

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7.30 PM
In the Church

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Paul Wilkinson, Christine Willoughby, Ros Place, Pam Taylor, Felicity Shoesmith, Fred Carr, Margaret Patterson, Marian Cave, Diane Kirkup, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Peter Brown, Katie Hogg, Lesley Ogilvie, Alison Wilson, Edith Davison, Nick Glover (secretary). Andrew Cole present for Item 4.

2021-07-01 **Opening Prayer and Welcome:** Welcome and opening prayer by Andrew.

2021-07-02 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Ethel Randall, Claudia Newbegin, Dorothy Henderson, Diana Lavin, Karen Parkhouse and Kath Davies.

2021-07-03 **Minutes of the Meeting, 6th September**

Fred requested the clarification re the Gloria Smith fund in Item 4; the minutes were then accepted as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

Item 10: a revised job description for the Youth Worker has now been produced, defining it as a more outgoing, pioneering role. It should be advertised in January, hoping to appoint by Easter.

Item 12; Live Streaming; it is now proceeding, successfully, with 2 cameras. Questions raised over the possibility of giving You Tube recordings a date and time.

Progress reported with a new web designer identified to help develop a new website.

STANDING ITEMS

2021-07-04 **Refugee Sponsorship**

Andrew Cole presented the proposal that we should support a Gosforth Branch of Tyneside Welcomes with the aim of enabling the resettlement of a refugee family. This would involve providing support, finding a residential property, getting local authority agreement and fund raising for a period of 2 years. Andrew reported that a local committee has been formed and good progress is being made, with local contacts made and good progress with fund raising.

Questions were raised over whether we could accommodate this commitment alongside our own needs to raise funds for our own work. Views expressed that this was another form of important outreach work and it was also likely to draw on funding from the wider community that we may not otherwise reach.

The motion was put that the PCC should support this initiative to sponsor a refugee family under the umbrella of Tyneside Welcomes. This was passed with 2 votes against.

2021-07-05 **Mission of the Month Proposals 2022**

Andrew summarised the paper listing the proposed charities. Proposals accepted unanimously.

The concern was raised over the expense of meeting our guarantee threshold to each charity if adequate cash is not raised.; this has been a significant expense in recent times. Agreed that we should reduce our guarantee to 3% but that this should be kept under review by Fred.

2021-07-06 **Renewal and Funding Group**

Christine reiterated the 3 main priorities of funding, volunteer recruitment and young people and families

She emphasised that the 3 leaflets that are now ready to be launched on Advent Sunday with further stages in the New Year eg. a volunteer "fair".

She pointed out that a Calvary Cross reinstatement event could be a valuable opportunity to contact the wider community..

2021-07-07 **Christmas Programme**

Andrew reported that the full Christmas programme would be published very soon; some of the major events were highlighted:

19th December Community Carols on the Green prior to the Christingle service.

Christmas Eve 4pm Carols on the Green, unrestricted numbers.

6.30 Carol service in the Church, ticketed, 300 people.

Midnight service to go ahead, team of volunteers available.

2021-07-08 **St Hugh's and our Work in neighbouring Parishes**

Andrew reported that the Archdeacon is planning to join us at some point in the New Year to discuss the

concept of All Saints' becoming a hub church, although it seems that with the recent failure of the Diocese to gain the support of the National Churches Strategic Investment Board in its bid for funding, the concept of hub churches is uncertain.

Our work at St Hugh's continues and it is clear that the life of that church is now wholly dependent upon All Saints'.

2021-07-09 Parish Fees for 2022

A government agreed increase on statutory fees of about 3.5% was reported. Proposed that our local fees should increase by a similar amount (3.5 to 4%) with the exception of flowers, to increase to £250 to reflect greater rising costs. Proposals unanimously agreed.

2021-07-10 Calvary Cross, Repair and Reinstatement

Peter Brown indicated that the work could proceed as detailed in his paper. Some discussion of the optional conservation work (para 3) with the opinion being that this was not needed.

Thus recommendations 2, 3 and 4 on page 2 were proposed by Fred Carr, seconded by Paul Wilkinson and were unanimously accepted. These in summary were: 1. Seek a faculty for the work and place an order. 2. Include uplighters and new plinth stonework in the faculty. 3. Authorisation of a crowdfunding campaign to raise the necessary funds.

Noted that the additional electric socket outlets in Church can go ahead with just an Archdeacons' certificate.

2021-07-11 Lawnmower Storage

Paul outlined the problems, detailed in his paper, concerning storage due to restricted access and other logistical problems. The proposals are to rationalise the layout within the yard with replacement new storage facilities being built. This involves a cost of £2.2k. Paul Wilkinson proposed, Diane Kirkup seconded that we proceed with this proposal, unanimously accepted.

2021-07-12 Environmental Improvements to the Green,

Paul outlined the proposals, detailed in the paper, with the emphasis on a survey being carried out to summarise the possibilities available. The idea of initially consulting the City Tree Officer was raised, which would involve no cost; agreed that this should be the first stage. This approach proposed by Diane Kirkup, seconded by Peter Brown, unanimously agreed.

2021-07-13 Christmas Lights on the Tower

Lightfoots, on a site visit, had recommended a rope light for the top of the tower at a cost of approx. £1.5k. Paul had found a cheaper alternative for approx. £200. Fred Carr reported that there was money earmarked for lights to cover that cost. Paul Wilkinson proposed, Lesley Ogilvie seconded that we proceed with that latter option, unanimously agreed.

STANDING ITEMS

2021-07-14 Finance

- i) Fred reported that the electricity contract has been renewed with SSE. The increase in cost is likely to be about £1k – noted that this is not excessive in the current climate.
- ii) He also reported that the new gas contact is now operational.

2021-07-15 Fabric

i) Paul reported on maintenance work that had been completed, including gutters and hedges, A boiler service arranged.

The new dishwasher in the Centre has been installed and should be operational very soon.

ii) Peter reported that the boiler in the Clergy House had failed. Urgent action had been needed thus he had taken the necessary steps to replace it.

iii) Two new flasks bought to enable a better standard of refreshment provision.

2021-07-16 Update Reports

i) Standing Committee: Item 6; noted that Keith Kennils has resigned as Insurance rep. He has fulfilled the role since 2004,, and thanks were recorded. A letter of thanks to be sent from the PCC by the Secretary. Item 4: Noted that John Lewis has now signed his contract.

Item 5: Noted that the Parish Self Review document, for All Saints' and St Hughs' has been sent to the Diocese.

ii) Safeguarding and access: Andrew referred to the new Safeguarding leaflet, containing details of policies and relevant actions, that is now available.

Also noted that Katie Hogg is now the Vulnerable and Young Persons Advocate, to replace Dee Matthews.

- iii) Health and Safety: Andrew noted that we must continue to be cautious in preventing the spread of Covid.
- iv) Deanery Synod: no meetings.

2021-07-17

Administrative Business

- i) Correspondence --- none
- ii) Alterations to the Electoral Roll – none
- iii) Late Items: Andrew commented that the Code of Conduct for PCC members to sign, as discussed at previous meetings, has been incorporated within the Safeguarding leaflet. This will need to be signed in future with the self declaration form.
- iv) Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th January at 7.30pm.

2021-07-18

Closing Prayers

Andrew closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace.