



PARISH OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting at 19:30 on
Wednesday 20 September 2023 in Church

Present: Lis Burns (Chair) (LB), Jenny Cartledge (Churchwarden) (JC), Derek Lancaster LLM (DL), Edgar Samuel (Deputy Honorary Churchwarden) (ES), John Lord (Treasurer) (JLd), Ray Levy (DSyn Rep) (RL), Mark Johnson (MJ), Jean Johnson (JJ), Lynda Titchen Moorcroft (LM), Revd Jackie Lock (JLK), Sue Lord (DSyn Rep) (SL), Barry Titchen (DSyn Rep and Dep Treasurer) (BT), Elizabeth Martin (EM), Barbara Bowman (BB), Robyn Connelly (Children's Minister) (RC), Sheila Doig (SD), Thistle Martin (TM).

Apologies – Phil Hynard (PCC Secretary) (PH), Jacqui Brearley (JB),

Minutes: Dawn Segrue (DS)

1. Welcome from Chairperson

LB welcomed everyone and opened in prayer. JC and LB remain thankful to everyone for their support and quoted some words by AA Milne: Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude; A grand adventure is about to begin, and The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops, eventually.

2. New Rector

Fr Antony's installation service will be held on 3 November at 1930hrs. It will be live streamed. (BT). A lot of help will be required with the service and approaches will be made to the congregation. 120 invites have been compiled so far which include Fr Antony's guests. Dignitaries and linked church groups are being invited. The diocese guidance is being worked through. A meeting was held with DL and JLK last week and progress is being made. Provisional rehearsal date is 1 November at 5pm.

Fr Antony will move into the vicarage around 17 to 19 October. A welcome hamper is being arranged. Some volunteers to welcome him are being identified. A lot of work is required in the vicarage including carpets and decorating. There is a diocese allowance which will just about cover the carpet costs. 6 bedrooms, hall, stairs, landing, dining room, study, lounge and toilet all need decorating. A call on the congregation to decorate some rooms will be arranged. There are Dates identified are 7/8/9 October have been identified. Some volunteers might be able to do some weekdays as well. Lis will talk to Antony about paint colours etc. **AP LB/JC**

3. Projects progress/updates

3.1 Churchyard. DL presented an update on this project (attached). A discussion on the most appropriate way forward was held with lots of input. Railings are very expensive and we know that the Oxford diocese has pushed back on similar plans elsewhere. Railings might also substantially push the costs up. Access control might be achieved by a more substantial bollard option (key or fob operation). The CCTV and improved lighting in Gareth's original plan is pivotal. The Piazza is linked to the South Porch project and might be better positioned being linked to that project. DL has been liaising with Dandara (Chiltern Centre project) and the Chiltern Rangers who have volunteered to do some churchyard clearing/tidying. Having a more open looking area rather than closed in would give a better impression. DL suggested we investigate if there is any community payback resource we could draw on. An architect needs to be engaged to move to the next phase of the project. DL, LB and JC will take forward to next steps including any rework of the plans to develop a more phased approach. We do not know how long the current grants that have been offered will be available for.

3.2 South Porch. JC reported that an environmental and conservation survey should be completed along with environmental monitoring to establish why it continues to deteriorate despite all the work done. We have been put in touch with Tobit Curteis Associates to provide that work. He requires copies of all previous documentation; he will complete a survey (£2481 + VAT). We may be able to apply for a grant to the Church Building Council to fund this work. Jenny proposes that the survey is undertaken as the next step. Finance group agreed this needs to be done so we can move forward. He will also look at hydrology

and drainage around the building along with thermal imaging. The afternoon tea raised just over £500 towards this project.

3.3 Organ. LB asked us to reflect on what we had heard from Philip about this project. We discussed whether we had too much on at the moment to deal with this alongside the other projects. We have a very enthusiastic director of music at this time. LT thought we agreed at the last PCC meeting to go ahead as long as we had funding via grants. LB felt there was a lot of work to be done ahead of putting in a grant application. Consensus that while there is some energy for this project we should continue to gather momentum at this stage. LB and DL will chat with Phil to understand what we need to do next.

3.4 Audio, Visual and Lighting. BT has been in touch with Bruce Kirk who will go ahead and get some outline costings. A discussion about whether outside lighting was included took place and it was felt that some of it was i.e. over the entrance doors. Some of the outside lighting fell to the churchyard project.

4. Deanery Synod report.

There was nothing to highlight this time.

5. Approval of Minutes PCC meeting 19 July.

No corrections or changes were raised. The minutes of the meeting of 19 July were approved.

6. Matters Arising.

Anything arising is covered under other items on the agenda

7. Team Reports.

7.1 Worship and Liturgy: Work is proceeding on the licensing service which looks very exciting. The first Eucharist for Fr Anthony will be on Sunday 5 November so plenty of opportunity to turn up and see how he does it. 1/10/23 is the harvest celebration which RC is leading this year and will be focussing on water aid. The annual giving day will be launched on the same day. LBTS went very well last Sunday. Highlight was Daniel being the thurifer. It is really good to see these new people coming through. A full timetable of events coming up through to Christmas. The choir will be very busy and will need some TLC from time to time to help them meet such a busy agenda.

7.2 Pastoral: A review of everyone on the database has been completed and relevant adjustments made. We now have a more up to date database of members of All Saints. The normal pastoral care continues. Thanks to DL for his support. Home communion continues. Over the last few months JL has felt that we are pulling together more as a community. People are still returning post covid and things feel more positive than at the start of the year. A revised approach in relation to provision of coffee on Sunday has produced results. RC commented that people still stayed despite no coffee. RL asked if there was any progress on a previous suggestion of some structural guidance for welcomer's. LB agreed a good idea and it is still on the to-do list. JJ queried about whether the right side of the church would continue to be used to deliver communion for those who find it hard to come up to the front of the church. It was agreed it will continue.

7.3 Children, Youth and Families: The report covers the majority of events. Light at the end of the summer went well and built throughout the week. It was for all ages and not just children. Looking ahead it would be good to continue to do a summer activity. LB queried if we had done lessons learned. DL will do this. Christingle – The light switch on is going to be Saturday 18 November and is a longer event which will start at midday. Currently scheduled to finish at 6pm. On 18 November we have a concert in church during the evening. This means we cannot use the inside of the church on that day to deliver Christingle. We need a think about a solution. One suggestion is that we use one of the Saturdays in the tree festival. Another is that we do something outside and a third option is whether we combine Christingle with the crib service. DS suggested a fourth option of a 'pop up' in maybe an empty shop nearby. RC reported interest amongst the 10 year olds and above team to join the servers. Next steps are being looked at. LB suggested also as welcomer's.

7.4 Stewardship and Finance: A few unusual items incorporated hence the multiple lines about the unbudgeted grants. Reduced the budget on planned giving and we are now within £300. There was an increase in price for the remainder of the tower steps. The VAT recovery from the first part of the works will cover that deficit. The budget is heavier in the second half of the year as we anticipated the vacancy being filled. Whilst our net position looks good it includes the tower steps money and some items we haven't yet had the bills for. Planned giving information presented in some different ways to demonstrate a longer term view about what it might mean. I.e. that small numbers will not be giving the larger proportion of giving. We should be looking at greater numbers of contributions from smaller donations.

7.5 Buildings and Fabric: Thanks to PH for the woodworm work progressed and getting us all organised. A further hole in the wall has been found in the North chapel. There is no sign of damp on the outside wall despite it feeling damp on the inside. Thank you to everyone who came to help with the community clean.

7.6 Communication: Thank you to SL for collating the 'How to get involved' page for the website. The card for Christmas events is next for completion.

8. Churchwardens report.

JL proposed a thank you to both JC and LB for all their work during the vacancy. The PCC are very grateful for everything you have done. The churchwardens are on holiday from 14 October. Any help with locking up etc whilst they are absent will be gratefully received.

9. Oakley Hall

The minutes and FRA had been issued a short time ahead of this meeting and the audience are unlikely to have had a chance to review them yet. The FRA contains a few editorial errors where it refers to the PCC rather than Oakley Hall committee. The 34 points raised have been categorised and allocated to different members of the OH committee. Responsibility sits with OH committee but PCC are accountable. So do please ask how it is progressing to completion. Alison is going to ask someone to have a check over of the windows at OH to guide us on if we need a surveyor. Alison reports all bills paid.

10. Safeguarding.

Everyone confirmed they had read the policy and accompanying documents. JL queried if the code for safer working practice should be included. We have a lone worker policy to consider for inclusion. Safeguarding needs to be in title of document. The GDPR form needs to be reworked to include details about photography/filming. LB says to go back to Jo and say we can't conform to that document about written consent. We need the context of that in a service. Maybe the service sheets can have something added to them. A couple of people haven't filed their safeguarding certificate yet (present at the meeting) so please do so to TM asap. Foundation training hasn't been completed by quite a lot of people. The Church of England are producing a 20 minute learning event for PCCs to be completed as part of their PCC meeting. We all agreed we are happy for JL, LB and JC to sign the policy paperwork on our behalf when it is ready.

11. 60s/70s event.

DJ is known to BT and LM and used to delivering in a church context. We should be able to sing along as well as dance. We need 3 volunteers for the bar and furniture movers at 1230 on the Friday lunchtime, any more food helpers would be great and a raffle organiser.

12. AOB

Nothing raised

DL closed in prayer

Next meeting:

SLT (SC) - 8th November 2023

Future Meetings:

PCC - 22nd November 2023

APCM - Sunday 28th April 2024, at 11:15 (Following Eucharist)

All meetings will take place in Church, on Wednesdays, commencing at 19:30, unless otherwise stated.

'SC' Standing Committee

