

MINUTES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – ST GEORGES WITH ST MARTINS

HELD ON MONDAY 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Matthew Swires-Hennessy (Chair), Dave McClelland, Helen Bradley, Andy Livingston, Christine Buckley, Aled Seago, Joe Hadfield, Brian Clarke, Vivienne Metcalfe, Val Parry (Secretary), Les Hutchinson, David Myers, Mike Bradley, Eileen Shore, Linda Bell, Joyce Corlett, Sue Coleman, Vicky Timothy, David Brackenbury, Hannah Brackenbury, Valerie Vibrans, Ameer Aldabbagh, Helen Kershaw, Bizzie Bowles, Margaret Goode and Sheila Vogler

1. **Opening Prayers:** Matthew read from Psalm 145
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Why does the PCC exist?** – Matthew asked everyone to consider the purpose of the PCC and formed break-out rooms for discussion.



Matthew then shared a synopsis from “PCC Tonight, James Lawrence, CPAS”.

1. To enable the church to play its part in ‘God’s mission to his world
2. To co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership (includes the staff team)
3. Responsibility for compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law e.g. safeguarding
4. To care for the buildings and churchyard as good stewards of God’s provision
5. To be a channel of consultation with the wider church – not just our church, but also the deanery, diocese and wider church and also the other churches in Poynton

Matthew also urged us to prepare as much as possible for before PCC meetings by reading any documents that have been distributed, such as minutes, safeguarding policies, financial statements etc. Matthew also stressed that such papers and discussions are confidential and should not be shared, and that we should respect discussions and keep them confidential. Once the minutes have been approved by the PCC, then they are public documents (and are displayed in the church hall). Matthew suggested we endeavour to engage with the topics discussed and to use our individual skills appropriately; to listen

to each other, ask if don't understand, and speak with kindness and grace, as we grow and learn how to work together, in prayer.

4. **Minutes of PCC held on 21st September** (Zoom): There were a couple of amendments to the minutes, which once corrected were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising:

- Matthew then suggested that no.6 - *Membership of Standing Committee* should be readopted and that the same people to stand again. Helen Bradley proposed that the SC should continue for the next year, and this was seconded by Dave Brackenbury. This was unanimously agreed.
- No. 11 - It was pointed that out although we are currently at Level 3 of the COVID-19 risk assessment, we are able to have funerals in church and able to livestream Sunday services from church with people taking part, but no congregation.

5. **Safeguarding – Hannah Brackenbury**

The Safeguarding Policies (based on and guided by the C of E policies) were circulated by Hannah prior to the meeting. The PCC has a responsibility to adopt these policies each year. Matthew reminded us that we do this to several reasons:

- i) to remind us of how to create a good space for people to learn and explore faith
- ii) to remind us that we are all at some point in our lives vulnerable
- iii) it speaks to us about how we care for all members of our society; children, the vulnerable, may those who have been abused or even have been abusers. We are called to minister to all, and we need to do so safely.
- iv) to have training for all involved in groups to protect leaders and prevent false accusations.

Hannah Brackenbury proposed we accept these policies and it was seconded by Aled Seago. This was unanimously agreed.

Hannah then stated that all new PCC members need to have an enhanced DBS check. Those involved in other church ministry may already be covered, Hannah will check about this and will email all those who do need to apply later this week.

C of E has issued guidance on 6 November about safeguarding during livestreamed services to ensure this is a safe space for anyone taking part. Hannah has designed a consent form those people involved which they will need to sign to give consent to being on screen in church and being seen via the internet (FaceBook/YouTube). An area in church has been designated as a 'safe area', for those who are in church for a specific reason, but do not want to be seen apart from 'their bit'. This will also cover people once normal services resume. If youth and children are involved in livestreaming, they can sign for themselves if they are over 13 years and understand the process; if not parents can sign.

6. **Finance Report – Mike Bradley**

Documentation was sent out prior to the meeting including a spreadsheet showing the income and expenditure in detail of the general fund. Mike provided the following report.

The current cash allocation is as follows:

CBF Investments	£93,792.16
Church Hall Fund (NatWest_	£1,493.24
Development Fund (NatWest)	£3,825.53

Friends of St Georges (NatWest)	£1,310.69
NatWest Main Account	£19,864.17
Soldo (pre-paid card)	£2,150.91
Vernon Savings Account	£73,102.42
Brewin Dolphin	£675,480.76
Total	<u>£871,019.88</u>

Year to date:

	Forecast	Actual	Net
Income	£193k	£169k	-£24k
Expenditure	£178k	£172k	£6k

- Our main investment account with Brewin Dolphin has been doing very well, especially considering the volatility of this year's markets.
- There was an income shortfall of £24,000. This was largely due to loss of lettings due to Covid and loss of giving/offertory at services. Contributions through standing orders are holding up well. Thanks to everyone who gives in this way.
- Expenditure shows a saving £6,000 – mainly reduced costs of hall and church i.e. heating due to closed buildings.

Mike stated that there were no serious concerns about the finances, but that the finance team is looking forward to a return to normality – hopefully in January. He then asked all budget holders to send their estimates to him as soon as possible, to help with next year's budget setting.

Eileen Shore asked for clarification about the grant of £2000 from World War 2 fund. Mike replied that every parish in Chester Diocese had received this grant automatically. There is guidance given that it should be used for mission. There are no other known caveats attached to it.

Missionary Giving

We give 10% of previous year's income every year to Mission. This year's contribution will be £19,018 distributed to various groups. Matthew proposed a slightly shortened the list for this year and suggested that a small team, which will include Christine Buckley, Les Hutchinson and Joyce Corlett will help with decisions next year. The aim will be to try to develop more personal partnerships with the focus on the persecuted church, education and our mission partner church in Salta.

One small change from the published list will be to repeat last year's gift of £500 to Image and reduce the donation to the new charity AIM.

Eileen Shore pointed out that we have already sent £1000 to Argentina this year and that we have a separate Argentina fund.

Matthew mentioned that Garry Ion is still being supported by CMS but is not in Africa. Garry's latest newsletter is in Offshoot on the church website. The omission of our usual donation to CTiP was questioned, but Matthew stated that CTiP was alright for money at the moment.

Matthew proposed was accept these donations and was seconded by Joe Hadfield. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Deputy Wardens and Sides-people

The wardens have decided not to appoint sides-people at the moment. A number have left to move away and as we are not meeting in church currently there is the opportunity to re-organise the rota.

Helen Bradley proposed the following deputy wardens: Catherine McClennan, David Myers, Alison Moverley, and Val Vibrans with reserve wardens, Joyce and Robin Corlett, and this was seconded Dave McClelland. This was agreed unanimously.

Matthew said that he was very grateful even during Covid style services to all who helped out as there is still quite a lot to do.

8. **Minutes of the Standing Committee 5th October 2020:**

AL stated he does not have a definite date for moving as yet. His official resignation will date from that date.

9. **Property Committee**

St. George's Hall lighting – the Property Committee have planned for this work in the forecast for next year. There is the opportunity to have the work on new lighting carried out in January whilst the hall is not in use. The lighting has not been modified since building built in 2001 and it has a number of limitations. The main hall is one big room which can be divided into 2 rooms but there is no independent lighting for the 2 areas. Also, during presentations, using a projector and screen, the lights cannot be dimmed. Bradtek have put together a scheme which will cost £8,041 to remedy these problems. This is a very sophisticated (commercial) system using the latest technology. There will also be a master override switch making it easy for those leaving and locking up the building.

Val V proposed we employ Bradtek to install this system. It was seconded by Margaret Goode and accepted unanimously.

Val also stated that the property committee were investigating new blinds for the windows in the main hall.

10. **PCC Policies - Care of the graveyard**

Hannah sent a document about graveyard security to everyone prior to the meeting. Whilst Brian and Phil Keane, the gravedigger, have been checking the safety of the churchyard monuments and organising any repairs necessary (paid for by the church) she proposed formalising the system and documentation. She thanked Steve Brain for devising the document. After a short discussion, it was suggested that the checks are done more frequently than every 5 years. Christine suggested that we check every grave each year. Brian Clarke proposed we implement this new policy and Helen Kershaw seconded it. The proposal was accepted with 1 abstention.

11. **Vision – “Who are we? Who are we to serve?” – Matthew Swires-Hennessy**

Matthew said that in the midst of a global pandemic life might feel a little bit stuck and that we have all been affected in different ways and it has also affected our planning for the future. The focus should not just be on re-opening church, but that we need to think ahead and about what God wants us to do. Before coming, Matthew was given the words Faith, Hope and Love (I Cor. 13 & I Thess.) We are called to grow in all these things; faith, in terms of discipleship, hope in terms of a new life in Christ and love that we can show in practical and careful ways to those around us. This is for us all, not just Matthew. In October we were encouraged to pray for our streets, and many people did. As members of PCC, Matthew encouraged us to come to the Monday prayer meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Who are we? What do people who do not come to church say we are? Think we do?

Who are we to serve? Poynton is changing, new buildings, new people moving here – what groups do we have? How do we connect with our community?

Matthew put us back into break-out rooms to discuss this question, and then summarised the

feedback.

The main points of the discussion were:

Who are we? We are a traditional Church of England, with a very visible presence at the centre of the village. We provide many traditional services – baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as regular Sunday worship and have well attended ‘festival’ occasions, such as Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday. Our emphasis is on good Biblical teaching. We also try to be welcoming and help others through the youth work, home groups, A.C. & T. and the retirement lunches.

Who are we to serve? We serve God, our church family, our neighbours and also the wider community through mission.

12. Vicar’s Notices

- Christmas! This year will not be “normal” and we still have to wait to see what will be permissible. There are 2 events planned:
 - a) A Story-trail around the village through December, speaking of the Hope that is Christmas. The other churches will be involved. This should be possible even if lockdown continues, as it will be outside with QR codes on windows etc.
 - b) Services – These will be smaller than usual but Carol Services are planned for 19th /20th December.

Poynton Baptist Church is currently exploring the idea of a ‘float’ with carol singers to tour Poynton, handing out flyers with services and a Christmas message.
- The Diocese has authorised a lot of tree work at Vicarage and had surveys done, in preparation for building a new Vicarage and 3 other houses on the site of the garden. It is hoped that planning will be submitted before Christmas. The Diocese has offered to pay for new trees in the St George’s graveyard to replace the trees which have had to be removed because they were unsafe.
- New website for St. George’s and St. Martin’s is coming and will hopefully go live for beginning of December. Existing website will be kept as a resource. New website will be more outward focussed.
- Andy’s last Sunday will be 29th November. We will have the opportunity to say thank you to Andy and Helen and pray for them as part of livestreamed service. We hope they will come back once lockdown is finished for a proper farewell.

13. AOB - None

Andy closed the meeting in prayer at 21.30pm.

Chair: _____ Date: _____