



Minutes of the Parochial Church Council

Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 18.30

By Zoom

In the chair: Nigel Ridgway (NR)

Secretary: Jill Mather (JMM)

Present: Caroline Adams (CA), Stuart Macwilliam (SM), Rachel Martindill (RM), Jill Mather (JMM), Andrew Mimmack (AM), Mike Payne (MGP), Marilyn Pegg (MP), Pat Read (PR), Joan Ridgway (JR), Nigel Ridgway (NR), Louise Spencer (LS), Fr Steve Turner (Fr S), Nigel Williams (NW)

1. **Fr H opened with prayer** for the St James' church family – past, present and future.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Anita Atherton (AA), Tim Bayton (TB)
3. **Submission of Participation Numbers for Assessment of the Common Fund**
 - i. NR in opening his remarks, picked up on Fr H's prayer, with a comment on the significant changes in participation over the course of the last two years. For that reason, he and the churchwardens had asked for an extra PCC meeting to explain the calculations used to determine the number of participants to submit to the diocese.
 - ii. He reminded the PCC of the three documents he had sent out earlier to inform the discussion. He explained that participant numbers reported in 2020 and 2021 were based on 2019 numbers, the pandemic having shut churches and changed patterns of worship.
 - iii. Before the pandemic, the participant figures (adults attending once a month in a church which is their principal place of worship) were calculated from those attending the church building each week. Participation patterns changed during the pandemic (for example, joining online) and for some the return to the church building has not

happened: some have lost the habit of attending church regularly; others have continued to worship online; some have just lost the habit of attendance altogether. Fr H added the many elderly and frail members who have not returned to church, through infirmity or fear.

- iv. It was recognised as well, though, that significant numbers of new people had joined St James', attending regularly and becoming part of the church community.
- v. In calculating numbers, therefore, for 2022, participants on the communications list have been counted, minus those new or returning to faith, and students. Total of participants in 2022 = 113.
- vi. As the Common Fund for 2023 will be calculated on the average of the participation data provided in 2020, 2021 and 2022, there is also the opportunity on the submission form to revise the 2021 participant number. The original submission (based on 2019 data) was 147, which can now be reduced to 122, the difference being those who have moved from the area, or to another church, or who have died.
- vii. NR asked for questions or comments.
- viii. CA asked why students weren't included in the revised 2021 figures. NR pointed out that we are only required to note those who have permanently stopped coming to church.
- ix. RM reminded the PCC that for much of 2021 numbers were limited by the need to book a place in church.
- x. PR wondered if having the online option might actually deter some from coming to church regularly as it offers the freedom to choose when to worship.
- xi. **Approval of the participant numbers: NR asked the PCC approve the submission. Approved nem con.**
- xii. Fr H thanked NR and RM for the work in calculating the numbers and providing the information for the PCC.
- xiii. Fr H also thanked all those who had organised events during the "Merry Month of May": extra services as well as several community events had reached out to many different groups.

4. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with the Grace at 19.05.

Jill Mather
PCC Secretary