided.

The year ended with unrestricted funds of £31,500 which is our required 3 months reserves as agreed by the PCC. 2020 figure was £28,500. This has meant that St George's has had to withhold £16,278 from our Parish Share payment in order to retain our required reserves.

This equates to approximately 2 ½ months worth of Parish Share payment, opposed to withholding £30,952 last year (4 ½ months of Parish Share).

Our Christian Giving Scheme is down by £4,487 and although we have gained new donors, we have also lost some including some of our generous donors having passed away.

We lost 7 donors from the Christian Giving Scheme but so far we have gained 6 new donors in 2022.

Going forward Nick would like the Treasurer present at and throughout every PCC. Ian Pinder who has agreed to be our Interim Treasurer will be a PCC member and he will start new processes and set up Internet Banking.

6. Christian Concerns *Carole*

Christian Concern is a sub-committee of the PCC and used to be a regular item on the PCC agenda when they suggested Charities to donate the collections to. Latterly it has not been able to meet due to Covid but telephone conversations between members came up with ideas for charities.

They have always tried to divide the donations between local charities with which church members volunteer and larger national and international charities.

St. George's had given away their church collections for at least the last 30 years. Periodically Carole has checked that we are giving away at least 10% of our total income.

Suggestions

Could Christian Concerns be kept on each PCC agenda.

Could the amounts sent to the charities be publicised quarterly.

Can anyone suggest a new name for the group

Nick asked them to decide how they would like to be more involved.

7. PCC members terms of serving.

PCC members are elected for 3 year terms but with an interregnum, Covid and Nick's arrival members have agreed to serve longer than that.

Matt is due to serve until Oct 23

Pete until Nov 22

Everyone else's terms have expired!

It is good practice to keep to the basic 3 years. All those on PCC continue until the AGM in May 2022.

Could people feed names to Nick of those they would recommend for PCC membership.

Action everyone

8. Health & Safety

The provision of a handrail for the vestry steps is under consideration and the potholes in the car park need attention.

In discussion with Ian Pinder there will be provision in future for budgets for:-

routine maintenance,

minor projects

major projects

9. Social Projects *Rosa*

Rosa feels we need something regularly for people to be able to turn up and feel welcome. Rosa has ideas of functions and if there is a desire for people to offer something for the Community at regular intervals then she has given the go-ahead to continue. Nick stressed that if you had good leaders people will come.

10. PCC Away Day on Saturday 29th January 2022.

The agenda and food and travel arrangements have been circulated and we have some invited guests too. The purpose of the day is for us to make plans.

11. Plans for the new service.

4 people will bring bands to lead the singing. Coffee will be served throughout and for the start the services will be in the hall. People from the 9.30 am service will still be around finishing their coffee and can join in the service. People should feel free to get up and move around, get more coffee or leave. There will be Communion once a month. Plans are coming together but we will need to be flexible and adjust as necessary during the early weeks.

12. Active Projects

Prayer Room

The interns have been tasked with changing the old choir vestry into a Prayer Room. A lot of stuff has been cleared out by Peter and Pete. The plan is that it should be open at all times with a key lock and contain a piano and guitar. Already it is being used.

Café Project

£3,000 has been offered by the Somerset Community Foundation to facilitate this. The plan is to take the café out and use it to engage with vulnerable and isolated people in the community around our parish. We would also be able to use it for church events including coffee after services.

The present position is that we have until August to raise more money to acquire the grant.

Streaming Live Services

We have been looking at this for some time but are determined to get it right. We don't want to spend a lot of money and find it doesn't produce good quality results. Matt has found that choosing the right equipment is very hard as everyone asked has a different opinion.

The sound system in church seems to be working well but now decisions need to be made on the camera equipment.

We will also need sound equipment for the hall for the new services and this will form a back up for the church system and can be used for outside services.

An update on the position will be put into Newsboard.

Action Bethan

Items for Discussion and Approval

13. Kate Taylor

Kate has asked to transfer her Readership from St. James' to St. George's. Nick recommended that the meeting agree to this.

Proposed: Rosa Parsloe

Seconded: Peter Joyce.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

14. Proposed Date of the APCMen.

Tuesday May 10th 2022, at 7pm, in the church.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 26th April 2022. The annual accounts will be presented then.

A.O.B.

Claire was congratulated on her swift and decisive action when Brian Maiden was taken ill in the Bell Tower during bell ringing practise.

Claire said that unusually she had taken her car with her that day and realised that Brian needed to be in hospital quickly. She was able to get him there and he was seen immediately in Accident and Emergency, had a CAT

scan soon after and was then transferred urgently to Bristol and later Plymouth. He is progressing well. Praise God.

Signed :(Chairman)

Date :