

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

'The Community of All Saints': living, thoughtful, caring faith'

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30 PM
In the Church

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Paul Wilkinson, Ros Place, Peter Brown, Pam Taylor, Constance Maselino Okai, Christine Willoughby, Fred Carr, Diane Kirkup, Lesley Ogilvie, Dorothy Henderson, Isaac Wilkinson, Nick Glover (secretary).

2020-02-01 **Opening Prayer and Welcome:** Welcome and opening prayer by Andrew.

2020-02-02 **Apologies for Absence:** apologies were received from Jo Errington Stevens, Ethel Randall, Katie Hogg, Felicity Shoesmith, Nicky White, James Cartmel, Karen Parkhouse, Claudia Newbegin, Alison Proudfoot, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Karoline Welborne, Diana Lavin, Kath Davies.

2020-02-03 **Minutes of the Meeting, 13th January.**
These were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Peter Brown, seconded by Constance Maselino Okai.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 4: The Good Box plate is now being used. Fred had moved to order one of our own, to discover an £8 per month charge had been introduced. Order still being placed but Joanne Christie (Diocese) approached Goodbox, at our request, for explanation of charge. They are seeking to raise revenue in certain circumstances but agreed to consider us as a special case and possibly waive the charge. We await a decision.

Item 8: PCC members advised to add their names to a sign-on list for the Day Conference.

Item 11i): Safeguarding Training had taken place successfully.

Item 11ii): Ros pointed out that an error had been made and that Shakespeare on the Green is programmed to start at 6.30pm. Paul Wilkinson proposed, Fred Carr seconded that we accept and agree to this change, unanimously agreed.

MAIN ITEMS

2020-02-04 **Review of the 2019 Report**

Fred spoke to the circulated papers. He was pleased that the overall deficit was less than he had expected at £1700 and that the General fund was more healthy than previously. The overall picture has been helped by the performance of investments. He expects the Report should go to the auditors in the coming days.

Peter Brown commented on the high level of charitable giving recorded from the Parish.

Peter Brown proposed, Diane Kirkup seconded that we approve the draft report. Unanimously agreed.

2020-02-05 **Appointment of Children and Youth Worker**

10 applications received from the advert, with 2 distinct possibilities. The job description is being carefully looked by the Youth Committee at with the aim of continuing and developing the existing role with the holder acting as a mentor and advocate for the young people, and also working in the wider community.

Closing date for applications, 6th March, shortlisting on the 9th, interviews on Saturday 14th and hopefully a prompt appointment.

2020-02-06 **Lent, Easter and Superstar Production**

Andrew noted that the Lent groups programme has begun and that the Holy Week plans are in place. The production of Jesus Christ Superstar is on schedule for Good Friday. He noted that there had been comments expressed over its production in Church.. He emphasised that we have to stick to very strict terms and conditions for the performance and that he will speak with care about the performance before it begins.

2020-02-07 **Update of PCC Sub-Committees**

Noted that there had formerly been an expectation that PCC members should serve on at least one PCC sub-committee, but this had now lapsed. Andrew reviewed the list of sub-committees currently working: Education and Discipleship; Pastoral and Spiritual care; Outreach and Communications; Mission and Justice; Safeguarding; Youth Project; Standing; Fabric; Magazine. Membership of these committees not confined to PCC members. Suggested that members could "visit" a committee

meeting before deciding on the committee they wish to join.
Agreed that this should be revisited after the APCM, with the new PCC. The expectation that members serve on at least one committee must therefore be made clear. Also noted that people not on the PCC are welcome to join a committee.

2020-02-08 Review and Approval of Employees Salaries

Noted that 2 of the Church's employees (the Administrator and the Caretaker) normally receive an annual increment. Peter Brown proposed, Paul Wilkinson seconded that we offer a 3% increase this year (broadly in line with inflation, plus.) Unanimously agreed.

Noted that the job review for each person is soon to take place, which will look at how each role has evolved.

2020-02-09 An Update on St Hugh's

Beverley presented a report. Commented on some difficulties stemming from the fact that they had to pay their full parish share. Noted the help from Stuart Henderson with the financial administration and from Louise Waugh with general administration. Great thanks were recorded to both and to Fred who is overseeing their financial Annual Report.

A lot of work going on in developing links with the wider community, for example a successful baptism, the toddler group flourishes, and extended with new ventures being trialed, eg. Café Church and a holiday club. Noted that 2 groups have been lost, but party bookings have grown.

Isaac reported on initiatives with improving electronic communications and use of social media.

They both felt that there were signs of a more optimistic atmosphere.

2020-02-10 Generous Giving

Question posed; how do we encourage more to join planned giving and how do we encourage those who are members to give more.

Fred stressed how planned giving is a key element of our income stream. He summarised his statistics that show that planned giving is currently limited to a relatively small part of the congregation.

Discussion followed of 3 possible ways forward:

1. A Stewardship campaign, which the Diocese could help with. This should help with the key aim of getting more people into the scheme.

2. More publicity for the scheme. Ros in particular emphasised her belief that we must persist in giving this key message out repeatedly.

Agreed that we should employ both approaches so as to convey to people what the church does with its revenue and why it is so important and why we must increase planned giving.

Agreed that any such Campaign should be left till later in the year (the autumn) when it is likely to be more effective.

3. Parish Giving Scheme: this system would be administered by the Diocese, involves payment by direct debit and is inflation linked with an annual increase.

Agreed that any decisions on its' use should be part of a Stewardship Campaign committee ''' discussion.

STANDING ITEMS

2020-02-11 Finance

Covered in earlier items.

2020-02-12 Fabric

Paul reported on the completion of various jobs, including the lighting outside the west end.

2020-02-13 Update Reports

i) Standing Committee

Noted that a small increase on the budget for Jesus Christ Superstar had been passed.

ii) Safeguarding and Access

A revised system has been proposed for the management of DBS checks.

iii) Health and Safety

Andrew gave reassurance that clergy at all levels of the Church are keeping a very close watch on what measures are required to combat Corona virus.

Hygiene measures at any event in our own church involving any refreshments will be rigorously enforced..

iv) Deanery Synod

Report given on the recent meeting where the overall theme of the discussions had been "Look at Growth". There had been wide ranging discussions involving community outreach, the past and the future, and Parish share.

2020-02-14

Administrative Business

i) Correspondence

Nick read out a letter from Elizabeth Crawford making a strong case, as she sees it, for the purchase and installation of a dish washer in the Centre kitchen. In particular she emphasised the increased scale of provision of refreshments that we are envisaging in the near future.

Some discussion of previous investigation of this idea; the request was then passed on to the Fabric Committee for resolution.

ii) Alterations to the Electoral Roll

No applications received.

iii) Late Items.

Noted that there is now a ban on the use of glitter in the Centre.

iv) Date of Next Meeting

An "extra" meeting for the formal approval of the Annual Report on Sunday 29th March at 11am.

2020-02-15

Closing Prayer

Andrew closed the meeting with a prayer.