

All Saints PCC Minutes November 7th 2019

Present

Rev. Canon Jo Loveridge (chair) Colin Bird, Julia Gough (churchwardens) Nerine Chalmers, Fiona Earle, Martin Penny, Dorothy Toyn, Janet Bird, Ann Stephens-Jones, Rosemary Bolton.

Apologies

Received from Andrew Povey-Richards, Janet Oldham, and Shanti Gordon.

Jo led a short reflection.

Minutes of the meeting in September

These were approved.

Matters arising

Jo reported that there is a Worship and Mission meeting planned for Nov 27^{th am} to which all PCC are invited. PCC were asked to contribute ideas on current priorities and future priorities to this meeting.

Nerine reported on her researches into "Friends of" groups, having spoken to an organiser from Pirton, St Mary near Hitchin. Dorothy offered a leaflet published by Friends of St Leonard Bengoe.

Fabric matters were discussed;

Water still comes in through the south roof when the rain is very heavy;

The boilers have been tested;

The Town Council engineer will adjust the Tower Clock to strike on time during Remembrance commemorations at the War Memorial;

A key safe is organised for the drivers of the Foodbank van to use and the code is in the safe of All Saints Church;

The total failure of the church sound system on Sunday Morning Nov 3rd was repaired in the afternoon by Richard Toyn who discovered a pulled-out wire in a speaker which had shorted the system. PCC expressed heartfelt thanks to Richard for his emergency wiring work before the Choral Communion that evening;

Hertford Choral reported a problem with their electrical connection used at concerts. All Saints' electrician has examined the connector and has asked for all HCS equipment to be tested;

Pews at the front of the church were replaced by HCS after their concert for use at Remembrance. As we host more events that need space for musicians it was noted that the front pew by the pulpit needs to be taken out more often and it is becoming damaged. PCC is keen to encourage use of the church, especially concerts etc and will discuss how to accommodate musicians better at the head of the nave.

Accounts for the third Quarter

The deficit at 30 September was £7,466. This is better than the budgeted deficit of £11,626, and we are broadly where we were at the end of June.

If we add the budgeted deficit for the 4th quarter to these results we would get to a 12-month deficit of around £12,000, against our year's budget of £18,000. The events budget for the fourth quarter is £2,000 which we may beat if we have a very successful Starry Christmas festival.

The financial highlights of the year so far are: -

- Income was on budget – giving and fees slightly down but more than compensated for by a good result from events, producing nearly £6,000 so far this year
- We have had a one-off credit of £450 by transferring the balance on the Junior Church account to the PCC
- Other costs are generally under budget – heating and insurance in particular.

The balances we hold:

- Our general reserves are now £26,301.
- The Fabric Fund stands at £26,445, having had the generous donations of £15,000 in the previous quarter and having not spent anything this quarter
- The Music Development Fund stands at £31,470, having had the legacy of £18,444 from the estate of the late Kendray Bradley Stott. I have today received the estate accounts and we can expect a further £5,000 when the estate is fully wound up.
- The Organ Fund stands at £9,091
- The Heating Fund stand at £1,390.

The appeal by the bell ringers has received a grant of £10,000 from Hertford Town Council bringing their total of £20,000 close to their planned amount. Another £4,000 is committed.

Contactless payments; Colin applied for and has been offered an apparatus from Visa as part of an offer of 300 for churches. Some training for its use may be needed but we hope to have it soon and in use at All Saints.

Starry Christmas; PCC approved the booking fee going to Alzheimer's Society and all other money to All Saints. (The Alzheimer Society will also have a collecting bucket) Concern was expressed that bookings for trees, stars and wreaths is slower than expected.

Magazine Proposals

Jo informed the PCC that for many reasons, one being that All Saints has the capability to produce a magazine itself, we will discontinue the current format after the next edition, replacing it by a new one. Samples of this with colour photos were shared. Martin reminded PCC that this will incur less wasted paper and we can refresh our new leaflet whenever we need to, thanks to the copier in the vestry. Deliveries can continue as before but there will be no charge. The current situation is that we use only 150 of the 200 (recycling 50). He confirmed that we reach 400 people in and around Hertford with our social media presence.

Sustainability update

Colin reminded PCC that we have explored widely, and in order to be properly informed as to the possibilities regarding the Hall site the next step is to ask advice of the Local Authority, for they have expectations and rules that will apply. He reminded us that the memorial fund has paid £2,000 so far for work done by the architect to aid us in our search for a sustainable future. The fee for the next step is expected to be £4,500 to look into option 4. A vote was taken, and PCC recommends that the architect goes on to the pre-app stage. There were 3 objections.

Health and Safety

PCC were informed of an incident during a private family party booking in the Hall. Drinks were poured on the floor and in the ensuing activity someone fell, and teeth were damaged. Discussion at PCC was around our contracts with hirers. The manager of the hall made successive attempts to clean the floor until the sticky film was gone and other users were not inconvenienced.

There was nothing else to report.

Safeguarding

There was nothing to report. Jo informed the PCC that we have been asked to take part in a Past Cases Review to be completed by Nov 29th, 2019. Previous Safeguarding Officers views are to be sought and any cases within memory of others are to be discussed with Jo confidentially.

AOB

Altar linen; Janet reported that there is linen that can be reworked into smaller items and some which has been found to be very dilapidated. Work will now be done to sort the linen.

Christmas Cards; Martin Penny will have professionally printed cards ready for distribution from Advent Sunday.

Big Conversation between Diocese and PCC's. A few leaflets have arrived, and more material is expected.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm with The Grace

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th January.