

Minutes of PCC Meeting - Monday 8th February 2021

Present: Beverly Watson (Chair), Marguerite Barclay, Rebecca Brown, Rob Burch, Rob Crossingham, Simon Doran, Eve Gunn, Henrietta Harding, Robin Holdsworth, Chris Lambert, Julie Lodge, Simon Moulden, Carolyn Nicholls, Paddy Payne, Jo Smalley, Trish Tye (Secretary), Martyn Whiteman, Jeanette Whiteman for item 4.

Apologies: (none)

1. Approval of minutes

1.1. The minutes of the meetings held on 14th December 2020 were approved.

2. Standing committee decisions

2.1. The notes from the Standing Committee meeting held on 19th January 2021 were noted.

3. Vision Groups

3.1. Finance

3.1.1 2020 Accounts

Beverly presented the accounts as distributed to the PCC and gave thanks to Chris for preparing them and to Mary-Jane Crump for approving them.

Robin queried the 'governance costs' credited to the account. Chris explained that we had made a provision to pay Mary-Jane last year, which she kindly declined and so it was written back this year.

Marguerite questioned why we had not made provision in the budget for LLM expenses. Chris explained that we had budgeted for it in previous years and then Alison took a break and, at the time of budget preparation, we were unsure if it would be picked up again this year.

3.1.2 Approval of 2021 budget

Beverly walked the PCC through the budget, highlighting these points:

- We have faith that the forthcoming stewardship campaign will enable us to increase our donations to £45k. We will be encouraging everyone to get on board; we currently rely on a few people giving a lot and we need to share the load. Beverly looks to the PCC to lead by example.

- We hope to run some events this year, including a fete and bonfire night.
- We are optimistic about income from lettings of both the hall and the church. Church lettings started well and we have hope for this new income stream.
- We are however, facing a bottom line deficit of £7863.

Robin made the point that now we offer the magazine online, we only have about 100 people paying for the magazine. This will have an impact both on income and printing costs.

Paddy asked if we had considered any additional costs in church maintenance (cleaning, decorating etc) that might come from increased use. Beverly responded that we could look into that and make an adjustment, although Rob C commented that the budget for routine maintenance is higher than previous years.

Jo asked if there was any talk of reducing the parish share again this year. Beverly responded that it is possible but there are significant pressures at the centre as well. Rebecca added that the next Diocesan Synod meeting is in March and the Diocesan financial situation might become clearer then.

Paddy gave his thanks to Finance Vision Group.

Proposal: That the PCC approves the 2021 budget as presented.

Proposed: Paddy Payne; **Seconded:** Henrietta Harding; All in favour.

3.2. Premises

(see Appendix A for report).

Robin referred to the distributed report making these points:

- The church subsidence has steadied recently, probably due to the rain.
- Reading Room – door still and issue and we’re at a stage where we’ll be writing to them. Paddy provided the update that we have just arranged for an engineer to visit this coming Friday – thanks to Dave Mowatt’s perseverance. Rob C offered to draft a formal letter of complaint if it became necessary.

- Field access. Carolyn has had no response from the Diocese regarding the response from the neighbour who said she has a historical right of access.

Jo asked if we were still paying for the engineer to read the electronic subsidence monitors. Robin replied that we haven't yet been billed, but the amount is in the budget. We are also taking our own manual readings every two-three months and logging them graphically.

Beverly offered her thanks to the Premises Vision Group.

4. Transforming Church Plan

Beverly reminded the PCC that we have agreed our six goals and that we'd look at one at each PCC meeting. We have prioritised Children & Young People – as suggested by Diocese to all churches.

Jeanette Whiteman reported back on the goals:

Jeanette explained that most of the goals also involve the Worship Vision Group and so they should also review them.

- Change the pattern of worship at the 10am Service, to offer two 'Services of the Word' each month, with music led by a Music Group.
 - It's a little early to draw any consistent conclusions since we've not been able to meet in church much. A general observation, on the few that we have had, is that more families seem to have attended. We know that the children and young people involved in the music have enjoyed that. We'll need it to run a lot longer before we can assess the full impact.
- Develop a 4pm service each Sunday, to offer a different time for families to come to church
 - Again, this needs to run for longer. We have a core attendance, but most of these have not been families with some attending occasionally.
- Offer regular Services in church for QE school (during Covid), whereby children and staff come to church monthly or bimonthly
 - Beverly has been organizing what she can during the pandemic. Although she couldn't go into school, they were keen to come to church. We planned a service a month in the autumn term; harvest, a prayer space and Christmas. We only managed Harvest due to

staff shortages etc. The intention is still very much there. Beverly has recorded an assembly for both QE and Onslow.

- To offer a Youth Group via Zoom for secondary aged children at All Saints. This will take place during the school holidays.
 - This started during summer holidays and was very successful and enjoyed by those who joined. Participation tailed off in September with the start of term as the work load increased for the children. It was decided that this activity is not viable during term-time, but would continue in holidays. One session was held in half term, two in the Christmas holidays, and one is being planned for February half term. The children report that they enjoy the mix of what we do; the chat, the activities; the reflection. This will need to be reviewed post pandemic. At the Vision Group meeting, it was suggested that we might try to do something else. Emily Moulden mentioned something from St John's; a game called 'Among Us'. Simon Moulden is looking into the feasibility of that.

One thing they'd like to achieve: We first need to take stock of where things are when we return to some sort of normal. How many families will regularly be worshipping in church? We can then look at provision. It was clear that the children and young people need to feel a sense of community. The sharing of hopes and fears, the sharing values, seems to be key. Re-building that sense of community will be a key task when we can get back together again.

Hurdles? People. How many will be there? How many people in a position to lead and work with the children?

Rebecca commented that it sensible to target activities for the half terms and holidays due to the school workload.

Marguerite asked Beverly whether she did all the work with schools as this seemed a lot for one person to do. Beverly responded that that she would like to build a team to do this work, like we do for Messy Church and Prayer spaces. Alison may be willing to help with assemblies at some point. We need to always have schools in our minds when thinking about children and young people.

Henrietta thanked Jeanette for all she does and encouraged her to keep going!

Simon Moulden congratulated Jeanette for all that has been done during the year. He observed that we have a small core group of older children and

these will soon be involved in GCSEs, A levels and eventually moving away. Beverly commented that the Young Adults group has really grown and developed, with ten to twelve attending regularly. This has helped Beverly realise that if we can find what it is they'd like to do, the young people may be able to be engaged in new ways. We might need to look to Henrietta and Martyn to help with those thoughts.

Simon Doran commented that there was quite a bulge that has gone through the system, and they will move away from Guildford possibly. We need to make sure to invest in the very youngest and bring them through. We need continuous movement through the system as, unless you have some at all ages, it becomes very stop start. We know that they will come if they know their friends will be there.

Rebecca remarked that the strength of Young Adults group is that they can do it online. This might be true for the younger ones coming through if they can't come to a service for other reasons.

Beverly offered her thanks to Jeanette, Julie and the team.

5. Vicar's Report

Beverly reported on the time since we met on 19th January:

- Services are online only until the end February. They are going well with wider participation. We need to learn from this and try to retain it.
- All Vision Groups still running, as are the small groups. Trish is still working from home and Beverly from the Vicarage. The Pilgrim Course is running well. We still meet for coffee after services.
- A high point has been the Burns Night Quiz. We had 70 people attend. Huge thanks to Eve and Robin for organizing that.
- We're now preparing for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter. We'll need to make a decision on what we can do for Easter after the Government's announcement later this month.
- Work is also happening to prepare for the APCM

Beverly ended by saying that the year has been a journey in faith and she is feeling positive and optimistic.

Robin asked how we compare with other churches regarding online services. Beverly replied that she meets with her colleagues covering the 18 churches in the deanery. She believes we're doing well with the help of Trish's skill and her willingness to work hard. Probably a third to a half are also doing well. Some churches are struggling more and so have joined together with others. We've done well with the resources and skills that we have.

6. APCM

Beverly gave her thanks to Vision Group leaders for their reports.

Julie commented that a couple of the groups have changed their name and so it would be useful to changing name ('Senior Team' to 'Central Team', and '18+' to 'Young Adults')

Action Trish: to put the old names in brackets.

Proposal: That the PCC approves the 2020 Reports & Accounts

Proposed: Eve Gunn; **Seconded:** Martyn; All in favour.

Beverly gave her thanks to Trish for compiling the Reports & Accounts.

Beverly gave her thanks to those ending their term on the PCC; Eve, Chris, Paddy and Martyn.

Beverly explained that we're hoping to co-opt Chris as Treasurer. Rob Crossingham was co-opted and will become a member again. We still vacancies for PCC members, plus Deanery Synod representatives and deputy wardens.

Beverly also gave huge thanks to Carolyn who is ending her time as a Churchwarden.

Beverly explained that she has been giving much thought to warden role and has decided to have a new plan. She is proposing that each warden has a particular area of responsibility; one for buildings and the other for worship. Henrietta is happy to stay on and will look after worship. Robin has kindly agreed to stand as a warden with responsibility for buildings. Beverly has seen this pattern work in her former parishes.

Jo commented that she thought it was a great plan and gave her thanks to Robin for standing. Paddy agreed and thinks it makes sense to divide the responsibilities.

Carolyn commented that, too often in the past, it has been the warden 'doing'. Moving forward, they should have responsibility but delegate more of the tasks. It is a leadership and strategic planning role.

Beverly reminded the PCC that we are still looking for deputies for Robin and Henrietta.

7. Safeguarding

Julie commented that her update this month was as recorded in the Annual Report. Safeguarding training is a key part of all roles and it takes an inordinate amount of time to get this sorted. Julie asked for cooperation from all around training.

8. Review of actions

The action log was reviewed.

Beverly is looking into whether we need to repay the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation for Matrix. If we do, it would be a maximum of £100 (the remaining amount).

9. Approvals

9.1. Minuting of January closure (email decision)

As this decision was made over email, it is brought to this meeting in order to be minuted.

The initial proposal was to close for Sunday services but to remain open for Thursday communion. After feedback from the PCC, this proposal was changed to:

Proposal: To close for all in-person services.

Proposed: Beverly Watson; **Seconded:** The wardens; Unanimously agreed.

Note: The February closure was covered at Standing Committee.

9.2. Legacy Policy (see Appendix B)

Rob Crossingham explained that he has attended a Church of England seminar on legacy giving. It is striking how good churches are at getting regular donations, but bad at legacy giving (compared to other charities). The seminar suggested an action plan, the first of which is to ensure the church has a policy on legacy giving.

Proposal: that we adopt the legacy policy as circulated

Proposed: Robin Holdsworth; **Seconded:** Rob Crossingham; All in favour

10. Dates and Events

10.1. Summer Fayre 2021

Trish explained that she and Henrietta think it might be unwise to plan for a fayre on 19th June (as currently in the calendar). We feel this might be a bit too early in terms of the pandemic and the safety of the event. We'd like to propose two new dates for events in the summer. 17th July for a Summer Fayre and/or 18th September for an Autumn Fayre with apple pressing.

Julie agreed that it would be good to plan for two events.

Paddy commented that County School will have broken up by then (they break up before the Surrey County Council published dates). It might be that some families will be going away.

Action: Henrietta and Trish to discuss and agree a date.

11. Dates of future meetings

Standing Committee – 9th March 2021

APCM – 21st March 2021

Standing Committee – 6th April 2021

PCC induction and meal(?) – 12th April 2021

PART 2 (*Confidential items*)

(none)

Note: The [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) is referenced here for your convenience.

Minutes approved on 12th April 2021

Signed:

Appendix A

Premises Vision Group Report February 2021

1. The latest readings from the digital monitoring of the subsidence in the Chapel area have indicated that the cracks have marginally closed.
2. New Tell Tales have been placed in various parts of the Church and will be monitored over 2021 to check on movements of various parts of the building.
3. Work has begun looking at the potential eco-friendly methods of heating the Church. Work has also started to evaluate the insulation of the Church which includes the filling of the cavity walls and secondary glazing of the clerestory windows.
4. There has been no improvement in the ability of the Reading Room's external door to prevent water ingress. The manufacturer, Velfac, has not replied to our phone calls or emails. A letter listing contact dates and unfulfilled promises of assistance made by Velfac will now be sent to the company before taking potential legal action.
5. The Bell Tower continues to deteriorate and will be examined and hopefully repaired on the next work day whose date depends on the Covid situation.
6. A timer for the heater in the Church toilet is to be installed.
7. There have been some issues with heating in the Hall. There was a small leak on the boiler and the Hall thermostat has been re-sited.
8. A letter was sent to all property owners backing onto the field reminding them that although we have no objection to them walking across the field they do not have right of access to the field from their properties. One resident has objected and Diocesan advice has been sought.
9. The many unheralded tasks of the retiring churchwarden are being reorganised so that there will be one point of contact who will get in touch, via Whats App, with the most appropriate person to action the particular task.

Appendix B



All Saints' Church Legacy Policy

At All Saints' Church, we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to our parish. Our PCC Legacy Policy is **to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.**

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to **our future mission and ministry.**

We acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or his/her executors feel most appropriate to. Equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor prefers.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how/if you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact Revd Beverly Watson on 07547 416721 or email beverlyannewatson@btinternet.com

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please come and discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate way to remember a loved one.

