

Minutes of PCC meeting Jan.25 2022 on Zoom.

Present; Janet Bird, (Chair) Mary Penny, Lisa Meakin, Rev Canon Jo Loveridge, Andrew Belfield, Martin Penny, Dorothy Toyn, Andrew Povey-Richards, Helen Briggs, Nerine Chalmers, Rosemary Bolton, Colin Bird.

A reflection was led by Jo.

A request from D. Toyn was received for an item in AOB (to be at the end of the meeting)

A request from N Chalmers for an extra item to come under Fabric was received.

1 Apologies were received from Wendell Newbold and Verity Tranter.

2 After a spelling correction, Colin Bird proposed, and Rev Jo seconded that PCC accept the minutes as a true record. All approved.

3 Matters arising.

The date of the Hall Committee meeting has changed to March 3rd. The bank mandate for the Hall Treasurer is proceeding.

4 Sustainability.

Jo informed PCC that Alastair Woodgate will be in touch with us in a month.

5 Finance.

A report from Colin had been circulated. He pointed out to PCC that the hirers of the Church in December had made extra donations from their profits to support All Saints.

Q. What do you expect to be the effect of the utility price rises that are coming this Spring?

A. Since re-opening the church after the Covid closures we are also using more gas, and the rise in price comes at the same time as the loss of income from the Cull Bequest (a legacy of £30,000). Over the years, the interest from this investment has dropped from 8% to 0.5% from April. Colin will bring a recommendation as to the future of this bequest to the next PCC Meeting.

Rosemary Bolton arrived (7.58 pm)

Fabric.

The request from Nerine was heard first. She sought approval from PCC for the placement of a monitoring camera within the confines of the Tower roof, to point down at the prepared nesting site where Peregrine Falcons have been active. (Feb is the start of the breeding season). She also asked for approval for a viewing screen to be placed in the meeting room later. Dorothy proposed to PCC, and Nerine seconded. PCC voted to approve this. Richard Toyn confirmed that the camera will see nothing other than the specified part of the Tower roof. Nerine thanked Richard for his work and expertise, as well as the help and support of the other interested parties.

Hertford Choral request for storage. Dorothy explained to PCC the reason for this request to store concert staging and reported on the useful conversations she has had with the representatives. PCC is aware that HCS have hired All Saints regularly for concerts and we value them as hirers. The North Porch was the place discussed for storage.

Q. There were questions regarding fire safety including the exit through the North Porch, insurance, and general protection of the existing furniture (e.g., doors to meeting room)

A. All Saints already has a contract with HCS, and this can be reviewed should the PCC approve the use. Martin is willing to be the contact in these matters so that the request can move forward. PCC is keen to protect the spaciousness of the church that is our unique selling point for hirers, and to maintain the sense of a sacred space used for prayer and worship. The North Porch was unused for many years until our insurers asked for it to be emptied, then it served as a show-case for seasonal presentations such as have been there when the church had to be closed. This large space would be missed but a reduced space could still host exhibitions, and the staging would be covered and could serve as a background.

7. Social

A list of ideas and suggestions follows.

1 photo competition.

2 Jubilee exhibition.

3 coffee morning with money from Lent Lunches going to Christian Aid and a stall run by Lisa to showcase "Friends of All Saints).

4 Musical events are not yet finalised for the Jubilee because of the sudden death recently of Tom Hammond of Hertfordshire Music Festival, although there will be a choral concert in All Saints.

5 A tea during the Jubilee weekend.

6 a "limited" Easter Journey in Passiontide (schools close 2 weeks before Easter this year);

7 Plant sale.

8 churchyard exhibition, subject, Hearts full of hope and joy.

8 Mission Action Plan.

Using the responses gathered from a congregational questionnaire concerning growth, PCC met in 3 groups virtually for planning the All Saints MAP. There was then a plenary for reporting.

- a. Re-instate a "welcome pack", a quarterly magazine (editor to be found) within 6 months.
- b. Create a Children's' Area with carpet and suitable chairs etc within a year.
- c. Establish an informal service (lay led) in a café style.

- a. Mothers' Union will fund an extension to five years of our contact with Baptism Families, GDPR permitting.
- b. Establish a better presence in the town with a free magazine placed at busy points.
- c. To make the Open Church sign easier to use.

- a. Outreach in the form of meeting and talking to families.
- b. Lunch/coffee invitations to occasional worshippers.
- c. A daytime opportunity for coffee and chat, with the church open.

Jo will include the above, as well as our increasing environmental activities into the MAP.

9 Health and Safety. There is nothing to report. We continue to be cautious regarding Covid19. In February we hope to have coffee after the Sunday morning service.

10 Safeguarding. There was nothing to report. A Safeguarding poster with photos and information is to be in the church loos (that being a place where a distressed person might be). The new requirements of training for PCC and others that were circulated, provoked discussion regarding repetition that is wasting time and good will and is thus likely to discourage a volunteer. Janet Bird (Churchwarden/ Lay Chair) asked that we take this matter to the Archdeacon for advice. A letter will be crafted.

AOB.

Dorothy Toyn, leader of the Flower Club reported that members expressed concern that useable Oasis has been found in the rubbish bin. (Oasis is expensive, is used sparingly, and is not compostable) Tape and other resources have also gone from the cupboard. Members of PCC were reminded that most church keys do not open the storeroom so our record keeper, Janet Oldham will be asked for information regarding keys.

The Chair thanked Martin Penny for organising and managing the chat room work on this Zoom meeting.

The Vicar led PCC in saying The Grace.

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm.