

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.30 PM
In Archbishop Runcie First School

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Peter Brown (acting secretary)., Alison Proudfoot, Kath Davies, Dorothy Henderson, Fred Carr, Pam Taylor, Constance Maselino Okai, Christine Willoughby, Diana Lavin, Karoline Wellborne, James Cartmell, Karen Parkhouse, Felicity Shoesmith, Ethel Randall and Katie Hogg.
Mrs Kate Massey, Headteacher, was present for part of the meeting.

2019-06-01 **Opening Prayer and Welcome:** Welcome and opening prayer by Andrew.

2019-06-02 **Apologies for Absence:** apologies were received from Ruth Birnie, Ros Place, Paul Wilkinson, Nick Glover, Diane Kirkup and Nicky White

2019-06-03 **Minutes of the Meetings, 2nd July**
These were approved and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 5: Security of church was discussed and it was agreed that Andrew would review locking arrangements so the church could also be opened on Saturdays.

Item 8: Director of Music. John Lewis has been appointed on a temporary contract until the end of December with a review to be held in November. With mutual agreement, a formal permanent contract would then be signed.

MAIN ITEMS

2019-06-04 **Archbishop Runcie School**
Kate Massey welcomed the PCC to the school. Kate explained that she first came to the school as an NQT student 17 years ago and subsequently became Deputy Head to Julie Robson. In 2017 after Julie's retirement Denise Henry was appointed Head and when Denise left after just over two terms Kate became Acting Head and then Head. Kate detailed that after she returned from maternity leave in 2016, it became evident that some results data was weak and the LEA and Diocese put in measures to help but at the OFSTED inspection in July 2017 the school was put into the Requires Improvement (RI) category. The following year was one of turmoil with staff leaving or being on sick leave and the NEAT Academy were brought in to help and advise. Around this time, the Diocese suggested changes to the Admissions policy that would have adversely affected the All Saints' congregation and these were resisted. Subsequently there was much opposition to the Diocesan recommendation that the school became part of the NEAT Academy. Kate was pleased to report that at the last OFSTED inspection the school had become Good. The positive relationship with the Gosforth Trust was also fruitful and the difficulties the school had faced had led to the Gosforth Trust becoming more focussed on support for schools that had benefitted others. Andrew relayed the number of ways All Saints' were already involved in the school and there were discussions about what other help the church could provide with 'reading buddies' for instance. Kate will write a piece for In Touch explaining the opportunities there are for members of the congregation to support and help.

2019-06-05 **Vicar Sabbatical**
Andrew explained that his sabbatical had brought home the importance of responding to change. We must live in the present and engage with the community as it is and not live in the past. We must be outward looking and thankful for where we are but complacency must go. Context will keep changing and we will need to keep changing with it. Andrew issued a leaflet setting out five priorities and programme/stages to achieve them.

1. Looking forward and outward. How will All Saints' engage the wider community
2. Space for silence/retreats/contemplation
3. Communications audit
4. Young families and children at All Saints'
5. Music

Andrew's proposals were well received by the PCC.

2019-06-06 **Budget**

Fred spoke to his previously circulated paper setting out the budget. Overall, a small deficit is expected for the year with a surplus in the General Account.

2019-06-07 Fees Treasurer Replacement

Lionel Sainsbury has been the fees treasurer for a number of years but has had to give it up due to ill health. In the short term Fred has taken the work on board but a replacement fees treasurer has been approached and confirmation of a new appointment is hoped to be announced soon.

2019-06-08 Programme for September to December

Andrew went through the programme of events and an updated sheet will be made available. Andrew highlighted the number of school pupils that will be coming into church between now and December with Harvest and Christmas services. Felicity made the point that this was a great opportunity to advertise church events and services. Diana said that it was important always to review church events objectively to ensure that we learn from any mistakes.

2019-06-09 Rotas

It was noted that numbers of people available for rotas was reducing and a recruitment drive was needed.

2019-06-10 St Hugh's update

Andrew reported that St Hugh's were in increasing difficulty and had been dealt a significant blow with the death of Bob Ridley. Bev and Isaac will both be working in the parish and the hope is that a new beginning can be made with a new congregation.

STANDING ITEMS

2019-06-11 Fabric

The committee had met the previous week but the notes of the meeting had not been circulated to the PCC. Notes to follow. Peter highlighted the following items from the meeting

1. Roof repairs – The leak over the entrance to the Centre had been repaired and all the roof repairs on the church identified in the Quinquennial Report had been carried out.
2. The consultation period for the Faculty for the window repairs and new path lighting had just expired and the Faculty should be received shortly. The path lighting should be installed before the clocks go back.
3. A Report from independent consulting engineers on the heating of the choir vestry has been received. The recommendation for the most efficient and effective heating was for wall mounted infra-red electric heaters. These are not without drawbacks and no action is proposed until the new Director of Music and the choir have been consulted and only then if they agree to the proposals. A quotation had been received for secondary glazing to the two very large windows in the vestry but this was prohibitively expensive.
4. A Report has been received detailing a new sound system and new radio mikes. It was agreed that Paul would seek advice and quote from another sound engineer to address the immediate problem with the loop system.

2019-06-12 Update Reports

i) Standing Committee

Notes circulated. Diana commented on the need to observe email protocols, such as no capitals or underlining, and the danger that emails could be a form of bullying. This will be considered by the Safeguarding Committee.

ii) Safeguarding and Access

Nothing to report.

iii) Health and Safety

Nothing to report

iv) Deanery Synod

The September Synod had been cancelled.

2019-06-13 Administrative Business

i) Correspondence

Peter read out a letter from Pat Spong concern about dog poo on the church green and raised the possibility of new fencing, banning dogs and new signage. After a full discussion by the PCC it was proposed by Fred and seconded by Karoline that at present there should be no fence, dogs should be allowed but that children from the school be asked to design a graphic sign to make it clear this was an area where children play.

ii) Alterations to the Electoral Roll

No applications received

iii) Any Other Business

The view was expressed that the bring and share lunch the previous day had gone well and should be repeated more often. There were problems identified with various dates suggested but Andrew will try find another date before Christmas.

iv) Date of Next Meeting

Open PCC – Sunday 13th October

PCC -Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm

2019-06-14

Closing Prayer

Andrew closed the meeting with a prayer and the grace.