

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting on Zoom, held 13th January 2021, 8pm

Present: M Smith (chair), A Grace, R Crow, S Danby, I Wallis, J Wheeler, N Massey,

J Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: none

1. MS welcomed everyone with a reading from Acts 3 vs 1-10 and a prayer.

2. No apologies

3. Minutes from 18th November 2020 were accepted by all, to be formally approved on email.

Matters arising: It is not feasible for the Wheelers to make Nativity figures. JV to look for an alternative and AG/SD to contact Ashton Keynes to find out who made their figures.

Action – JV, SD, AG

RC to continue discussions with Gloria Light regarding church records/history. **Action - RC**

4. Items proposed and approved solely by email since last meeting are as follows:

- that the repair works to the Lady Chapel and North Transept roofs go ahead
- that services of public worship are suspended during the current lockdown

5. Vacancy update

One candidate will interviewed for the post of Priest in Charge of Upper Thames Benefice. The interview is postponed because of current lockdown restrictions, but possibly an opportunity for the panel to meet the candidate over zoom. AG clarified that the Archdeacon fully understands and supports the need to chose the right person, not rush the process through in order to fill the post.

6. Ongoing pastoral care

We need to review the networks in place in order to support and keep in touch with our congregation, particularly those living alone or elderly/vulnerable. SD and JV to check this.

Action – SD, JV

7. Responding well to domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is on the rise nationally and as a church we are called to become more aware of the issue and take action to show that we would respond well to anyone facing this situation. As a PCC we agreed to support raising awareness within our church and committed to reading the document, 'Ending Domestic Abuse, a pack for Churches'. Further discussion/action to lead to a strategy document and to raise this topic within the Marriage Preparation course. It also comes under the umbrella of Safeguarding. SD to talk more with Avril Fray, Safeguarding Officer.

Action – ALL, SD

8. Finance

Current balances:

Main account: £ 8,248

Restricted: £ 20,605 broken down as follows:

Organ fund:	£ 3,456
Fabric:	£ 3,789
Roof:	£ 8,791 plus grants of £35,000
Children's Educational charity:	£ 4,250
Funeral Donation:	£ 318

We currently owe £9606 arrears to the Diocese for Parish Share 2020.

The Diocese have accepted our Parish Share pledge for 2021 of £18,000, greatly reduced from their original request, but within our limited budget.

Of the £8248 in the current account, £974 is surplus – we are just managing. Other monies are £4,000 reserves, £1,674 Jan expenditure and £1,6000 fees for cancelled weddings that couples are happy for us to hold onto at the moment.

Contactless giving is up and running. There are 2 options to pay: by credit card via Give as You Live, using QR code displayed at church, or online donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=231527 Alternatively, giving via Paypal Giving Fund at 0% commission, but you need a Paypal account. Very grateful thanks to Sarah Smith for patiently investigating and arranging this. All monies given using either method will be split 50/50 between general running costs and the roof fund. Details are also on the Roof project Facebook page and if money is given through this then it will be allocated to the roof. Agreed by all, to be formally approved on email.

AG has set a budget for 2021, but likely to be revised considerably unless levels of funding return to normal.

We are able to apply for Cultural Recovery Funding, designed to allow cultural sites to re-open when restrictions are lifted. AG to submit application for a deep clean of the church, Covid signs and free standing alcohol hand sanitiser dispenser. Agreed by all, to be formally approved on email. **Action - AG**

AG proposed and RC seconded that we purchase a document trolley for extra storage in the clergy vestry and that the wooden desk be removed and replaced by the cupboard (not needed for Fairtrade any longer). Agreed by all, to be formally approved on email. **Action – AG**

For the time being the heating will be switched on on Sundays and Thursdays, to conserve oil. It will also be put on if there is a funeral.

9. Fabric/Building/Roof project

The South Transept repairs are finished, slightly over budget, but this was expected.

The contract for the Nave has been awarded and hope work will start in March. Further grants to come in from various grant bodies. Grateful thanks to Barry for overseeing the roof work on a daily basis.

10. Youth and Children

North Wilts Mission Area group Dynamo are asking for pledges from the 6 Benefices to fund the proposed youth worker project. Still many questions about how the youth worker trainees would be shared out, but need to have realistic idea of funding from parishes to see if it's viable.

JV proposed and MS seconded that St Sampson's pledges £6,500 across 3 years, our 56% benefice share. SD to talk with Ashton Keynes, Latton and Leigh about their pledges to see if we can reach £11,000 total pledge for UTG. MS to feed back to Catherine Price. **Action – SD, MS**

11. Safeguarding

PCC members are undertaking various levels of online training – this is ongoing and a record is kept by Safeguarding Officer.

SD to send JV her copy of Ex-Offenders policy. **Action – SD**

12. Together we are Stronger

JV to discuss the future of this group with Reanne. **Action - JV**

13. Churches Together – carried forward

14. Jenner Hall – closed until the spring

15. Deanery Synod – carried forward

16. Correspondence

None

17. AOB

None

18. Future meeting dates 2021, all Wednesdays, continuing on Zoom.

3rd March

19th May

7th July

15th September

10th November

APCM Sunday 25th April, plus brief PCC afterwards – review APCM date and move to May...

Post meeting note:

Under item 10, Youth and Children

After the meeting, MS circulated revised figures for pledging money to the NWMA Youth Worker Project, as follows:

Cricklade – 56% - £7,700

Ashton Keynes – 38% - £5,225

Latton – 4% - £550

Leigh – 2% - £275

We agreed to pledge £6,500 tonight but this should actually have been £7,700 over 3 years. Are we happy to increase our pledge to the higher number? As we discussed we have the £4,250 in the Children's fund but would have to find an additional £3,450 over 3 years (£1,150 per year). I believe there are people who would give to this specifically within the church. Please let me know your thoughts.