

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

Virtually on Zoom on 10th May 2021 at 8:00pm

1. **Present:** All PCC members with Susan Smith, Safeguarding Officer, in attendance,
Janice Wetherell in the Chair.
2. **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 22nd March were approved, with two amendments
3. **Matters arising**
Hilary Dyer reported that the Welcome leaflet was available in the Parish Office, where amendments to it could be made. Thanks of the meeting were offered to Mark Steptoe for undertaking the duties of Minutes Secretary.
4. **Welcome**
The three new members of the PCC were welcomed by the Chairman
5. **Appointments**
As Warden, John Child introduced the required appointments:

<u>PCC Secretary</u>	Julia Jelley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Kathy Hodge Proposed by Janice Wetherell, seconded by Sylvia Carter and unanimously approved.
<u>Electoral Roll Officer</u>	Doris Neville Davies Proposed by John Child, seconded by Janice Wetherell

Standing Committee would comprise the incumbent, the Wardens and two members of the PCC, one traditionally being the Treasurer. Mark Steptoe was proposed by Janice Wetherell, seconded by Maggie Hammond and unanimously elected.
The regulations stipulated the addition of the PCC Secretary
6. **Safeguarding**
At the Chairman's request, Susan Smith outlined her duties as Safeguarding Officer. The PCC was now required to formally adopt the Diocesan policy annually. A statement of the policy was displayed in the porch. All PCC members should undertake the on-line training courses, and notify the Officer on completion. Training was updated every three years. Details of the courses would be circulated to the members with the Minutes. She concluded with the reminder that Safeguarding was everyone's responsibility and any concerns should be raised and investigated.
7. **Financial report**

The Treasurer reported that for the first time, she had recorded a surplus over the last four months. This was largely due to cutting our contribution to the Common Fund from £70,000 to £50,000 (original target £85,000). Generous donations had been received in memory of Tom Greenwood and expenditure had been low. The Treasurer reflected that future common fund contribution would have to remain at this lower level. To meet the current Common Fund request Stewardship would have to increase by 50%, an unrealistic target. In response to the Chairman's request, the Treasurer defined the Common Fund as the sum required for housing, council tax and pension for one clergy person (£55,000) and training across the Diocese (£30,000). In past years we had contributed a larger percentage of our income than could be sustained. By next year we would hope to cover clergy cost and housing.

It was suggested that the Diocese might have to restrict the amount of high quality training provided, in the light of a reduced income. The Wardens were presently involved in a review of diocesan services, hampered by the fact that these were mostly available only to incumbents. Currently our demand on the diocese was slight: they were receiving rental for the Rectory, and our clergy mostly non-stipendiary. Expenses were offered to visiting clergy and these were refunded via the diocesan Sequestration account. Simon Sheldon offered to assist the Wardens in the completion of the review.

8. Interregnum: an update

As a member of the appointments committee, John Child reported that the Wardens had received much highly confidential information from the Director of Mission and the Archdeacon. They had been encouraged by the number of applications (ten) and a short list (four) had been drawn up, in consultation with the Area Dean. The Wardens were unanimous in agreement with the selection of shortlisted candidates. The interviews would be conducted by zoom on Friday 21st May. After which there would be an opportunity for Janice and John to meet the preferred candidate who, having given three months' notice, could be expected to take up the post in September. The Wardens concluded with their appreciation of the consideration they had been shown and the openness of the process, largely influenced by the approach of the Archdeacon.

9. Review of services

John Child reported that, having previously offered at Eastertide, Bishop Graham was now coming to celebrate on July 18th. This was warmly welcomed and raised many possibilities for the day, all of which would depend on restrictions then in place. He thanked all members who had helped in the restoration of services in church since 28th March and visible activities such as the Easter garden which had been observed by some of the candidates.

Very particular thanks were offered to Sally Passingham and Maggie Hammond for their sterling work in Zooming, which could not be expected to continue indefinitely. New members for the zoom team will be actively sought. Gratitude was also expressed to Margaret Bennet for her work with the 11.15 service. Simon added thanks to Lynn Sutton-Bunnell had helped setting up the zoom system at the very beginning.

Both remote services have encountered problems with the use of music which may be covered by our licence for singing in church, but not for broadcasting. The Treasurer agreed to find the cost of a general streaming licence. The PCC might

authorize support for this from a designated fund, otherwise streaming would be restricted to music by composers who died 70 years ago.
The next PCC meeting will consider the impact on services of the lifting of all restrictions.

10. Correspondence

Maggie Hammond reported on the revived plans for the opening of a Bereavement Café in the Parish Centre. With Angie Enock-Shore, Sylvia Carter and Margaret Bennet, it was planned to start on July 12th, allowing sufficient time for publicity in Shepperton Matters and Shepperton News. John proposed that PCC recognize the Bereavement Café as a part of the Church, seconded by Maggie Hammond and carried, thus extending the church insurance to cover this activity.

St Nicholas Church was originally invited by the Princess Alice Hospice to host a Bereavement Café in 2019, and Chris Swift had supported the plan. Training was given at the Princess Alice in January 2020 with the aim of starting the following May, but was postponed by the pandemic.

The café would be open on the second Monday of the month for an hour and a half, with half an hour before and after for preparation and feedback. Publicity material would be generated and supported by Princess Alice. People would be referred by Princess Alice and other health professionals, though not exclusively. The volunteers had been trained in supportive listening and would offer no counselling or therapy. The second Monday had been chosen to fit round other cafés on different days and weeks. It would be a free service with small contributions accepted. Sue Wood and Janice Wetherell had also undertaken the training but had been obliged to withdraw. It was considered to be a good use of building and our people and very much the sort of purpose the Centre was planned to support.

11. Churchwardens' Notices

John thanked those who had volunteered to help with the Christian Aid collecting days at the Village Hall. It was agreed that a PDQ machine would not be appropriate for receiving donations, but on-line giving was very accessible with a virtual red envelope.

12. AOB

Regarding the resumption of general use of the Parish Centre, John Child reported that he was in touch with Spelthorne Borough Council and the Centre would mirror their directions on the opening of Village Halls.

Maggie Hammond raised the question of the revival of the Pastoral group and home communion. John confirmed that he would follow the Area Dean's advice on home communion, bearing in mind also the communicants' confidence in receiving it.

Date of next Standing Committee 7th June 7.30pm

Date of next PCC Meeting 21st June at 8.00pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.35pm

