

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

Virtually on Zoom on 21st June 2021 at 8:00pm

Following the opening worship

**Apologies for absence were received from Kathy Hodge
and for unavoidable late arrival from Sylvia Carter**

Present: Mark Steptoe, Hilary Dyer, Guy Blythman, Maggie Hammond, Doris Neville-Davies, John Child, Jo Child, Simon Sheldon, Alastair Naish, Margaret Bennet, Alan Green, with Paul Cooper representing the ALMA link in attendance. Janice Wetherell in the Chair. Lyn Sutton-Bunnell joined the meeting later.

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting** held on 10th May were approved, with two amendments: names of all those present were to be listed without a general licence, music permitted to be streamed at a service could be restricted to composers who died *over* 70 years ago.
- 2. Matters arising**

Janice wished to record her appreciation of the welcome leaflet produced by Hilary Dyer. She had proved its usefulness when approached by an enquiring visitor during a service.

In connection with Item 11, John wished to announce a final sum of £2,300 for the Christian Aid Week collection and, in addition, mark his appreciation of the work of Hilary Dyer who had counted and banked the contents of every envelope and prepared the return paperwork, leaving him only to sign it.
- 3. Update on Mozambique Link** (Listed as Item 7 on Agenda)

Paul Cooper was welcomed to the meeting to expand on his outline of situation regarding the development of the school in Milange. In order to open the school in the wake of the pandemic, the local education authority was requiring the installation of improved toilet and hand-washing facilities and also a boundary fence to secure the site and enable scrutiny of those entering. The local community is willing to provide improved sanitation but outside help is needed for the perimeter fence, at a cost of approximately £3,000. The request made to ALMA was passed on to the group at St Nicholas and it has been agreed that ALMA will fund 50% and ask for 50% from St Nicholas. ALMA will meet the full cost in advance and accept our contribution when it has been raised, thus enabling the school to open by late July. The ALMA group wished to record their appreciation of the influence of the Bishop in these negotiations. In the subsequent discussion the history of the project and the structure and status of ALMA were re-visited and concern raised over the shifting emphasis on various aspects of the school building project. It was felt that the Bishop's active supervision would help to eliminate this in future.

To raise the £1,500 a lunch had been suggested after the final 11.15 service on 25th July before the summer break, possibly in the Rectory garden, for a £5.00 donation. Margaret Bennet proposed that, were there to be a Winter Fair, part of the proceeds could be donated to the fence project. Enquiries were to be made about booking the Village Hall.

It was proposed by Simon that the PCC endorse the project of raising half the money for the fence, seconded by Mark, and unanimously approved.

3. Safeguarding

The Chairman reminded those present of their obligation to undertake the training offered by the diocese and to report to the Safeguarding Officer when they had completed it. She offered to re-circulate the details of the diocesan safeguarding courses.

4. Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer Janice reported that the reduced contribution to the Common Fund had maintained our financial position at a comfortable level. In response to a question about the recently acquired card reader, Janice reported that trials with the new device had been disappointing. Its complexity made it unsuitable for congregational use, though it had been beneficial for single large purchases at the winter fair. She generally found wedding guests disinclined to make donations, though a QR reader linked to the church's bank account, on the wedding stationery, might appeal to people in the waiting time before the start of the ceremony. Other PCC members reported a system called Zettle which was inexpensive and quicker to operate. Further investigations would be made.

5. Interregnum: an update

John Child reported his satisfaction that the Rev. Carole George had been appointed the new Rector. He recalled the appointment process, from the short-listing, to interviews of four candidates on 21st May, to the planned face-to-face meeting with the two most suitable. One of these having withdrawn before this meeting, the Rev Carole George was appointed forthwith. At the meeting in Shepperton on 28th May she met the Wardens and also was shown round the Rectory, through the hospitality of the Davies. She plans to move in during late August and the induction will be conducted by Bishop Graham on the evening of Sunday 19th September. A short biographical introduction would be published in the July Shepperton News and she would write a front page piece for the September edition. John noted his disappointment that the parish of St Mary's Sunbury would no longer be able to provide clerical cover for our services, but emphasized the superb support offered by Father Joseph, the Area Dean, throughout the interregnum.

6. Services in July and August

In July the services would run as in June, except for Bishop Graham's visit on 18th July. He would conduct a single Community Eucharist, with both congregations, at 10.00am. Peter Davis had agreed to stream the service into the Parish Centre thereby permitting an attendance of 50 people. The final blessing could be said outside, to an unlimited number. There would be two receptions afterwards, in the Rectory garden and on the terrace of the Parish Centre. The Bishop would see a good number of baptisms and weddings in the church diary, indicating a healthy church. It was agreed that the 11.15 service would take its usual break during August and start afresh in September.

John also reported that the Treasurer had arranged a licence for the church to stream modern music, provided that it is from a Christian publishing house.

7 Mozambique link: an update

Taken as Item 3 above

8. Boundary Wall Repairs

Following a warning from Sylvia Carter, Janice proposed that she should establish whether a faculty would be required for necessary repairs to the pointing of the boundary wall around the churchyard, and was seconded by Maggie Hammond

9. Candle Snuffer Purchase

John Child reported that the original long taper and snuffer having been lost, he proposed to ask the Friends to fund a replacement, and was seconded by Doris Neville Davies.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

11. Churchwardens' Notices

Janice reported that information on the current restrictions had been received but no actual changes were detectable, though the document only covered the period up to 19th July, after which further changes might be anticipated..

12. AOB

There was no other business

Date of next Standing Committee 12th July at 7.30pm

Date of next PCC Meeting 26th July at 8.00pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm