

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30 PM

On Zoom

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Paul Wilkinson, Christine Willoughby, Ros Place, Pam Taylor, Felicity Shoesmith, Diana Lavin, Dorothy Henderson, Karen Parkhouse, Fred Carr, Margaret Patterson, Edith Davison, Joe Vera Sanson, Marian Cave, Diane Kirkup, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Ethel Randell, Peter Brown, Katie Hogg, Nick Glover (secretary).

2021-01-01 **Opening Prayer and Welcome:** Welcome and opening prayer by Andrew.

2021-01-02 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Alison Proudfoot, Lesley Ogilvie, Alison Wilson, Kath Davies, Claudia Newbegin, Nicky White.

2021-01-03 **Minutes of the Meeting, 3rd November.**

Approval of the minutes was unanimously agreed..

Matters Arising

Item 6: Noted that the "Taste of Christmas" services had had to be changed to small scale carol services.

Item 7: the new fees are now posted on the web site.

MAIN ITEMS

2021-01-04 **Review of the Christmas Programme**

The "Christmas Cheer" event, in place of the Fair, had been successful in raising over £400; particular thanks recorded to Dorothy Henderson and Dee Matthews.

Christingle and Crib services had proceeded successfully.

"Follow the Star"; disappointing numbers actually walking it, but a lot of interest on Facebook. Query raised over the timing, with it still being in term time.

Christmas Eve carol services had proved to be very hard work but had attracted interest and positive feedback. Christmas Day had progressed "normally".

2021-01-05 **Our Life during Lockdown including Worship**

Sunday services, with congregation have had to be cancelled but live streaming is going ahead. Service access over the phone is still available.

The "Keeping In Touch" magazine will be maintained as will other activities over Zoom.

Whether it is viable to open the Church for private prayer at some point in the week is under consideration.

Noted that it is important that we maintain contact with any housebound members of the congregation. Andrew welcomed all to commend any who need support to the Ministry team.

Noted that Louise W., Tricia M. and Jamie D. are on furlough till at least the end of January.

Diana Lavin raised the possibility of a quiz over zoom, as a further point of social contact.

2021-01-06 **Plans for Lent and Easter**

Plans for Lent courses are well in hand.

A programme of services for Holy Week are being planned, that can be live streamed. It will need to be somewhat different, more varied from the normal and we must be ready to be flexible and creative in the current uncertain circumstances. We are aware that some who view our services online are unfamiliar with our normal practice and that what we do must be understandable to them.

2021-01-07 **St Hugh's – an Update**

Noted that Andrew and Beverley now have the prime responsibility for looking after the maintenance of the building; help from Stuart Henderson noted.

There has been interest in new lettings of the building space; not necessarily coming to fruition.

The frail and elderly nature of the congregation was noted. It is hoped that fresh outreach can be initiated in the autumn but building a new congregation will be a major challenge.

2021-01-08 **Live Streaming of Services**

The huge contribution from Peter Mitchell in maintaining the broadcasting of our services was noted and grateful thanks were recorded.

But he cannot maintain it alone, we need to move on. Wi-fi is successfully installed in the Church.

Andrew outlined a scheme with 2 portable cameras, and a laptop which could cover the service well and there is a grant of £3350 given towards improving our system.

He suggested that it is worth looking at other church websites to see what success many have achieved. Diane Kirkup reinforced that, having looked at St Nicholas, Gosforth.

Felicity Shoemith emphasised that we must have a robust system that truly maximises our potential, it needs to be an integrated system that is future proof and does not fall short just for short term gain.

Dorothy Henderson suggested that we should seek donations from the congregation towards the costs, emphasising what an important issue it is and an investment for the future.

Peter Brown proposed, Katie Hogg seconded that we should be prepared to commit upto £5000 towards this project, including the grant and that therefore quotations for such a system should be obtained. This was agreed with one abstention.

2021-01-09 Lighting Project for the Church

The proposals for Christmas 2020 were all knocked back, for practical reasons and it had been agreed that we might try again this year.

Possibilities mentioned included full floodlighting of the tower, or using commercial grade Christmas lights to illuminate the tower, All will have certain practical problems.

Generally agreed that it needs to be moved forward now, so as to allow plenty of time for planning.

STANDING ITEMS

2021-01-10 Finance

Fred reported that the 2020 accounts are nearing completion; quite healthy with an approx. £10k surplus although the state of the General fund is much less good.

Noted that the Planned Giving total has held up well although overall numbers have dropped.

The accounts will be presented at the APCM on Sunday 18th April.

2021-01-11 Fabric

Paul ran through a list of mostly building maintenance issues, notable were the necessary purchase of a new lawn mower and the fact that the replacement of the lighting bollards outside the west end with LED groundlights is being progressed.

2021-01-12 Update Reports

i) Standing Committee: no issues raised

ii) Safeguarding and Access: no issues raised.

iii) Health and Safety: Church risk assessment will again need updating. Grateful thanks once again recorded to Charlie Musset for all his hard work in this area.

iv) Deanery Synod: had met on 26 November when aspects of future policy had been discussed.

2021-01-13 Administrative Business

i) Correspondence: None to report

ii) Electoral Roll: No new applications but noted that there has been an increase over the year.

iii) Late Items: apologies expressed for the technical issues that had marred the meeting for some.

iv) Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30pm. Venue to be decided.

2021-01-14 Closing Prayer: Andrew closed the meeting with the Grace.