

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting at 19:30 on Wednesday 1st February 2023, in Church (and via MS-Teams*)

Present – Revd Jackie Lock (JLk), Revd Gareth Morley (GM), Derek Lancaster LLM (DL), Robyn Connelly (RC) (Children's Minister), Lis Burns (LB) (Churchwarden and Chair), Jenny Cartledge (JC) (Churchwarden)*, Edgar Samuel (Deputy Honorary Churchwarden) (ES), John Lord (Treasurer) (JLd), (BT), Barbara Bowman (BB), Sheila Doig (SD), Lauren Harvey (LH), Mark Johnson (MJ), Jean Johnson (JJ), Ray Levy (DSy Rep) (RL), Elizabeth Martin (EM), Lynda Titchen Moorcroft (LM), Dawn Segrue (DS), Philip Hynard (Secretary) (PH).

Welcome from Chairperson.

LB welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a passage from the PCC Members Essential Guide "Space with God 13: When we don't understand".

Evening Prayers were led by RC.

1. Apologies/Did not attend

David Knights (DK) (DSy and DioSy Rep), Barry Titchen (DSy Rep).

2. Vacancy

LB reported on various matters related to the vacancy as follows:

Vacancy Update (Based on advice from The Revd Canon Dave Bull, Associate Area Dean)

- In order to assist with the production of the Parish Profile (and because it is recommended best practice anyway) the Deanery are conducting a small-scale Wycombe team review over the coming weeks.
- An external reviewer (who is a very experienced priest from another part of the Diocese) will
 conduct a series of confidential interviews with the clergy and Churchwardens from the High
 Wycombe team, either in person or via Zoom.
 - These interviews will seek to find what works well in the Team, what could be improved and what the Team Rector role entails.
 - The reviewer will capture these conversations and reflect them back to the clergy and PCCs, along with any observations and recommendations.
 - It is anticipated that this process will be helpful for the Team and to the incoming Team Rector.
 - The team review will only affect the "Team" part of the Team Rector role. All the rest of the parish profile will be produced by the All Saints team, as already discussed with the Churchwardens.

Section 11 update (Gill Lovell, Parish Development Advisor (Buckingham))

- Bishop Alan advises that each PCC needs to elect one parish representative, with All Saints electing
 two representatives: hence, eight Parish Representatives in total i.e. six parishes with one
 representative each and two representatives from ASHW.
- Strictly speaking, the elections would need to be at a joint PCC meeting of all seven PCCs, or at least
 a quorate number from each; however as it is anticipated that this would be very difficult to arrange
 within a reasonable timescale it has been agreed that each PCC will elect a representatives at its
 own separate Section 11 meeting, which are planned to take place as soon as practicable and when
 the date for the Section 12 meeting is agreed, Bishop Alan may choose to have a formal joint Section
 11 meeting during the first ten minutes of that meeting before progressing to the formal Section 12
 meeting.

Section 11 Update (Lis Burns)

LB outlined the agenda for the Section 11 Meeting which comprised two essential topics namely, the selection of the two Parish Representatives and the agreement of the content of the sections of the Parish Profile for which the PCC are responsible.

LB went on to note that a considerable amount of work has already been completed on the Parish Profile by DL, some of which is drawn from the feedback obtained from the recent questionnaire. It is expected that this will be reviewed and developed during the ASHW Section 11 Meeting, particularly the Vision and the 'Specification' that the successful candidate will be expected to satisfy.

- Since the original estimate of cost for the works, there has been significant inflationary impact and the final estimate cost needs to be updated.
- Chiltern Rangers have offered to provide support with the provision and planting of wildflowers
 GM concluded by requesting support for the preparation of funding applications.

There were no questions.

All

8.3 Pastoral Matters

JLk highlighted the continuing work that is being done in connection with GDPR associated with obtaining permission from anyone who may appear on camera through Livestream or other medium. A simplified form and iKnow are being used to complete this exercise by Easter.

There were no questions.

8.4 Children, Youth & Families

RC referred to the Children, Youth and Families Report, circulated in advance of the meeting and added that following a period of slightly reduced attendance, Small Saints has now started to increase in popularity again and any volunteers who would be willing to help with this would be most welcome.

All

8.5 Stewardship & Finance

JLd referred to the Stewardship & Finance PCC Update (including minutes from recent Stewardship and Finance Task Group Meetings), circulated in advance of the meeting and highlighted the following points:

- The anticipated deficit at the year-end (before interest and property re-valuation) is £1,086, an improvement on the circa £9,500 deficit that had been budgeted for, although this masks some unbudgeted income.
- There remains concern over the net reduction of planned regular giving of circa £4,900.
- There are some significant imminent fabric related costs including:
 - Flagpole replacement (Which needs to be complete for the Coronation but practically by the end of February owing to the Peregrine Falcon breeding season).
 - Repairs to the tower steps
 - Lighting study
 - Stone and Timber Survey
- There is around £69,000 remaining from the sale of Totteridge Road, following the purchase of Great Ground and it is planned to that this will be allocated to the South Porch and related projects.
- It has been suggested that a visual representation of progress towards the fundraising target for completion of the staircase replacement works is under consideration.

EM

- DS questioned whether the staircase could be funded, in part, by Crowd Funding.
- It was noted that another Quiz Night is being planned for the 9th June 2023

All

There were no further questions.

LB concluded by thanking JLd, BT and other members of the Stewardship and Finance Task Group for their diligence and hard work in ensuring the security and good governance of the financial position of the Church, which was unanimously supported.

LB also invited expressions of interest for volunteers to join this group.

All

8.6 Buildings & Fabric

PH on behalf of JC referred to the minutes of the Fabric Committee meeting of 24th January, circulated in advance upon which there were no comments, as the pertinent issues to do with the staircase replacement had been raised under the finance report.

Notwithstanding this:

- ES noted that volunteers would be most welcome to assist with the redecoration of the toilets following the completion of the refurbishment works, which it was noted would need to be organised so as to avoid Small Saints;
- GM reported that a solution to the failure of the gullies serving the downpipes on the south side of the church has been identified; however the County Council will need to implement this.

PH advised that the written resolution that had been circulated concerning the appointment of agents and solicitors in connection with the properties at both Castle Place, High Wycombe and Great Ground,

JLk was requested to contact Jo to determine if she has reached a conclusion on this matter yet.

12. Resolution to Appoint HC Assistants

An updated list of Holy Communion Assistants adding Erica Findley and Lauren Harvey, circulated in advance of the meeting, was proposed by PH, seconded by EM, was approved unanimously and signed after the meeting. Arrangements will be made for it to be displayed in Church, with a copy to Alison and David Adamson.

PH

JLk

13. Arrangements for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

PH referred to a schedule of dates and proposed allocation of responsibilities for preparing the various elements of the Reports of Organisations and other matters required for the APCM, published in advance of the meeting, on which there were no comments or questions.

14. AOUB

LM referred to the suggestion raised at the November PCC meeting, as to whether there could be a weekly gathering of the PCC for prayers for the Vacancy and selection of a new incumbent. After discussion it was agreed that this would take place, on an entirely voluntary basis, at 12:15 in the Quiet Garden, for 15 – 20 minutes every Saturday, commencing on 18th February.

In a similar vein, SD enquired why there were no longer midday prayers said in church on Saturdays to which LB responded that the main focus has been to rebuild the volunteer team, some of whom may be willing to lead prayers in the future.

Meeting Ends

RC closed the meeting by leading everyone in prayer.

The meeting ended at approximately 21.22

Next meeting date:

15th February 2023 Section 11 Meeting

13th April 2023 Section 12 Meeting (Date, Time and Location to be confirmed)

Future meeting dates:

Sunday 23rd April 2023 APCM, Meeting of Parishioners and PCC following Eucharist

3rd May 2023 SLT (SC)

17th May 2023 PCC

31st May 2023 SLT (Strategy)

5th July 2023 **SLT (SC)**

19th July 2023 PCC

6th September 2023 SLT (SC)

13th September 2023 SLT (Strategy)

20th September 2023 PCC

8th November 2023 SLT (SC)

22nd November 2023 PCC

All on Wednesdays commencing at 19:30 in church, unless otherwise stated

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