

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30 PM
In the Upper Room

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Paul Wilkinson, Ros Place, Peter Brown, Kath Davies, Pam Taylor, Constance Maselino Okai, Christine Willoughby, Diana Lavin, Karoline Wellborne, Felicity Shoesmith, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Claudia Newbegin, Chris Jenkins, Alison Proudfoot, Karen Parkhouse, Nicky White, Fred Carr, Nick Glover (secretary).
Also present: Joanne Christie, for part of the meeting

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

2020-01-02 **Apologies for Absence:** apologies were received from Jo Errington Stevens, Ethel Randall, Diane Kirkup, Katie Hogg, Lesley Ogilvie, Dorothy Henderson. .

2020-01-03 **Minutes of the Meetings, 13th November.**
These were approved and signed as a correct record, with corrected spelling of Ethel Randall's surname. Proposed by Kath Davies, seconded by Peter Brown.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 4: Andrew reported that Simon Mason, from Citizens UK, will address the Open PCC on 9th February. Nick reported that he had attended the recent Citizens event with Andrew Cole and had been impressed by the range of activities that were discussed.

Item 9: A flower fee has now been added to the fee list for weddings.

Item 10: the improvement in the sound system was commented upon. Andrew commented that clergy must remember to switch off their microphones when singing hymns!

Item 15: reported that the stained glass window is now under repair.

MAIN ITEMS

2020-01-04 **Generous Giving Presentation**

We were joined by Joanne Christie, Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser, who gave the presentation. Emphasised that her work looks at all aspects of giving, including time and talents as well as money. Main focus was to be on contactless giving of donations for which she has kit available for loan and trial. She described 3 options: 1) a device with a card reader but it requires a wi-fi connection in church so not suitable for us.

2) A "Good Plate" that enables contactless giving in church. It stores the details for later downloading. Cost £228; the most convenient option and which received positive response.

3) A table top unit, flexible use but requires fixing down. Well suited to churches with a high footfall. Cost £432. Felt to be less appropriate for our circumstances.

All attract charges, as for all such systems, but at a low level.

All agreed that we should request a "Good plate" loan for a trial period, and possibly a table top unit when one is available at a later date.

She also spoke about the importance of reviewing giving in the church; stressed the importance of involving and inspiring people if reviews are to be successful.

She stressed the value of the "Parish Giving Scheme"; she commented upon its success in other churches. If implemented it would see planned giving rise with inflation and would yield considerable benefit to the church. Agreed that it was something that we needed to discuss again in the future,

Felicity emphasised the importance of the wider context of giving, apart from money. Agreed that we needed to return to a discussion of this in the future.

2020-01-05 **Parish Share Consultation**

Andrew referred to the 5 options listed on the meeting papers, and that we currently follow Option 1. The Review group is hoping for opinions from PCCs; there was brief discussion about the nature of the Options but very few opinions about their relative merits were discussed.

2020-01-06 **Appointment of a new Youth Worker**

Andrew said that the process will soon begin to appoint a new Children, Families and Youth Co-ordinator and gave a brief summary of the roles and responsibilities of the job at present. Important to get feedback and ideas about the role to the Youth Committee before they seek to bring the job description up to date.

2020-01-07

Grand Piano?

Ros described how we have been offered, on long term loan, a concert grand piano which would involve us in being part of a monthly concert programme. The benefits are that we will therefore have a greater footfall into the Church which will create greater public awareness of us. We will also have full use of the instrument at all times. We gain a percentage of the concert takings and do not have to pay insurance. Initial concerns about where it could be housed were allayed; it will fit by the north altar with no moving of pews required.

A formal trial period not needed. Diana Lavin proposed, Christine Willoughby seconded that we should go ahead with the plan, unanimously agreed.

2020-01-08

All Saints' Day Conference, 27th June

Andrew has made a provisional booking on Shepherds Dene for this date, for up to 35 people, as an opportunity to review our progress over the year. Cost £23 per head, aiming to include the PCC but also others from the congregation.

Peter Brown proposed, Pam Taylor seconded that that this plan should proceed, unanimously agreed.

2020-01-09

St Hugh's – an update

Beverley gave a summary of the current situation. Problems grew with the sudden death of Bob Ridley and the difficulties the church faces in maintaining daily administration without him. Considerable income has also been lost with Slimming World stopping their booking of the premises. The value of the work put in by Fred Carr and Louise Waugh was gratefully noted.

She went on to describe the work that she and Isaac Wilkinson are putting in to try and rebuild the relationship with the community. The numbers at the Christmas Eve service had been disappointing, although Karoline pointed out how much excellent hard work the clergy team had put into that service. Noted that a Café church style service is soon to be tried.

Andrew summarised the work as pioneering ministry, effectively trying to set up a new church.

2020-01-10

Review of the Christmas Programme

Andrew sought any comments about the programme. Beverley commented how impressed she was, as a newcomer, by the efficiency and scale of the whole programme.

Felicity reported that she had heard a lot of good feedback from various people and stressed how important it is that we work to attract people to the church at other times of year.

Thanks were noted to Dee Matthews for her hard work on the Christmas Fair.

2020-01-11

Calendar for 2020

Andrew ran through the calendar programme, soon to be published. Of particular note:

11th February – Safeguarding Training, relevant to all working with young people and vulnerable adults. Want to involve everyone but Diocese trainers want the numbers limited.

Good Friday - John Lewis is directing a production of Jesus Christ Superstar in Church. Final details to be clarified eg. licenses, however it requires a budget. Peter Brown proposed a budget of £500, seconded Paul Wilkinson. Unanimously agreed.

Shakespeare on the Green – Ros went through details of the plan. Proposed for 12th August at 2.30pm on the Church Green. Bad weather alternative in Church. Handlebards arrange the event insurance. She gave detailed figures re costs and ticketing prices and arrangements. Other practical arrangements included accommodation for 5 people, and secure trailer storage. A team of front of house people will be required on the day.

Nicky White proposed, Alison Proudfoot seconded that the plan should proceed. Unanimously agreed.

2020-01-12

Chalice Assistant Approval

John Nutt is happy to take on this role. Peter Brown proposed, Fred Carr seconded that we approve this suggestion; unanimously agreed.

Noted that more acolytes and a crucifer are to join the rota.

STANDING ITEMS

2020-01-13

Finance

Fred commented that there was little to report at this stage. He hoped to be reporting a deficit of just about £2k, which will be less than expected at an earlier stage.

2020-01-14

Fabric

Little to report; Paul mentioned work proceeding on the Centre yard gates, with landscape gardeners and on the west end lighting.

2020-01-15

Update Reports

i) **Standing Committee:** no matters raised from the recent notes

ii) **Safeguarding and Access:** no matters raised.

iii) **Health and Safety:** Andrew described certain changes that must be made to the H&S policy before it is reaffirmed. These include updating of fire risk assessments; the verger/caretaker job descriptions need to incorporate safe working details with regard to ladders; a section on terrorism must be incorporated; note that a range of risk assessments are available in the Office.

iv) **Deanery Synod:** noted that the Parish Share for the coming year had been agreed.

2020-01-16

Administrative Business

i) **Correspondence:** Nick read out a letter from the Bell Tower captain that conveyed thanks to the PCC for providing the money for the redecoration of the ringing room and the new carpet.

ii) **Alterations to the Electoral Roll:** no applications received.

iii) **Late Items:** nothing raised.

iv) **Date of Next Meeting:** Open meeting of the PCC on Sunday February 9th.

Next full meeting, Tuesday 3rd March in the Upper Room.

2020-01-17

Closing Prayer

Andrew closed the meeting with a prayer.