

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church, Shepperton held on
Tuesday 21st July 2020 via Zoom at 8.00.p.m**

Those present: The Rector (in the chair), Pamela Barrie, Guy Blythman, Jo Child, John Child, Elizabeth Harrow, Kathy Hodge, Angie Enock-Shore, Peter Davis, Pam Powell, Janice Wetherell, Mike Ralph and Sharon Fish.

The meeting was opened with the prayer of preparation. Greetings were shared from the Watsons in Spain

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mark Steptoe.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 16th of June were accepted with the inclusion of Mike Ralph as those present
3. **Matters Arising from the minutes of 16th of June.**

a. Roseacre

John Child has a meeting with Roseacre on the 29th of July to agree an update for the contract

Doris Neville-Davis has agreed to be the liaison between the church and Roseacre

c. Vestry Roof

The papers have been displayed for 10 days on the website

d. Bereavement café

The Team has met by zoom to discuss options during the lockdown including "walk and talk". They are also discussing the use of the church garden for space to meet.

d. Church building

The Dais has been removed and the floor condition beneath is of better quality than expected. This reduced the cost from the builder (Ashcrofts). The Dais is stored behind the Parish centre. The tiles need coating with a varnish or sealant. The internal re-working needs to be put on hold as we think about the remedial work such as the tower.

4. Financial Report

The church already has a deficit of £7700 for the year so far. Stewardship is down £3800, and collections are down by £2900. We haven't had weddings, messy church or baptisms, however we also haven't been paying organists or an administrator.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC agreed unanimously to pass the requirement to pass any serious safeguarding issues to the charity commission. Proposer : Peter Davis, Seconded : Guy Blythman.

6. Church building

Discussed in matter arising

7. Motion on whether to reopen the church or not

Considering the size of the church. St Nicholas would have a maximum of 30 people inside during a current service. This would need significant planning on where people sat, how social distancing was performed. We have the opportunity of a practice on the 16th of August when a Baptism is occurring in the church.

The suggestion of using open air worship would cause similar problems with maximum of 30 people in gathering and little information from the Diocese.

The proposal of not reopening for Sunday Services until the 6th of September was put by Pam Powell, seconded by Kathy Hodge and agreed unanimously.

The main reasons for delaying reopening are:

- The limited size of church would require significant thought to make it COVID-secure.
- The start of the interregnum and Pamela leaving.
- Building our capability to live stream church services as only a small proportion of the congregation would be able to attend.

8. Reviewing Church thus far in a time of Coronavirus and plans for reopening.

The PCC considered the three questions from Bishops Graham's Pentecost ad clerum again.

a) How can we keep our church congregation connected?

It is nice having Shepperton news, Julia is doing a great job and the new size is half the price.

Those who have been long term housebound are feeling greater connection and this should be maintained post COVID.

b) How can we reach out to and serve our local communities with the love of Christ?

The Parish charities struggle to distribute its funds. Liz Felsing (Headteacher) has described that some families at St Nicholas school really struggling due to job losses. The suggestion is for the parish charities to make small grants of £100- £200 for those in particular need but to be administered by the school.

Janice will be the key contact with the school to maintain the relationship.

The notices will be constructed by Maggie and Julia during the interregnum.

c) How can we use our buildings wisely within government guidelines as they evolve?

The opening of private prayer will be switched to Wednesday afternoon starting on the 5th of August. We had two volunteers when the timing was Monday/Friday so hopefully either has time to be in the church on a Wednesday.

9. Working groups

a) Finance group:

Having a garden meeting tomorrow

b) Buildings

The restoration of the tower is a larger project than the transept, but this must be started before a new incumbent. The group could meet the architect and archdeacon, as lots of the preliminary work has been done. However, a narrative needs to be constructed on why it is important to the wider community

c) Admin

The office is staffed Monday – Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM by a different person each day and four more in reserve. They will deal with people visiting, telephone calls, and emails. Further clarity is needed on the process of dealing with Baptisms and Weddings, as booking and preparation needs to be done within the parish.

d) The administration of Worship

Pamela has created a power point for Eucharists which will work during ordinary time until Advent. For the Baptism on the 16th of August the projector will be used and the normal 11:15 people will be asked if they want to help. The baptism visitors are still coming to the service as is Janice.

Eric Pizey has agreed to continue as vergier.

e) Communications and technical development

New mailchimp email sent out and the new website in development. St. Nicholas will soon have specific email addresses

10. Offer of new Chalice

A chalice has been offered in memory of Bob Hall, by his family. It requires engraving on the bottom and shall be entered into the green book logging the church's Chattels.

11. War Graves Commission

The war graves commission would like to place a small discrete plaque indicating that the cemetery has a couple of naval graves. Janice proposed and Angie seconded and it unanimously approved.

12. Next PCC meeting

22nd of September

12. Correspondence

N/A

13. Wardens Notices

N/A

14. AOB

There being no further business the meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm with the saying of the Grace.

Signed _____

Date _____

Peter Davis