



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 9th September 2020**
at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), Anne Morris, Christine Cattnach, Janet Cooper (Churchwarden), Freda Davies, Bryan Jones, Roy Milnes (Treasurer), John Setchfield (Churchwarden), Keith Richards, Mark Sanderson (Deanery Synod), Paul Eward (Deanery Synod), Rachel Lewis (Secretary) Tiffany Jackson and Tim Waters

1. Opening prayers

The Rector opened with a prayer from the Northumbria Community.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Reynolds and Caroline Pascoe.

3. Chairman's welcome

The Rector thanked everyone for coming and asked for Christine's report to be brought forward if necessary as Christine had a Toast meeting at 8.00pm.

4. Closed Churchyard

Cllr Taylor was not in attendance and there was no report.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2020

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Janet Cooper

Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 8th July 2020 be accepted as an accurate record.

6. Standing Committee

To ratify decisions of the Standing Committee at a meeting held on 19th August 2020:

- i) To purchase shelving for the church hall for church storage at a cost of £209.98
- ii) To acknowledge the outstanding work of the teachers, Teaching Assistants and Admin staff at Brampton Abbots Primary School during the Covid pandemic, by purchasing small gifts for each of them from the Education Fund
- iii) To take advantage of having excellent builders on site by making the necessary quinquennial repairs to the choir vestry ceiling at a cost of £850 and the Ringing Chamber roof at a cost of £158.

- iv) To accept a donation of £130 from Ecclesiastical Insurance and add it to the educational fund and by email discussion:
- v) To accept £1,000 from the Hall Committee towards the total cost of £4767.60 for the hall painting and scaffolding

Proposed: Freda Davies

Seconded: Tim Waters

Unanimous

It was resolved to ratify the five decisions made by the Standing Committee since the last meeting.

7. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved that Julian Hallett be appointed as Electoral Roll Officer

8. Mission

- i) to receive a report from the Rector

The Rector's report was accepted.

Concern was expressed about the security issues at the Rectory and it was agreed that a Working Party consisting of Roy Milnes and Bryan Jones would look at ways to secure both the office and the Rectory in order that work could be carried out as quickly as possible.

The Rector drew attention to the report on music at Weddings and Funerals which explained how more and more people wanted recorded music instead of traditional organ music and it was important we provided quality audio and visuals for these services when requested. There are costs involved and it is only fair that expertise put into providing such music be paid for in the same way as organ music is paid for.

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Keith Richards

Unanimous

It was resolved to change the "organist" fee to a "music" fee which would become payable when music of any kind forms a part of an occasional service.

- ii) to receive a report from the Intergenerational Missioner

The report had been circulated. Christine added that following today's announcement from the Government, physical gatherings of a social nature (e.g. Toast) would be difficult.

LEAF is faith based and includes an act of worship and plans to meet in late October and again in December would (under the current law) be possible.

It is also planned to launch Messy Church on 1st October, though starting small and hopefully being able to build in the future. Christine has been working with Caroline and Tiffany and one of the other Intergenerational Missioners on this project.

9. Finance

- i) to receive a report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was received with no questions.

- ii) to receive a report on digital giving

Mark had written a report explaining that he had finally sorted out the vagaries of Paypal and Gift Aid, though we were still waiting to receive some due.

Money given through the Paypal giving button (found on Facebook) will have Gift Aid added, though it takes a long time to come through.

Money given via the PayPal button on the website does not automatically add Gift Aid but does record payments where Gift Aid can be claimed manually.

10. PCC Structure

The Rector had circulated a comprehensive report on how he hoped the next PCC would look, with all members taking on a specific role in areas which they were passionate about.

All but one of the members at the meeting were happy to continue to serve next year and members were asked to let Sean know what area they were particularly interested in.

11. St Mary's Church building works

to receive a report on progress from John Setchfield

In addition to the report, John was able to confirm that the glass doors would be delivered on 28th September though he could not say when they would be fitted by. He would chase up the builders to complete small tidying up jobs in order for the painters to decorate the porch before the doors are fitted.

Following a service to the boiler, it was discovered that one of the pumps needs to be replaced.

12. Church Cleaning Strategy

To receive a report on cleaning from Janet Cooper

Sean thanked the volunteers who had now joined the cleaning rota. Mark thanked Janet in particular for her efforts which had been noticed by visitors who were impressed by the cleaning and sanitizing regime in the church.

13. Church Hall

To receive a report and consider recommendations from the Church Hall Committee

Peter's report was received.

Bryan was thanked for all his work on the repairs, upkeep and tidying of the hall. Bryan explained that it had been "good fun" with the tidying working group. A great job has been achieved.

Income is down due to regular groups being unable to meet. It was unsure whether the newest group to book (Zumba) would be able to fulfil their booking due to the latest government restrictions.

14. Job Club

To receive a report on the Job Club

Derek had provided an up to date report on the job club. There was shift in thinking as the regulars were not so much looking for a job as looking for general support. The report explained these changes and volunteers would be welcome to help with specific skills.

Once restrictions are eased, it is hoped to start tea and toast again in St Mary's with new branding "Signpost@St.Mary's".

Sean thanked Derek for all his work on this.

15. Deanery Synod

To receive a report of the July Deanery Synod Meeting (Zoom meeting)

Sean summarised the meeting which had been a presentation from the Bishop who had asked all parishes to answer a set of questions (in the report) for discussion at the September Deanery Synod meeting.

St Mary's representatives have completed their three year term and four new reps should be elected at the APCM.

Members were asked to consider if this was something they felt able to take on and to think who else may wish to help the church in this way and let Sean know of anyone interested. A leaflet with details is on the website.

As funds dwindle and increasing numbers of stipendiary clergy are cut, it is more and more important that we are represented where discussions are taking place about our future. As Sean said, "you have to be in it to win it".

16. Safeguarding

to receive a report and agree any actions arising from it

Judith was thanked for her report and her work in this field which has been more difficult due to staffing problems in the Diocesan office. In addition, Covid guidance has not been clear, but assurance has been given that this will be rectified in the near future.

17. Health and Safety

to receive a report and agree any actions arising from it

Bryan was pleased at having nothing to report. He thanked those who taken on the additional Covid cleaning.

18. Date of next meetings

to note that the APCM will take place on Wednesday 7th October at 7.00pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8.12pm with the Grace

