



ALL SAINTS
HIGH WYCOMBE

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 22nd May 2024 in Church

Present : Fr. Anthony Searle (Chair of the PCC) (Fr.AS), Revd Jackie Lock (Associate Priest)(JLk)
Derek Lancaster Licensed Lay Minister, (DL), Robyn Connelly (Children and Families Minister) (RC), Edgar Samuel (Deputy Honorary Churchwarden)(ES), John Lord (Treasurer) (JL), Sue Lord (Deanery Synod Rep)(SL), Ray Levy (RL), Barbara Bowman (BB), Jean Johnson (JJ), Mark Johnson (MJ), Joc Lucas (JLs), Linda Titchen Moorcroft (LM), Michelle Neudecker (MN), Jacqui Brearley (PCC Secretary)(JB)

Note. The minutes have, in some instances, been re-ordered to gather items together under the headings set out in the original agenda.

Welcome from Fr Anthony (Fr. AS)

The meeting began with Evening Prayers

1. APOLOGIES

Mike Salem (MS), Kath Dunn (KD), Barry Titchen (BT), Sheila Doig (SD).

2. SAFEGUARDING

JB reminded PCC members that they are asked to complete the Basic and Foundation levels of Safeguarding training using the Church of England's National Safeguarding team's online learning portal. Thistle has requested for copies of certificates for completed training to be emailed to her, hard copies of which are kept securely in the Church office. Where training certificates are out of date members should repeat the module, whilst for others training has not yet been done.

Fr. AS hopes that the appointment of the new Safeguarding officer will be forthcoming and it is currently under negotiation. LM referred to a prior discussion suggesting dividing the Safeguarding officer's remit into two with Thistle taking on more of the administration. There has not been an opportunity yet to thank the retiring Safeguarding Officer, Jo Norman, for her hard work but a card and gift have been prepared.

Action - JB will update members with the status of their Safeguarding training. PCC members are asked to complete their training asap and forward certificates to Thistle in the Church Office.

3. LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Fr. AS presented the 'Feedback and Next Steps' document from the Away Day circulated to PCC members. Page 1 outlines information emerging on the day, pages 2-3 how to progress this information. Fr. AS thanked PCC members who attended the away day & suggested that a Bible study session should be arranged to follow; perhaps on a Saturday morning before the Summer. Also a set of sermons could be delivered about identity and sexuality one of which might take the form of a debate. LM expressed concern that there was a danger of polarising people and DL was uncertain that a debate format would work. SL said it was important to hold the next step on a Sunday when those inclined not to attend meetings on this subject would be engaged. JLk suggested a Zoom session would engage those not able to attend Church. JL commented care was needed to avoid the risk of fewer people being willing to attend Living in Love and Faith sessions. DL questioned why people would not want to get involved? Fr. AS suggested sending a survey to the congregation and JLs suggested sending a survey before and after a LL&F sermon. DL recommended watching videos on lived experiences would be helpful although pointed out that the stories are personal so it may not be possible to circulate them. JLs suggested

sending out a link to the videos in the Parish News ahead of the LL&F sermon. BB suggested that the PCC should concentrate on simply blessing same sex marriages in stand alone services initially. MJ said that not all the congregation will participate and LM wondered if the congregation realises that a majority decision on this is essential.

Action - Fr. AS requested feedback from PCC members after reading the 'Feedback and Next Steps' notes & he will circulate Bishop Stephen's booklet – 'Together in Love & Faith' (which is his response to the LLF document).

4. PRAYER SPACE

Fr. AS presented design drawings for a new space near the choir door combining the two existing prayer areas; candle lighting area (1) and the table near the South porch (2). He proposes a trifolium with the central section against the wall, with a desk, seating, board for prayers to be pinned up and candles with a canopy as above the South Porch. The latter might be made by Brian Tilbury. It will be possible to fold up the three sided structure when necessary and it will not affect the positioning of the fire extinguishers. MN hoped it would be possible to incorporate a creative approach to the space with use of colour and decoration. LM suggested access to kneelers would be a good idea.

RL liked the idea of an area to sit and talk with visitors within the prayer space but DL said it is best to separate these two activities. JJ commented that visitors might be put off entering to pray near the choir door during services however Fr. AS commented that the back of AS and the area near the North Chapel and organ pipes is noisy and not conducive to prayer hence the suggested location. Also that the Children's area is evolving into an area for sitting to talk during the week times. The Quiet garden is used for informal chat by the choir before services, whilst children enjoy using it after services. RL commented the North Chapel is a dark space and should be painted a light colour. Fr. AS wants an Interior Designer to evaluate it.

BB opened discussion about the Lady Chapel which she feels is neglected and DL asked in what way? BB replied a better sound system is required. Fr. AS asked what PCC members thought the function of the Lady Chapel should be. BB said it's a focus for the sacrament. MJ suggested it would ideally become a private Chapel during week times with doors to optionally shut it off. Fr. AS said it also needs a lift for disabled access.

Action- Fr. AS requested volunteers to write icons for the Prayer Space & Jls volunteered to try. Fr. AS to approach Brian Tilbury for quote.

5. Volunteers a. Grant Funding

Although the current projects requiring major funds such as the Willis organ restoration and the South Porch project are not ready to start yet, Fr. AS clarified that AS needs a volunteer to apply for grant funding. MN suggested advertising in the AS news sheet. LM mentioned that preferably this should be someone with experience and skill in writing grant applications/bids who also has experience of identifying funders rather than just a willing member of the congregation. The alternative approach would be to get in a professional. LM also mentioned it might be worth approaching 'One Can' for advice about who they use or JL said other Churches in the team might also have useful, relevant information to share.

Action - LM kindly agreed to draft a note for the next Parish News requesting an experience bid writer able to research possible funders to come forward.

b. Social Events Co ordinator

Fr. AS would like to appoint someone to ask people to organise events. Possible candidates were discussed and will be sounded out before the next PCC meeting. JB said that it would be beneficial to have a social events sub group/committee rather than one person coordinating alone as ideas from one person often spark more from others. ES mentioned that the Social Responsibility committee was very successful. Fr. AS said in time it would possibly evolve into a sub group and it shouldn't be confused with

fund raising but rather concentrate on social events for the enjoyment and social adhesion of the congregation.

SL said that a variety of people are needed to organise social events for a mixture of events to develop and so avoid repetition.

Action – Fr. AS to ask Helen Cousins to take on the role and also for PCC members to offer more suggestions

6. VISITATION ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE

from Archdeacons there will be a evening service of dedication for new Churchwardens within the diocese. It is hoped the choir will sing.

7. APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH WARDENS

Lis & Jenny have expanded the original Churchwarden roles significantly with their excellent service over the years. As new volunteers are not forthcoming, Fr AS suggested generating a list of jobs within the roles which could be divided up between more people. Lis Burns kindly sent through a list (three pages long) of all the jobs she and Jenny undertook during their tenure. DL suggested that a shorter more usual Church warden duty list should also be prepared.

Action – JB to format the list from Lis and send it out to PCC members to volunteer for some of the jobs. DL kindly volunteered to cover AV.

8. PLANS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

Fr As presented a chart showing dates of the main festivals, events and plans for social events & suggesting a number of new groups . Eg. Youth group (which has met a couple of times already), 20s age group, Enquirers Group (exploring Christianity & hopefully starting in Sept).

Fr AS also suggested an ASHW pilgrimage & retreat/quiet day.

Forthcoming social events will include a quiz night which Dawn Segrue (DS) has kindly agreed to coordinate. DS has suggested Friday 5th July.

Other events to add to the chart include 21st July for the Parish picnic and dates for the Christingle and crib services. ASHW await the date of the next switching on of the Christmas lights.

DL raised the question of whether the ASHW Summer activity week would be repeated this year for children and families and SL suggested extending it to include adults with art/creativity. Jls mentioned her experience of running art classes and working with adults with learning difficulties.

BB recollected a course she had heard of called 'Holiday at home' for those unable to afford or go away in the Summer. JB said this might tie in well with one of ASHW's new charities Transforming Lives for Good where partnership churches help deprived/poor children and families.

DL mentioned Summer 'Pimms and Hymns' and MN suggested Autumn cream teas on a Sunday afternoon as other possible events.

LM and Jlk raised the question of whether there would be a requirement for Hustings to be held at ASHW ahead of the election on July 4th. Fr. AS suggested asking Sarah Martin and Steve Baker MP.

Action – PCC members to consider how they can help with the development of the above ideas.

9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024.

The minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 28th April were confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by ES, seconded by SL and approved unanimously after which they were signed by Fr. AS.

The minutes of the APCM held on 28th April were confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by MJ, seconded by JB and approved unanimously after which they were signed by Fr. AS.

The minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 28th April were confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by DL, seconded by BB and approved unanimously after which they were signed by Fr. AS.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

11. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF Wednesday 24TH JANUARY 2024.

The minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 24th January were confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by LM, seconded by JL and approved unanimously after which they were signed by Fr. AS.

12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

Item 8 Charity Partners

Following the research and acceptance of the new charities :

International – CMS. This is a continuation of the current support.

National – Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)

Local – Growing Hope and Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

nominated by the research group, for ASHW to support for next year, along with keeping Wycombe Refugee Partnership for a further year, letters are to be written to the old and new charities explaining the level and timescale of support proposed for the new charities and the fact that support will be coming to an end for the old charities.

At the recent SLT (SC) meeting, JL suggested carrying the same rate of donation as for this year's five charities across the new four charities and an additional fifth could be added if thought appropriate. Statements of belief/doctrine which might conflict with ASHW ethos have been checked and it was agreed that the new charities must be informed of the level of support (the rate will continue to be £40pcm each) and timescale of one year from the outset.

BB asked if there was a period of notice for the old charities and it was confirmed that they were informed and that the original period of support had already been extended considerably.

Action – JB (with the help and advice of Fr. AS) has agreed to write, to the old and new charities and clarify to CMS & Heather Johnson (HJ) confirming an additional year of support is to be earmarked for HJ's work.

13. TEAM REPORTS

13.1 - Churchyard update – DL

DL said that a great deal of earthwork has been done to deal with the 'Rat Problem' particularly in the South west corner of the Churchyard where rat tunnels have been flattened (although some has been already rebuilt) and DL recommends sturdy metal mesh needs to be fitted to solve this problem. RL requested better signage regarding not feeding the pigeons which adds to the rat problem. Also renovation work to No. 1 & 2 Church Square, just outside the Church gates, has continued.

13.2 – Voting result for the resolution - JB:

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe approves the expenditure of £2935.00 + VAT for a new CCTV system in All Saints Churchyard as per the information already circulated to include two panoramic cameras and other necessary equipment with an additional cost of £311.00 + VAT to extend camera coverage to 180 degrees. This is subject to faculty with minimal attachment to the fabric.

JB reported that of the 19 members of the PCC, 15 members voted & 4 members abstained. The votes for the resolution were 14 with 1 member voting against. So the resolution was approved.

13.3 Pastoral Matters - Jlk

Jlk confirmed that work is in progress to set up a pastoral group with ideally six members to make short visits (up to one hour) in pairs to congregational members. So far there are three volunteers. Training will be offered including safeguarding. There is a need for a job description and support and supervision for pastoral group members.

Action - Jlk would welcome suggestions from the PCC of people to approach for the group.

13.4 CHILDREN FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY – RC

The new Youth Group (still to be named) facilitated by RC & Fr AS has had two successful meetings which are currently held once per month after Sunday Eucharist. RC has requested other volunteers to help with tuck and refreshments; perhaps from the younger 20-30s age group amongst ASHW congregation rather than parents of teenage attendees. RC sent out separate surveys to teenage attendees and their parents for feedback which have been enthusiastically responded to.

On a related but separate issue, RC mentioned Lighthouse High Wycombe (5th -9th August) at High Crest Academy; appealing for support and volunteers to help.

Action – Volunteers required to help with Lighthouse – please think about how you can help.

13.5 STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE – JL

JL presented a stewardship and finance update and notes (attached) high lighting rising costs & reliance on small number of high-giving households. Also large amount of fabric spend will be required for South Porch, Stonework & urgent maintenance.

Tenancies - There is a major issue with the Great Ground, Aylesbury tenancy which is up for renewal this month. It had been hoped that the tenants would be retained if they had been able to remain two months in arrears and honour a realistic repayment plan. However as they are now three months in arrears, JL proposed that they should be issued regrettably with an eviction notice. They have been recommended to liaise with Aylesbury Homeless Action Group. This was seconded by BB and unanimously approved by all the attending PCC members.

Action – JL requests volunteers to join or help the Stewardship & Finance Team or encourage others to.

13.6 BUILDINGS & FABRIC SUMMARY – Fr. AS

An architect is attending in July to assess and inspect the long standing South Porch project. This is to have step free access.

The Tower steps are currently being snagged following problems with installation of some of the new ones (some of the wrong steps have been replaced with incorrect wood, not tongued & grooved, some risers are uneven in height, surrounding masonry has been damaged & pest control treatments haven't been applied). Currently JL has the £12K payment on hold. The tower step specification from Rodells appears not to have been passed on to the contractors. Architects are coming in to suggest a way forward with this project.

ES is currently looking for volunteers with relevant experience to join the Fabric committee. So far RL, MJ and David Snoxell have kindly agreed.

Action – Fr. AS asked for other volunteers to come forward.

13.7 OAKLEY HALL REPORT - ES

A fire risk assessment has been done and items need procurement to bring it up to acceptable standards. There was a major leak in the men's WC upstairs (repaired on May 8th), causing damage to ceiling tiles downstairs which will be repaired in the school holidays. Letters have been sent out to tenants to increase service charges but no responses have been received yet.

14. ANY OTHER UNPLANNED/URGENT BUSINESS

a. Fr. AS – Part time priest at St Francis Terriers.

It is proposed that ASHW would also offer a part time role with St Francis's to take this job up to a full time position. This would be advantageous to ASHW given the retirement of Jlk in the Summer and it has been discussed at a previous SLT (SC) meeting in November '23. St Francis only have funds

to cover a part time priest. Fr. AS confirmed that the priest would work independently at St Francis but under his leadership at ASHW, which would help to counteract the risk of part time clergy employees overworking (as pointed out by DL). JL confirmed that although money is currently lacking to fund this stipend (approximately £30K), money going into the Parish mission fund would buy enough time to fund this for a 5 year appointment. LM was concerned for ASHW to stretch financial resources further given the funding issues already discussed to cover major projects such as the South Porch and the Willis organ restoration. BB/MJ asked if St Francis Terriers are without an incumbent. Fr. AS confirmed this and he has been helping to cover some services. They only have a retired clergyman helping.

b. FLAGS

Fr. AS confirmed that Tricia Roberts has given him a list of flags displayed from the ASHW tower flagpole. There are three occasions warranting a different flag:

D Day Anniversary when the Union flag is flown,

Pride – 17th August when the Pride flag would be displayed,

St Vincent Community Day – 22nd January when the St Vincent flag would be displayed.

JL also mentioned another good opportunity on Windrush Day – 22nd June when the St Vincent flag would be displayed.

All PCC members present indicated they were happy for Fr. AS to organise this.

c. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT – SL

Following the Deanery Synod meeting on May 1st, SL gave a brief resume of her meeting notes (attached). There was a strong emphasis on 'Creation Care' and the different ways in which member Churches are working on caring for the environment and God's creation.

d. Date of next SLT (Strategy) Meeting – Fr. AS

Fr. AS proposed a different date (Monday 2nd June at 2pm in the North Chapel) for the forthcoming meeting to review the Provisional Role Description at the back of the parish profile.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

SLT (Strategy) – Monday 2nd June 2024

SLT (Standing Committee) – Wednesday 3rd July 2024

PCC - Wednesday 17th July 2024

SLT (Standing Committee) – Wednesday 4th September 2024

SLT (Strategy) – Wednesday 11th September 2024

PCC – Wednesday 18th September 2024

SLT (Standing Committee) – Wednesday 6th November 2024

PCC – Wednesday 20th November 2024

All on Wednesday. PCC meetings commence at 7:30pm in Church and SLT Meetings at 8pm at the Vicarage.

Unless otherwise stated

CLOSE:

The meeting concluded with Fr. Anthony Searle leading everyone in prayer and closed at 9.50pm.



Approved in principle by the PCC