

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 4th May 2020 via zoom**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Caroline Elston, Amy Stidworthy, Sylvia Walker, Miranda Armitage, Kath Hannam Margaret Beatham, Dawn and Charles Jenkins, Jan Copsey, Bill Marwick, Kathleen Balfour, Suzanne Mills.

Absent: Lynn Haygarth & Nikki Gibson.

ACTION

1. Opening Prayers

Peter Willox welcomed the PCC to the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

None received..

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting in March 2020 were accepted unanimously as a true record of the last meeting. Proposed: Sylvia Walker, seconded Caroline Elston.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Solar Panels - Lights are now installed and working. We will find out in Winter how effective they are.
- ii. Boilers - Suzanne reported the plumber had fitted the part and that everything was now working. The plumber also passed on the name of a company/website that does eco friendly boilers. Peter mentioned it might also be worth looking into air source and ground source heat pumps near Harrogate.
- iii. Lighting Project - A discussion ensued around the next steps to be taken re the new lighting project. At the last committee meeting in March 2020 Suzanne had reported that Mike Overton, architect, had come back with a much cheaper estimate. Peter had also reported that J Hainesworth had left a legacy to St John's and it was decided to ask Mr Hainesworth whether the legacy could be used for the lighting project. Peter has not yet spoken to Mr Hainesworth. A discussion ensued around whether Suzanne should go back to the architect to obtain a more detailed specification and estimate. Reservations were expressed that it might be too soon in this uncertain climate even though the spec we are looking at is the minimum.

5. Future plans - opening Church up slowly and hall use strategy

The clergy had received a letter from Bishop Nick following briefings from Parliament and the House of Bishops saying not to expect things to get back to normal for up to between 2-5 years. Unlocking Church will be a slower process than expected. We therefore need to look at a longer term strategy of how we do church in the coming years. People might feel uneasy at sitting in large groups of people. On hearing this news Charles advised that we should therefore leave the lighting project now. Suzanne asked however if we might be able to do the toilets now since we had received permission and the funds, the plumbers merchants seemed to be opening up again and the contractor was still working. It was decided Suzanne should contact Carmel to see if the diocese are reviewing their advice on undertaking work in church. Charles would not now be able to be project manager due to shielding. However having the work done whilst no one else was in Church would be ideal should it be allowed..

This will be reviewed at PCC as and when new information becomes available.

Peter declared an interest around hall hire and stated that we need to consider how we operate and use our building space to help the hall hirers get back to some form of business, albeit maybe in small groups but without being too expensive. After the next government briefing and hopefully more clarity on the situation PW is to have a conversation with Sandy Tod about this in order to seek a way forward.

Miranda asked whether St John's is still paying people. Answer - yes, no one is furloughed.

Charles mentioned that the church might need a deep clean before we start to open up again.

It was pointed out that Bill had led a deep clean in church in March 2020 and that actually virus

particles are only infectious on surfaces for 72 hours. Nearer the time of opening Katie maybe able to help with the cleaning again.

6. Finance

Charles mentioned that the 2019 Share had inadvertently been overpaid by £8K . This will be shown as a prepayment on the 2020 Share. Due to the current Covid-19-related situation we are currently underpaying the Share each month. Income-wise we are more or less on budget. £90K of our income is from giving (much of which is by standing order). We will take a big hit from the downturn in hall hire which usually amounts to around £19K. Underpaying on Share is in anticipation of under receiving on income. There may be still one utility bill to pay on the old contract. Charles will monitor the financial situation.

7. Feedback on zoom services

There has been lots of positive feedback on the new online set up. The problems with the live streaming of the U Tube worship songs maybe circumvented by individuals playing the songs through another device rather than trying to do it together through zoom. A hybrid of the various services may be the best option.

There have been two ARK services on zoom. Miranda asked if Peter had any plans to record an 8am service. The coming week will be a full zoom service and then it can be reviewed.

Charles mentioned the use of Facebook was also a possibility for a service but it is not as interactive.

8. Pastoral Care

Peter shared with the PCC an excel spreadsheet he had created showing the various groups people belonged to at church. Some of these groups, such as the Spiritual Growth Groups are already holding twice monthly zoom meetings. There is a group of 50 people that come to St John's but cannot be categorised in to any one group. These people in particular are the ones who may slip through the net should they have no contact with church in the coming weeks. It was suggested a system be set up to ensure people do not get missed out during this unsettling time. Peter asked for volunteers who might offer to phone people.

The following people volunteered. KB, SM,CE,KH,BM,MB, Sarah Wilde and Katie Kennedy had also previously shown interest.

Action Points - Sylvia and Jan to send Peter a list of people contacted on a regular basis. Peter to put something together using the volunteers from this evening.

PW
SW
JC

9. AOB

Action Point - PW to contact Mike Faulkner re Christian Aid Sunday

PW

SW mentioned there should be a notice to ask people to make their own individual contributions to Christian Aid in view of the current situation.

10. Legal Position

A new Provision has been made for annual meetings and elections in 2020. In brief:

- The period for holding an APCM is extended to 31 10 2020 for electing PCC and Deanery Synod members and for appointing Church Wardens. Outgoing PCC member continue to hold office until the conclusion of the APCM.

- Church Wardens chosen in 2019 continue to hold office until 31 01 2021 unless a successor is admitted before.

- Deanery Synod members hold post until 30 11 2020.

Charles asked about holding wardens meetings and a standing committee. Meetings to be held as and when necessary.

The Church of England states the sacraments can't be done outside the congregation. Peter asked what people thought about doing the sacraments through the online services. Most people have felt that holding Holy Communion in this way has been very valuable and should continue.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21.20.

