

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas Church Shepperton

Virtually on Zoom on 18th January 2021 at 8:00pm

Present

Janice Wetherell Chair Margaret Bennet Kathy Hodge , Guy Blythman, Maggie Hammond < John and Jo Child , Pam Powell , Simon Sheldon, Sharon Fish, Mark Steptoe, Sylvia Carter Hilary Dyer , Doris Neville-Davies

1. Apologies

None as all members were present.

2. Revisiting Pre Section 11 meeting for new PCC members, Rev Jonathan Rust

Rev. Jonathan Rust Diocesan Director of Mission re-apprised members of the process for advertising the incumbent's vacancy for those members who were not present when this was detailed on 22/9/20

In response to questions Jonathan advised the following –

- a. Parish representatives were appointed at the Section11 (S11) meeting, they had to be PCC members. Representatives should understand the parish and be prepared to hold their own. Experience of Human Resources and/or making appointments would also be helpful.
- b. The diocese would ensure that there was not an all-male panel.
- c. The parish can request a Section12 meeting with the Bishop but this only occurred if there were a controversial or unusual issue and would delay the process.
- d. The S11 meeting should now happen as soon as possible. Next step was to finalise the profile. The parish would book and pay for an advertisement in the Church Times. The price varied according to the size of the advert. The Church Times offered two price schemes, either a fixed term of 3 weeks or on an "until filled" basis. Both cost approximately £1,000. The "until filled" basis was 10% more. The diocese would suggest a wording based on our job specification and send this to us for approval.
- e. The deadline for applications to be received would be three or four weeks after the final advert. Shortlisting would occur approximately 2 weeks after that. Interviews would be 2 weeks after shortlisting. They normally began the interview with a 10 minute presentation on a fairly general theme. The diocese would not appoint anyone that the Bishop had not met face to face even if we were still in lockdown. They can

offer the post on day of interview. If the field of candidates was poor, then they would not appoint and would re-advertise.

- f. The diocese recommended avoiding advertising around Easter or Christmas. If the successful candidate had children, then September was often a good start date. In our circumstances this start date was realistic. Clergy were usually on 3 months' notice period from their previous role.
- g. Experience level to be specified would depend on whether youth and energy or experience was a prerequisite. All clergy now retire at 70 but once in post can stay as long as they want.

3. Minutes of meeting held 7th December 2020

Pam Powell had been missed off the list of those attending but otherwise the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair

4. Matters arising

- a) The Journey to Bethlehem presentation could not take place following the imposition of the Tier 4 restrictions. Crib had been left outside the Church and there was a significant number of visitors.
- b) Date of Annual Parochial Church Meeting was now back to April so was agreed as Monday 19th April at 8.00pm. It would probably take place on Zoom.

5. Safeguarding

There was nothing to report. Janice agreed to reissue the link to the Safeguarding training.

6. Financial Report

A deficit of around £15,000 was now expected. Accounts would be discussed in detail on the 22nd February.

7. Interregnum: an update

The Chair reported that the church building was currently closed to communal worship. The PCC was asked to approve this course of action retrospectively. This was proposed by Pam Powell, seconded by Sylvia and this was **agreed** nem con. It was also agreed that the church building should remain closed until the end of February when further consideration would be made and brought back to the PCC to agree if necessary by e-mail. Thanks were recorded to Sally and Maggie for maintaining the Zoom recording and to John and Janice for their work maintaining the Church building end of the services especially for Tom Greenwood's funeral. The Standing committee had waived the funeral and burial fees due to the PCC of £397, in grateful recognition of Elizabeth's role

as assistant priest. This was proposed by John Child and seconded by Doris Neville-Davies.

8. Approval of 2 Foundation Governors for St Nicholas School Governing Body.

These were suggested to be Sylvia and Dr Catherine James (a regular attendee at the 11.15am service). The Head Teacher, Liz Felsing had also been consulted and was happy with the proposed appointees. This was proposed by Janice Wetherall, seconded by Maggie Hammond and agreed nem con. It was also reported that Liz Felsing would be leaving St Nicholas School shortly.

9. Parish Profile

The most important parts of the document are pp 25 and 26 “The Way Ahead” and “Are You our New Rector?” which suggest what type of priest we are looking for. Topics discussed were as follows -

- (1) Some minor factual amendments were needed.
- (2) Detailed info was added on Messy Church.
- (3) The diversity of the parish was queried but this comes out elsewhere e.g., Description of parish.
- (4) Music was queried but there were diverging opinions on its importance.
- (5) One of the less successful things about the parish was recruiting/retaining new members of the Church.
- (6) Alternative worship and Messy Church should be included with the Eucharist and not as clubs.
- (7) It was suggested that pp 25/6 should start with the statement that the person needed should be someone with strong personal faith and a mission to spread the gospel. However, there were strong alternative opinions raised such as
 - (a) whether this was self-obvious
 - (b) whether this would suggest we wanted someone of an Evangelical persuasion.
- (8) This led to discussion of the Churchmanship of St Nicholas and the place of the Eucharist.
- (9) It was agreed that further consideration of the profile was needed. Written comments should be made to John Child by 25th January and there would be an extra PCC on 15th February at 8.00pm for further discussion. Profile to be put before PCC for final ratification on 22nd February. The churchwardens would also discuss with Fr. Joseph, the Area Dean as to how we should proceed.

10. Correspondence

There was none.

11.Churchwardens' Notices

Christmas went well considering the pandemic. Not many attended the 6.30pm "Midnight Communion". Three times as many as normal accessed the Christmas Day Family Service that Margaret Bennett had prepared. The Churchwardens minuted their thanks to Margaret. John Child reported that Lent was nearly upon us - Ash Wednesday was the 17th February. View from Deanery is that the Church was doing enough to keep ship afloat without adding Lent courses this year. Deanery reps would raise this at Chapter to see if anyone else was doing anything. John will find out if there was a Lent booklet this year? John will follow this up.

12 AOB (Previously notified to Chair).

There was none.

Date of next Standing Committee Monday 8th February 7:30pm by Zoom

Date of next PCC meeting was the special meeting on Monday 15th February at 8pm by Zoom and the next full PCC meeting on Monday 22nd February at 8pm by Zoom.

The meeting ended with the saying of the Grace

Mark Steptoe
Minutes Secretary