



Minutes of the Zoom meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on

9th November 2020

Present: Jonathan Ward, Rector
Sybil Andrew
Marc Bassot
Christine Blackburn
Bill Derham
Dan Leeves
Sarah Morgan
Sally Munns
Martin Pinnell
Jeff Seabrook
Penny Seabrook
Amber Stockdale
Jeremy Tagg

1. **Apologies** were received from Lenka Ellmann and Richard Ford
2. **Prayer** – Jon read from Isaiah Ch. 12 and led us in prayer
3. **Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 22nd September** – these Minutes were approved subject to one correction under Item 6 – Joanna **Bega**.

As follow-up Jon confirmed that he had spoken with Jonny Faint and Amber Stockdale regarding the editing of names of children and consent form for parents.

4. **Finance**

The Finance Sub Committee Report was agreed

Church Giving – The APCM would give people the opportunity to ask questions generally about church giving, also about the lighting project and Jeremy's document. The letter re church giving has been communicated to everyone via Church Suite or by post. Many are praying about this issue. Christine reported that one new person had started giving on a regular basis and 2 others will be increasing their giving.

It was agreed that a further communication would be needed in early January. Re next year's budget, should the church budget and lighting budget be separate? Re the 3-year pledge for Amber, should people be asked if they wish to continue? Perhaps this should be mentioned at the APCM. It was recommended that people check their bank account to see if changes have been registered. It was felt that this letter re giving should not be over-emphasised at the APCM but Jon will make reference to it. Maybe Christine will draw people's attention back to the letter?

The question was asked as to whether there was clarity re the procedure to be followed if we wish to start giving or make a change? It was confirmed that this was made clear on the website. If necessary it is suggested that people speak to Jon or Christine personally.

Under current restrictions it is more difficult to discuss this question of church giving in home groups.

It was recognised that monies were also given by church members to special appeals which went beyond their regular giving.

Lighting Project – the DAC had considered the design & made a few queries; the CES had produced a new design (no big changes from original) – this will go to the DAC meeting in November – all queries had been answered.

Grant applications – timing very important for **lighting project** – those approached would need first an assurance that it had received DAC approval. It was hoped that up to half the cost might receive funding, £10,000 received through fund raising, some VAT recoverable – so maybe £30,000 through grant funding? Continued personal conversation with those being approached is encouraged. Could possible timing be December & January (applications in), work in February? Re **funding for Amber**, application to the diocese for this will be followed through – all this is done online. Martin's offer to help was appreciated

Allocations – Jon first emphasised that this was the responsibility of the PCC. Of course, insights and comments from the Mission team were always welcomed.

A discussion was held on current position (for reference, information on Allocations 2016-2020 had been circulated to PCC members) and we were reminded that in recent years the number of charities and individuals supported by St. John's had been narrowed down. It was felt that some of these needed updated clarification regarding their ministry –

Alyssa Carey - Jon will clarify her situation

Steve Read (this is probably his last year working locally but it was felt he should stay on list for 2021) - however a conversation will be held with him;

Tim & Maggie Gaved – we have been funding their studies over the past 6 years but they still worked for Wycliffe, now mainly in the UK

Reach Across (Gemma & Simeon) – a similar position – no longer church personal link

It was suggested that our mission partners could be informed that the PCC is now going to conduct an annual review of its sponsorship. 3 months' notice could be given if it were decided to terminate support.

With regard to the Bible Society – we had been using some of their resources for "Open the Book" though Jon reported that he had loosely adapted these and provided much of his own material. However we needed to look at the resources we would need to access when he moved on. Could Amber coordinate this? It was agreed to continue support for this year and review for 2021.

The PCC then held a discussion on how St. John's tithes its income. Now that the Youth Worker salary will come out of general funds, this part of our income would be included in our tithe commitment. It was felt that clarification is needed re how our 10% tithe is calculated. It was agreed that we still want to be "generous givers"

We then examined how we pay over monies for Krupa/Masih Das and Sarita. Are we doing this in accordance with charity regulations? Lenka will be asked to refer back to Jeff Seabrook to clarify this.

It was agreed that a meeting will be held in December to follow this up and Jon will send to the PCC information as to what we have to process.

Action – Jon will follow up as agreed above and set out for the PCC the issues we will dwell on when we meet in December. Lenka will be asked to refer back to Jeff re payments to Masih Das and Sarita and Krupa Emmanuel.

There will be further communication to the church in January re Giving

5. Wardens' update

All routine work on the church building had been carried out. They felt that any communication re funding should emphasise that the church resources were for the community as well as for church members. They felt that the church building should be open for another day in the week – Jeremy will draw up another rota after lockdown. It was confirmed that St. John's followed current government guidelines re opening the building.

6. Christmas

Discussions were ongoing with Barbara and Martin re possible Christmas celebrations – what could be filmed in church for example (choir, brass instruments?). When and if restrictions are lifted on 2nd December it is still unlikely that much will be allowed live in the church building. They are looking creatively as to how the many resources widely available can be used. It is unlikely that Carols in the Park will be allowed but who knows?

7. Safeguarding

An up-to-date report can be found with the APCM documents available on line.

8. APCM

There are 2 places available for the PCC and 1 for Deanery Synod. Sarah Fletcher has been nominated for the PCC. A personal approach is the better way, or via Jon.

Bill and Jeremy have both indicated their willingness to continue as Churchwardens – the appropriate forms will be completed for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

It was confirmed that in 2021 the APCM will revert to its usual April date.

9. Inclusion/Diversity Team update

The update had been circulated to PCC members. Penny indicated that progress (albeit slow) was being made. Should anything be modified in the church building? Perhaps an audit similar to the one carried out some years ago would be helpful? Through the Roof has a good template for this. It was good to be able to share good practice with St. Francis & St. Mary's and they are going to sign up to "Inclusive Church".

Thanks were expressed to Penny.

10. Any other business/next meeting

Jon will circulate date of December meeting, also proposed dates for meetings in 2021.

Action – Jon to circulate dates for 2021 meetings, also date for December meeting this year.

The meeting finished in a time of shared prayer

Signed

Date