

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas Church Shepperton
held by Zoom
on Monday 17th January 2022 at 8.00pm**

Present: Rev Carole George (Chair), Sylvia Carter, John Child, Jo Child, Hilary Dyer, Alan Green, Maggie Hammond, Kathy Hodge, Alastair Naish, Doris Neville-Davies, Janice Wetherell and Julia Jelley (PCC Secretary)

1. Opening Worship was led by the Rector

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Simon Sheldon, Guy Blythman, Mark Steptoe and Lynn Sutton-Bunnell

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November, having been circulated, were approved with two amendments and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Item 5 The Archdeacon's Visitation

John Child reported that Father Joseph, who had acted for the Archdeacon and conducted the Visitation, subsequently sent a very encouraging letter to the Rector with congratulations on what had been achieved and highlighting areas of work in progress. John listed four of these:

1) The Mission Action Plan

2) Up to date changes nationally in certain policies such as the Safeguarding Policy which would require the DBS requirements to be re-visited. This would be on the March Agenda when Lynn Sutton-Bunnell would be taking on the LSB role of Lead Recruiter.

3) We should be looking towards a review of Stewardship in the coming year.

4) Health & Safety

where a number of areas required attention

The Rector offered her thanks to the Wardens and all whose help in preparations had made the visit go smoothly.

Item 8 Eco Church

John Child reported that he had registered for the Eco Church Award and he and Simon Sheldon had responded to most of the 103 questions on six topics which had been forwarded to Arocha.

AOB World Day of Prayer

Hilary Dyer reported that this would be held on Friday 4th March, though she had no further information. The Rector had spoken with Elizabeth Collyer from St Mary Magdalene and Elspeth Savile. There is to be a planning meeting shortly which Hilary will attend.

5. Review of Advent and Christmas Services

The Rector asked for thoughts and comments on these services. Though it was generally hoped that the traditional Crib Service would be possible next year, Alan Green commented that his children had very much liked the recorded service. The lay choir at the midnight mass had worked well and most of those who attended the services were members of the regular congregation. Attendance in general was about 50% of what might normally be expected at Christmas. The 8.00am on Christmas Day might not be included in next year's services.

6. Financial report

a) The Year to Date

The Treasurer reported the General Fund showed a credit balance of £9,000 which did not represent an increase in income, but reflected the lower figure sent to the Diocesan Fund. However, Kathy wished to note an impressive increase in giving, at regular services and particularly at Baptisms. Over the last year 70% of the collections income had been received in the last three months. The new systems of card or digital giving had also been useful, but the Treasurer's remarks concerned cash donations. The accounts for the year will be finalized and presented to the next PCC meeting.

b) A Budget for the Year

The Treasurer pointed out that the budget contained many question marks as so many items were subject to unpredictable variations. However, the projected budget predicted an excess of income over expenditure. (Copy attached) Responding to the Rector's queries, the £400 income from property was identified as the ground rent for the Village Hall, and the £180 outward giving as a donation, historically from Young Church, now made annually to Plan International, an educational programme for children abroad.

7. Safeguarding

John Child reported a call from Susan Smith who would like Safeguarding to be a major item on the agenda for the March PCC meeting. She will attend the meeting to present this.

8. Fees for Wedding and Funeral Services

The Rector presented the fees for the coming year, most of which were statutory.

To the fixed fees of £480 for a wedding in church and £32 for the calling of the Banns she proposed adding £30 for the Verger and £30 to cover heating costs for weddings from October to March.

Currently there was no Verger to assist at weddings but this addition would cover the necessary arranging and replacing of the church furniture. The costs of extra items had been broken down for clarity: Bells £145, Organist £150 Choir £100 and Video rights £150. As the delays over the last year have brought together a hugely varied mixture of couples, the Rector had decided not to attempt wedding preparation groups but to prepare each couple according to their circumstances. The fees for Funerals had also been set and had been sent to the undertakers.

9. Review of current Restrictions

The Rector felt that it was possible that nearly all of the current restriction could be lifted on 26th January, which would make it more difficult to require people to wear masks in church. They could still be asked to comply, though an unmasked person could not be refused entry. She realized how much the absence of tea and coffee after church deprived people, particularly newcomers, of the opportunity to get to know others in the congregation. She hoped to restore this as soon as possible, though there would of course be no compulsion to join in. The infection levels would continue to be monitored most carefully.

10. Eucharistic Ministers and Home Visitors

The Archdeacon's Visitation had raised the question of licences for Eucharistic Ministers and that Home Visitors would also need to be licensed. These had not been renewed for some years and some of those on the old list were no longer in the parish. A new list had been drawn up with John and Joanne Child, Hilary Dyer, Pam Powell, Maggie Hammond, Sylvia Carter, Fiona Stevens, Richard Walsh, Doris Neville-Davies, Janice Wetherell, Peter Davis, Jane Davies and Nicky Searle. Simon Sheldon, Richard Ghail and Elizabeth Greenwood held licences through their various offices. The Rector would check that all those listed were willing to continue and then

submit the list to the Bishop. When the licences arrived they would be presented at a Commissioning Service.

11. Thoughts from the Rector

The Rector described two events planned for Lent. Simon Shutt of FACT has been invited to run two services for all the family, with the first one on Sunday 13th February at 3.00pm. Families will book a table and there will be activities, songs, bible stories and prayers followed by refreshments. Because of the similarity to Messy Church Margaret Bennet queried the title of these events and there will be further discussion of this.

Lent Services

The Rector has planned to start a Tuesday mid-week Eucharist at 12.00noon, probably once a month, but weekly through Lent, followed by lunch in the Rectory. The Bishop of London has proposed charities dealing with mental health and isolation as a focus for Lent giving. We would follow this lead, choosing either a local or national charity of this type.

Baby and Pre-School Group

The Rector also hopes to start a Baby and Pre-school meeting in church once a month on a Wednesday, to fit in with groups in other churches. Sue Wood, in a very active retirement, is willing to return and undertake some children and families work in St Nicholas. With 16 baptisms arranged in the New Year it is hoped to offer a welcoming support group in the church. Some backup would be needed from other church members initially and some who attend the 11.15 service have shown an interest. The managing of refreshments and safeguarding in the church would require careful attention as the Parish Centre would not be available. The Roseacre Playgroup, currently using the Centre on weekdays until 1.30pm, are planning to extend their hours by offering Breakfast and Lunch Clubs.

The Buildings Group

It is hoped to re-activate the Buildings Group. The Vestry roof having been dealt with, the state brickwork at the top of the tower, first noted in the Quinquennial Report in 2018, has become more urgent. Members of the group will be asked if they are still willing to serve and others may be approached, including Jimmy Harrow, now retired and recovered from injury.

Fund-raising activities

The Rector observed the need for a group to combine Fund raising and social events, separate from a formal Tower Appeal committee who would direct their efforts initially to large donors and grant-giving bodies.

Under general fund raising would be the church's regular pitch at the Village Fair (11th June this year) and the Winter Fair. The Rector had not been able to make a booking for November 2022 for the Village Hall, but John Child offered to put her in touch with a useful contact at Spelthorne Borough Council. A "Buy a Brick" scheme, similar to the one that raised a very useful sum for the South Transept repair, could fit in to either or both of these events. The meeting was reminded of the Parties-R-Us group, Nicky Seale, Jane Davies and Nicky Addy who could be approached.

Mission Action Plan

Finally the Rector asked if the debate on the Mission Action Plan could be held over to the next PCC meeting in March to which she planned to invite the Rev Jonathan Rust Director of Mission for the Kensington Episcopal Area.

12. There had been no Correspondence

13. There were no Churchwardens' Notices

14. Any Other Business

Maggie Hammond spoke of her willingness to receive news of items to be added or deleted from the website in order to keep the information clear and up to date.

Small Service details were also raised including ways of conveying the number of communicants to the celebrant. Hilary Dyer proposed buying a clicker to record the numbers as people arrived. It would then be passed on, with the list of people asking for prayers. The list also needed to be aligned with the printed list in the Notices and all the names conveyed to the person making the intercessions. Occasionally the Lector did not have the microphone switched on or at the right height. When Sacristans and Servers were permitted, these duties could be formally assigned.

**There being no further business the meeting closed
with the Grace at 9.15pm**