

Benefice of BCMU: *Church Management PCC Meeting - Zoom*

A Community of Spiritual Disciples Leading our Benefice through Worshipful Working

MINUTES

Date: Monday 18 Jan 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

Who is Gathering

Roles	St Andrew	St Bartholomew	St Michael	Co-opted
Priest	Simon Lewis ✓			
Reader	Gene Joyner Late			
Churchwarden	Margaret Speirs ✓	Judith Longhurst ✓	Kate Reynolds ✓	
Churchwarden		Diana Coles ✓	Jonathan Reynolds ✓	
Deanery Synod	Penny Crawford ✓	Nigel Crocker ✓	Jean Lockett ✓	
Deanery Synod	Helen Barnes ✓	Helen Fenn ✓		
Elected	Ben Wiggins ✓ (left 7:50pm)	Muriel Cole ✓	Gill Durbin ✓	
Elected	Lynsey Hatherall - Apologies	Gerald Coles ✓	Lucy Hemsley ✓	
Elected		Charlie Fenn - Apologies	John Allen Late Apologies	
Notetaker				Laura Williams ✓
Secretary			Sue Owst ✓	vacancy
Treasurer				vacancy
Quorum	Y	Y	Y	

7.30pm: We Gather in God's Name

1. Welcome

Chair

2. Declaration of Quorum for each Parish

- *An evening prayer*

SL

7.45pm: We Celebrate Our Past

Chair

3. Communication and Correspondence - None

4. Approval of past Minutes

Proposed SL, Seconded NC, passed unanimously

SL to add amendments

5. Matters arising

Family services: Worship steering group will be reconvening as we prepare to exit from the pandemic. A zoom family service has been discussed following the success of the Zoom Christingle.

Women's World Day of Prayer: PC mentioned this would be on the first Friday in March and asked if the Benefice would be marking this. Mary Serle has the details.

6. Progress updates from last meeting

Chair

a) Safeguarding

Following appointment at December's PCC meeting, Kate Reynolds has been reading the safeguarding material provided by the Diocese. The website has been updated with new contact details (same email address to be used as this is role specific) and the posters are being updated and will be replaced in each church.

Kate has been working through the safeguarding spreadsheet and will be contacting everyone who needs to update their training. Thank you to those who have already done the Basic and Foundation training online. Currently the Diocese is only able to offer the Leadership level to clergy and safeguarding officers, so we will have to wait for the higher tier of training until the end of the pandemic.

b) Money matters

The bookkeeper who had originally agreed to take on the role for the Benefice has pulled out for personal reasons. The job is complicated and requires time to be spent every week. Simon is in touch with the Diocese and with a former PCC treasurer from outside our Benefice to discuss support available and the way forward. Margaret expressed her anxiety about the burden currently facing churchwardens whilst we have no treasurer or bookkeeper. Contrary to the resolution passed, Helen Thorne will not be going on the banking mandates for any of the church accounts.

Record of Account balances:

CAF account:	£3800
St Andrew's Natwest:	£4656
St Hugh's Natwest:	£5027
St Bartholomew's:	c.£14,000 at the beginning of December
St Michael's:	£55,466

8.00pm: We Dwell in God's Word

SL

- *A prayer of Confession*
- *Lectio Divina:*

- *We hear the Good News - Colossians 3:12-17*

7. A Time of Learning

SL

8.30pm: We Present Our Offering

This section was done as a separate meeting only for St Andrew's PCC members, with occasional attendance from SL.

Chaired by Margaret in his absence.

8. Consent Agenda - No resolutions for this meeting

9. Discussion Agenda - Finance, Fabric and Fundraising - Blagdon

No reports were submitted prior to the meeting

SL/MS

FABRIC

The boiler (also relating to finance) in St Andrew's which broke just before Christmas cannot be repaired and must be replaced. This is likely to cost between 15K and 17K. Colin Parfitt has kindly agreed to source updated quotes from the companies he approached about three years ago when we were first warned that this might be necessary.

There is currently a Heritage Grant available to churches. The application must be submitted by 26th January 2021.

Penny said that she felt we were already fulfilling the environmental considerations necessary for successful applications as research had been done prior to the installment of heating in the Upper Room.

The application must include a business plan.

Bats in Churches: Rose Riddell, the Bat Engagement Officer for the Church of England has been in touch with Margaret and would like to do a survey to minimise the impact of bats on the church building. MS recommended that we co-operate with the process, irrespective of whether they are able to financially contribute to the mitigation costs.

Anti-social behaviour: This began in the grounds of St Andrew's before Christmas and has continued and escalated. There were regular gatherings of up to 15 people in the church porch with people listening to loud music and smoking, drinking and eating. The matter has been discussed with the local PCSO and a notice was placed in the porch asking them to be considerate and a bin was supplied for waste. Broken bottles were left in the road approaching the church and Penny has had to clear up every day. Following an incident when posters in the porch were torched it was decided to lock the porch at night.

Since then the groups have been congregating in the Lych Gate (less serious from a social distancing point of view) and the shed. The PCC discussed whether the shed should be locked and decided that if a group was found there again, they would secure the shed. The police have visited on several occasions but have not yet encountered the groups involved.

Thank you Penny for all your help, both in keeping your eyes open and for all the cleaning you have undertaken. Margaret has written a note to be placed in village communications to discourage people from using/abusing the church in this way in the hope that the behaviour will not be repeated.

Helen and Penny both recommended that Jon Lyons be approached with respect to care of the churchyard. This was something Jon always oversaw in the past and "any conversation about the churchyard ought to involve him". He was also thought capable of engaging people within the village to help with churchyard maintenance. As a small PCC it is important that we involve people outside our committee to help with tasks

FINANCE

Finance team: Simon reiterated his request that a member of the PCC or wider church congregation would be part of a finance team for the Benefice. We need help to forge what our finances will look like when we are one parish. We need to look at creating a sustainable business plan, including planned giving, hire and use of our buildings and costings. We also need a strategy for finding a treasurer.

Parish Share: Penny expressed real concern that this will be more than double the amount we currently have in our bank accounts. Will we be able to apply for relief during the coming financial year? We moved from a level D to a level C a few years ago. Helen advised that it would not be wise to ask the diocese to reconsider this banding at the moment. Laura is to ask advice from Janine Lavery in the Diocesan Offices when filling in the Statistics for Mission forms to ensure that we do not triple count church attendance within the Benefice.

Tithe Giving: The PCC did not feel able to make a decision about charitable giving due to our precarious financial situation. The 'Pop-up Market' organised by Penny in the autumn raised money for local charities.

St Hugh's: A new drainage cover is needed at St Hugh's and the little door used to access the rear portion of the church is damaged. These problems will be exacerbated by the winter weather. The PCC authorised expenditure on these items. Penny is to send Margaret Chris Ball's contact details as he is likely to know of local people who could carry out the repairs. Penny thought that Les Davis or Alan White might be prepared to cut the grass at St Hugh's from late summer (it is in a conservation area so wild flowers must be allowed to seed before cutting). Jon Lyons could be asked to contact him directly.

FUNDRAISING

Fete: The fete is usually held on the third saturday in May. Obviously this cannot be considered this year but the idea of a fete in late summer or early autumn was discussed. Helen, who has stepped back from the fete committee, voiced concerns over the amount of work needed to prepare for the fete and mentioned the crucial involvement of Yeo Valley and Mary Mead. Margaret said she would contact Tina Smith, who has previously chaired fete committees about the possibility of a fete in September. Helen thought it very important to have a PCC member on the fete committee.

St Andrew's PCC members returned to the main meeting.

9.25pm: We Give Thanks to God

SL

The Awareness Examen - We shared an affirmation of Faith

9.30pm: End of Meeting

Next meeting - One Church PCC, Monday 15th February (via Zoom)

Next Church Management PCC Meeting, Monday 19th April