

## Minutes of PCC Meeting March 22nd 2021 by Zoom

### Present

Janet Bird (Chair) Leon Ajao and Nerine Chalmers (Wardens) Colin Bird (Treasurer) Rev Canon Jo Loveridge, Martin Penny, Andrew Belfield, Julia Gough, Ann Stephens-Jones, Dorothy Toyn, Cheryl Massey, Rosemary Bolton, Wendell Newbold, Verity Tranter, Mary Penny (Hon Sec).

A reflection was led by Jo

1 Apologies; Received from Helen Briggs.

2 Minutes; The minutes were received and approved.

3 Matters arising; Q Is the work done for The Way Ahead. A Yes.

4 Finance; The accounts to December 2020 and reports for the APCM were presented. It was noted that a change was needed regarding the Organ Fund detail and this would be made. Colin proposed that the PCC approve the Reports and Accounts. Dorothy Toyn seconded and PCC were in favour. They will be signed by the Treasurer and Hon Sec. Colin presented a deficit budget in line with previous discussions and taking note of the loss of income from bookings of the Hall and Church. Regular giving has continued but because of restrictions during the pandemic we have no other income. Nerine Chalmers proposed we accept the budget and Leon Ajao seconded. All were in favour. Colin Bird was thanked by Rosemary Bolton.

5 The Way Forward; Nerine led by thanking PCC for contributions to an earlier survey and facilitated a wide ranging conversation. ( Community; High level usage of Hall; New uses for parts of our large church building if we make it possible) The Chair asked for a vote of agreement that we look into Going Forward proactively and PCC was in favour.

6 Suspension of Public Worship (Easter). Jo reported that we no longer need to apply for permission. Our main service will continue to be by Zoom at 10.00 am, and a said Eucharist will be conducted (under the strict rules already agreed) at 11.30 am in All Saints if the numbers attending could be safely managed. Given the uncertainty over vaccinations etc, PCC expects this situation to continue for at least another month.

7 Fabric. Leon reported that the church heating system has been serviced and the bells are to be returned from the foundry during the next few weeks. Leon suggested there should be an improvement to the lighting in the bell chamber. Q How will it be funded? A From the Fabric Fund. PCC were alerted to the fact that our roof alarm wiring is linked to the existing bell chamber light.

PCC invited Reg Harman to join the meeting for the next item about St John's Hall with reference to his paper entitled "Developing the Community Centre" that he had sent to us. This had been offered to PCC as suggestions for its future. As Reg had written about the financial handling and future financing of the hall, the Chair invited Colin as Treasurer to reply on behalf of the Standing Committee. Reference should be made to the paper written by Colin and sent to the PCC. Reg had been provided with a copy, despite this not being approved. He confirmed that the Hall is legally owned by The Diocese, as Custodian Trustee and let to All Saints PCC whose members are the trustees of the charity. Reg was assured that the PCC has taken no decisions regarding the future of St John's Hall and the land adjoining. He acknowledged that running the Hall has been increasingly difficult without volunteers to run it but in the past, it was useful to allow funds into a Hall Account when there was a voluntary committee to manage them. All money in the Hall account is part of All

Saints and the PCC trustees are legally obliged to use it as part of our strategy to sustain the church and ministry for the benefit of the charity. Accordingly the hall could not be transferred for nil value to an external trust as proposed. Repairs and improvements have been made and a Manager is paid thus keeping it in a good and safe condition, and as a result it is normally well used by community groups. After some discussion with PCC the Chair asked Reg to “put some flesh into his plan” and Jo offered to speak with him again. Nerine agreed with Reg that thinking ahead and reaching into the community is our way forward. Reg Harman left the meeting.

There was an enquiry from Peter Ferguson whose garden adjoins the Churchyard from Queen’s Road. He expressed a desire to purchase some land to use as an extension to his garden. The Diocesan Surveyor was consulted and advised that this proposed purchase of a portion of the churchyard is neither viable nor appropriate. Jo will write to inform Peter.

The Secretary has received a reminder that a quinquennial is due. As the last one was carried out in 2016 and dated in 2017 (and hence the next is due to take place towards the end of this year) this reminder is to be lodged with the church wardens.

8 APCM. Hon Sec reported from the diocese that as there was an APCM just before the recent lockdown (October 2020) we need only the statutory reports; i.e. Changes to Electoral Roll, Annual PCC Report, Financial Statement to Dec 2020; Annual Fabric Report, Deanery Synod Report, and a Safeguarding Statement. Diocesan advice is to keep the meeting (zoomed) brief and the decisions simple, electing Sidespeople at a PCC meeting. Churchwardens must be re-elected even though they were elected in October. The date of the Vestry Meeting and APCM was fixed as Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> after the 10.00 am service. Notices will be placed in the weekly newsletter, on the website and on the churchyard noticeboards, as the church is currently closed.

9 Sabbatical for Jo. This is a period of extended study leave, the timing of which Sept- Nov 2021 is nominated by the Diocese. As the PCC must take decisions regarding the sustainability of All Saints, two members expressed dismay, and the Chair reminded us that it is important that Jo takes time for thought and refreshment.

10 Health and Safety; There was nothing to report.

11 Safeguarding; The officer reported that there is an outstanding DBS check for a PCC member and a C2 training is overdue. Colin reminded PCC that as trustees of the charity we must all be checked and trained.

12 AOB There was no AOB.

Meeting ended with The Grace at 9.50 pm.