

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 6th July 2020 via zoom**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Caroline Elston, Amy Stidworthy, Miranda Armitage, Margaret Beatham, Dawn and Charles Jenkins, Jan Copsey, Bill Marwick, Kath Hannam, Suzanne Mills, Julia Jordan (in part).

Apologies: Nikki Gibson, Kathleen Balfour, Sylvia Walker, Lynn Haygarth.

ACTION

1. Opening Prayers

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

2. Apologies for absence

Nikki Gibson, Sylvia Walker and Kathleen Balfour, Lynn Haygarth.

3. Minutes

The minutes 22 06 2020 were approved unanimously.

4. Finance

The PCC had approved the 2019 Accounts subject to amendments. The reasons for the amendments to the accounts which were emailed prior to the meeting are listed as follows per Julia's email.

1. *The accrual of the remainder of the 2019 mission budget of £1,525 (agreed by the PCC at the March*
2. *An increase of £600 in hall hire debtors. This is because I accrued income of £3,800 for Wright Theatre Arts for the Autumn term and the eventual payment was £4,408. £600 is a material difference in relation to the original deficit of £478, so I had to make the change.*
3. *An additional share payment, made in error in December 2019. As the payment relates to 2019 it has shown in the accounts. However this was not an amount agreed by PCC, so it has not been shown in expenditure but put in prepayments in the balance sheet (Debtors increased by £7,917 and ca reduced by £7,917). It will form part of the 2020 share.*

Therefore the overall impact on the general fund is a decrease in surplus of £900.

CJ proposed the amended accounts be approved by the PCC, JC seconded it.

Julia explained we have been paying a reduced share of £4500/month due to lockdown closure.

It was also decided that Charles pay £6583 in share as a one-off payment the next day to make up the shortfall. A further decision will be taken in December 2020 re share payments.

We are fortunate that our standing orders are being honoured and we are only receiving a hit on hall hire and plate. Thanks to Julia for doing this work.

Peter said he would speak to the hall hirers to see what their needs are regarding re starting at St John's.

5. Matters Arising

- a) **Toilets** - we are still waiting to hear from Dobson's when they can undertake the work which is dependent on their ability to obtain the plaster. Without the plaster they cannot even start the work which is already scheduled in for as soon as possible.
There is a wedding at St John's in 2 weeks. We will need to ask Katie to clean the toilets and allow the pregnant lady to have a dedicated toilet. Hand sanitizer and wipes for cleaning door handles will be provided. Pew runners will be removed and pews cleaned after use.
Names of attendees should be retained for 3 weeks.
- b) **Prayer Garden** - Amy will collect the poster and give it to Margaret. Margaret will laminate posters of praying hands and tie to the tree at church and fetch some ribbons from the cupboard.
PW and MB to meet at 11am on Wednesday 8th July to set up the prayer garden.
This should be kept simple and tidy.
- c) **Church opening for Prayer**
Information about the church openings on Wednesday and Sunday for two hours had been communicated in the pastoral letter and notices but some people have not picked up on this yet. There are some lengthy instructions to read upon entry. The website needs amending to reflect not only the opening times and to remove the published service schedule.

Action Point - Tony to amend the website.

Action Point - PW to put the two opening times on Ikley Chat.

PW

6. Property

- PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) is to take place at 8.15 on Monday 3rd August. PW will church instead of Peter Runton who is shielding. Peter W to liaise with Peter Runton and Sandy Tod. The contractors may need to wear their own PPE.
- Roger has asked if the gardener, Luke would be allowed to clear the gutters. It was agreed that he can. Bill kindly volunteered to sort the drains and to sweep up the debris. Margaret mentioned it would be a good idea if there were small packs of gloves etc for people volunteering in church.

7. Unlocking

Peter explained how the relaxation of lockdown on the Church of England with the repealing of legislation passed on 26th March to lockdown now means we are obliged to open under law and to offer the regular services. In order to forestall the opening the PCC must apply for a dispensation from the Bishop to stay closed due to reasons of Covid 19 and to name the date we intend to open the church for worship.

A lengthy discussion ensued on how we might open if we are only allowed 30 people.

It was suggested that the Book of Common prayer Holy Communion service might be an appropriate starting point as it meets the requirements of lawful worship and satisfies the restrictions in place as lockdown is eased including no singing. The Sunday evening prayer meetings usually held twice a month could also resume within the guidance . In addition we could continue to hold a zoomed service and provide the service materials for those who prefer not to zoom or who don't have internet access.

The idea would be to work towards streaming the 10am service eventually with a small congregation from church via zoom. Singing would not be allowed but music could be played. Amy referred to the anonymised sheet on guidance in attending church which was felt to be a useful document. Consideration needs to be given to those people who have not had the benefit of zoom to be given priority to attend church if they are able and want to.

It is important that the clergy team is not overburdened with services. Dawn and Peter mentioned it is however a good opportunity to do something new as well as review what we are doing now to see if it is still appropriate.

It was decided that we would apply for the dispensation up until Sunday 6th September when we hope to resume worship in church. Proposed PW, seconded AS.

It was also suggested a working party be set up to develop these ideas for worship in and out of Church.

Action Point - Peter to ask in the notices and in his pastoral letter for volunteers from the congregation to join the working group.

PW

So far Peter, Amy, Miranda and Dawn will be on this group. They will report to the next PCC meeting on 24th August 2020.

8. AOB

Action Point - Peter to circulate an email from Tony Watson on his house group discussion on change.

PW

The meeting closed at 21.40

The date of the next PCC is Monday 24th August at 7.30pm via zoom.