

Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020 at 2.00p.m.

at the home of Liz and Alastair Carey – Neatham Cottage, Neatham

Those present: Yann Dubreuil: [Chairman]; Stella Croom-Johnson: [Deputy Chairman and Church Warden]; Kathy Ogilvie Thompson [Churchwarden]; Liz Carey – [Assistant Churchwarden] Andrew Croom-Johnson [Treasurer]; Angela Dunne [Secretary]; Kay Hunter Johnston; Cathie Weldon; Piers Wilson; Sue Stephenson [joined the meeting at 3.00pm]

1	Welcome and opening Prayer Yann opened the meeting with a prayer
2	Apologies Christopher Ogilvie Thompson
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 25. 11. 2019 Approved and signed by YD
4	Matters arising from the minutes 23.9.2019 (other than those specified below) 4. 11.a [i] ACJ reported that the Church could benefit from a Gift Aid donation from the Flower Team if he could show an in and out entry in the books. He stated that to do this he needed to be sent the invoice of the flowers purchased, together with a signed note declaring that “Rather than reimbursing me, please accept the amount as a donation to Holy Cross Church – Flower Fund.” However, whoever signs the letter must be a UK tax payer and ACJ must hold the Gift Aid Declaration Form for them. This idea was approved by the PCC and AD and CW will disseminate this information to the Flower Team. ACTION ACJ, AD, CW 4. 10.a[iii] ACJ had investigated the possibility of a phone line into the Church. He had been quoted £9 per month for a three year contract with a free installation. Discussions took place regarding how broadband could be reached to the Church and the Wickham Institute. ACJ was asked to continue his discussions with Catherine Hadfield who is Chairperson of the Wickham Institute committee so that costs could be shared in the future and to contact BT with their suggestions. ACTION: ACJ 10.[a] Replacement Foundation Governor for Binsted School. Suggestions of names had been put forward but unfortunately these people were unable to take on the position. However, a new name was suggested at the meeting and Yann will approach her. ACTION YD
5	Finance 5.1 Report from the Treasurer [a] ACJ had sent through a draft Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the period 1 st January 2019 to 31 st December 2019, via email prior to the meeting and a copy of this is in the minute file. ACJ stated that these figures had been sent to the Accountant in preparation of the forthcoming APCM. He said that the accountant will present the figures slightly differently as he will amalgamate some of the “lines.” ACJ stated that the following comparisons can be made with last years’ figures :- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total Income has increased by 6%• Increase in Planned Giving by 6%

- Increase in collections by 3%
- Increase in fundraising by 23%
- Increase in fees from weddings and funerals by 50%

[b] ACJ reported that 11 people are using the Parish Giving Scheme, 9 people give by Standing Order, 2 people pay by cheque and 2-3 people pay either, quarterly, half yearly or annually. Planned giving was approximately £21,000 in 2019.

[c] ACJ stated that Expenses [excluding the Re-ordering preparation costs] were roughly the same as the previous year. However, the CMF [Common Mission Fund] for the Alton Deanery will increase by 21% in 2020. Due to this increase and the increase in our worshipping community, a cost of £2,435.29 per month (£29,259.48 for the year) will be required in 2020 to the CMF for Binsted. This is an increase of 15% on 2019. At present the planned giving and collection money received is only just enough to cover this cost. After some discussion it was decided that ACJ diplomatically asks the donors if they would consider increasing their donation in his annual thank you letter he writes in April. In addition it was felt that he could encourage more people to take up the Parish Giving Scheme during his report at the APCM.

ACTION: ACJ

[d] YD suggested that Colin Harbridge who is the Diocese Finance officer could give a presentation to the congregation as he feels that people do not fully understand what their money is used for. Furthermore, YD stated that in general the amount of money given to the Diocese is decreasing.

ACTION: YD

[e] ACJ stated that the rules have been “tightened up” regarding VAT refunds. He said that VAT refunds can only be made on Professional fees when a contractor has been appointed to carry out building work and within 12 months of the Professional fees invoice date. However, the money that has been claimed back so far on the Re-ordering project can be kept, but the claim made in December has been rejected.

[f] ACJ reported that there is now a restricted Bell Ringers Fund. He has agreed to hold this money on the bell ringers’ behalf in the Church Accounts because they are now not allowed to hold this money in a personal account anymore.

[g] It has been brought to the attention of the PCC that Kathleen Digby has bought a cutting machine to be used for Messy Church craft preparation. It was proposed by CW and seconded by KOT that the cost of £259.20 is refunded to her. All agreed.

YD asked KOT to make of note of this item in the inventory book. **ACTION: KOT, ACJ**

6 Single Parish Benefice

YD asked for comments from the committee members who attended the Joint Benefice Meeting on 27th January 2020. At this meeting Rev Alex Pease and two members of his congregation gave a presentation of their experience and views of organising a Single Parish Benefice in the Itchen Valley. All but one of our PCC members attended this meeting.

- LC expressed her view that she liked the idea in principle but was concerned about presenting these proposals at the moment due to the sensitive issues around the Re-ordering project. AD and CW echoed her comments.
- Many people on the committee felt that as a Benefice we have already moved towards having a single parish benefice with regard to services.
- YD said that he had talked about the idea nine years ago but it was not the right time then. He said that he sees the plans as a structural issue and it will make the most of peoples’ talents. There would be one PCC but each Church would have a DCC [District Church Council]. In addition, he said that people would be concerned about money and where the control is.
- KHJ and KOT expressed their concern that although Binsted Church is having and has had good attendances at the services recently, Holy Cross Church’s place within the Benefice and what it has to offer seems to be less defined than the other two Parishes and we need to continue to examine its focus, role and mission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YD stated that success is how people engage with God, not with how many people attend Church. He said that the future of Churches is not to be parochial but to be interdependent. • KHJ said that she had lots of questions regarding the Single Parish Benefice to be asked in the future. • It was felt that the PCC wanted to avoid any misunderstanding with the wider Church community regarding this issue. Therefore, it was proposed that YD makes a short announcement in Church and that the presentation by Rev Alex is put on the benbinfro website in the near future. • The committee members are also interested in the responses from the PCC members of Froyle and Bentley Church. ACTION: YD
7	<p>Review of past events and services:-</p> <p>7.1 Advent Windows – this was a great success and involved many people in the village community including the school and people who attended the Wednesday coffee morning. There were many positive comments and “likes” on the community Facebook page when a photograph of one of the windows was displayed. Many people are happy to be involved again. KOT thanked SS for her ideas and initiatives over the past couple of years. SS thanked AD for her involvement and she in turn mentioned Sam Barrow and Tess Droy who made many of the designs. In addition KOT suggested that we collect pictures of the Advent windows and make a display in the Church. ACTION: SS, AD</p> <p>7.2 Binsted Advent Vigil – 1st December – YD reported that this was very worthwhile and to be repeated next year.</p> <p>7.3 Binsted Christmas Fair – 7th December – AD was thanked for co-ordinating the fair. She stated that although the profit made this year was less compared to 2018, she felt it was a success because it involved the school who had their own Santa’s Grotto in a horse box outside the Wickham Institute and this encouraged more children and their families to the fair. AD proposed a nearly new book stall for next years fair. ACTION:AD</p> <p>7.4 The Real Nativity – 13th December [Children’s Tea beforehand] The Real Nativity went well on the night and new people attended especially since there were new cast members. The tea beforehand was well attended. Soup and hot dogs were provided. KOT recommended that this should be repeated next year. All agreed.</p> <p>7.5 Carol Singing – 21st December [in aid of Bishop of Winchester’s Christmas Appeal] This went ahead, despite the atrocious wet weather. CW reported that it was appreciated by the community as she noticed very positive comments of the Village FB site. YD recommended that we need to be more focused about the collection for the Bishop’s charity next year. We need to advertise what the charity is in the Parish magazine beforehand. ACTION: SCJ, AD</p> <p>7.6 Christmas Eve and Day services – it was reported that attendance to these services have gradually declined over the past few years. Reasons were given to why this was happening including that we now have the Real Nativity Service for families to attend and they feel they have done “Christmas Church”. In addition, Bentley Church held a Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve which was well attended.</p> <p>It was suggested that perhaps Binsted Church should do a service for children closer to Christmas but it was felt that the Real Nativity serves this purpose and that perhaps this should be held on a Friday nearer to Christmas next year.</p>

8	<p>Forthcoming Events and Services</p> <p>8.1 Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm in Binsted Church. 9.30am service in Froyle</p> <p>8.2 Mothering Sunday Service – 22 March AD reported that Jackie Raine and Pam Smith have volunteered to make the posies to be given out during the service. It was concluded that we liaise with Kathleen Digby who organises Messy Church that some form of activity could be planned to encourage children and their families to come to the service, since Messy Church is prior to the service in March. ACTION: AD</p> <p>8.3 New Family Service – 4th Sunday of the month This is a new service at Binsted Church. The first service will take place on April 26th between 4pm and 5pm. Sam and Gemma will be leading it. YD encouraged us all to talk to Sam about his plans for the new service.</p> <p>8.4 Thank You Drinks – 29th February 2020 – 12 noon in the Church KOT reported that the invitations have been sent out. She will be asking for help with refreshments via e-mail in the near future. ACTION: KOT</p> <p>8.5 APCM – 5th April 2020 – preparation of documents Carried forward to next meeting in March</p> <p>8.6 Binsted School Easter Treasurer Hunt – help with refreshments KOT to liaise with FOBS</p> <p>8.7 Passover Meal – Maundy Thursday – 9th April Froyle Church will be hosting this event this year.</p> <p>8.8 Good Friday Vigil – 10th April at 11am</p> <p>8.9 Easter Sunday – 9.30am service</p> <p>8.10 Prayer Week and Pentecost – Home groups have been asked to prepare and make prayer stations in each Church in the Benefice.</p>
9	<p>Fabric</p> <p>9.1 Westcote Chapel SCJ reported that the Quinquennial stipulates that we should obtain engineer advice on the cracking in the Westcote Chapel. She had circulated via email prior to the meeting three quotes from companies that she had obtained via the National Churches Trust website. Most people responded in favour of the quote from Ellis and Moore. A formal proposal was made by ACJ and Seconded by PW that we proceed with this engineering report by Ellis and Moore. All agreed.</p> <p>9.2 Bell Tower – Update on the Ladder and Electrics [a] KOT reported that we now have permission to put improved electrics in the Tower which will increase the lighting and provide emergency lighting in a mains power failure. A date for the installation tba. ACTION: KOT,SCJ [b] SCJ reported that Ricky Crimes has been to measure twice [just before and after Christmas] for the construction of the new ladder required for the Bell Tower. Once he provides us with the drawings and quotation and this is approved we can apply for a faculty. It was strongly felt that this is an urgent health and safety issue and that Ricky is asked to make this work a priority and to proceed with his drawings asap. ACTION: CW</p> <p>Finally, SCJ said that there are a number of issues with the tower that were highlighted in the latest quinquennial that depend on having a new ladder in place. Once the new ladder is installed we can start addressing these.</p> <p>9.3 Rainwater goods - Gutters and downpipes – SCJ stipulated that the</p>

quinquennial highlighted two areas where the gutters and downpipes needed attention. PW and Chris Beare have carried out some of this work. Thanks were given to both gentlemen. In addition, PW has given SCJ a report on what they have done and what remains to be done, some of which he and Chris Beare feel they can address. However, if some areas are too difficult to reach they will not proceed. PW has also highlighted that the south roof is in need of minor attention. This was also in the quinquennial report and will be addressed separately with the help of a suitably accredited roofer.

ACTION: PW

9.4 SCJ reported that the work to bring our lightning protection has been completed and we have a certificate to prove it.

9.5 Sinking pew platform – SCJ reported that the raised platform at the back of the Church which is the “children’s corner” feels “very spongy underfoot and is probably unsafe.” This was marked in the quinquennial report but it now needs immediate attention with health and safety implications. It was agreed that this area is “cornered off” to stop people walking over the area most affected and tape is put on the floor in the area affected to highlight where the problems are.

It was suggested that we ask Dennis Smith to assess the problem. PW agreed to help too.

ACTION: PW, SCJ

9.6 Trees/Moles -

[a] SCJ reported that there are fresh molehills in the Churchyard. YD said that they are in the Vicarage garden too. Nick Carter has called in the “Mole Control Executive” to deal with this problem.

ACTION: Nick Carter

[b] SCJ stated that there has been storm damage to the trees in the Churchyard. Darren from Kings Bounty spoke to Nick and has tied up some of the damage but a tree surgeon is required to finish the work. Nick has suggested that Darren [a different Darren] from Kingsley Tree Services is asked to carry out this work. This was agreed by everyone. Due to this being storm damage, a faculty should not be required.

ACTION: SCJ

[c] SCJ reported that the quinquennial does stipulate we should obtain an arboriculturalist’s report on the state of the trees in the Churchyard. SCJ proposed that we ask Darren to recommend a suitable arboriculturalist. All agreed.

ACTION:SCJ

9.7 SCJ said that she had been handed some pieces of stone that had come away from a memorial tablet [Rachel Spiers] on the Lady Chapel floor. Kemp & Stevens have looked at this and offered to repair and stabilise it free of charge. For this work to proceed a faculty [List B] needs to be applied for. It was proposed by LC and Seconded by KOT. All agreed.

ACTION: SCJ

10

Re-ordering Update

[a] YD stated that all formal planning and meetings by the Re-ordering Committee are on hold until the end of April. However, he had met local residents recently and is due to meet a group of people later this week. He said that the general feeling is that people have not felt consulted so as a PCC we need to do this better in the future. On a positive note, he said that there are parts of the re-ordering proposals that people are happy with but equally some people don’t want any changes for different reasons. He said that “going forward will require little steps and that in the future we might have to repeat things we have done before.”

[b] ACJ stressed that he is happy to answer any questions regarding the financial aspects of the Re-ordering project so that there is no misunderstanding. YD said that between 6%-7% of our total income over the past 4-5 years has been used on the project. This has not been “crazy spending.” It was confirmed that there is now a separate Re-ordering Fund. KHJ said that in the future we need to spend money on the project that we have specifically fundraised. She said it was never the intention to “empty the Church pocket.”

11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>[a] AD had been asked by Sam Barrow the date for the Harvest Festival service as she wanted to co-ordinate flowers in the Church with a planned wedding in early October. Unfortunately this date has not been arranged yet but will be discussed at the next Rectors Council. The date will be passed on asap. The PCC expressed their appreciation of the wonderful flowers displayed in the Church throughout the year by the Flower Team.</p> <p>[b] Notelets – SCJ said that she has drafted an email to the congregation’s weekly distribution list explaining that we need a new set of notelets and inviting them [or their friends] to submit photographs they have taken of the Church by the end of February. In addition she is going to put a similar post on the Binsted Community Facebook Page. SCJ proposed the idea that the submitted photographs are displayed on a board inside the Church and people are asked to vote for their favourites. LC proposed this and it was Seconded by PW. All agreed.</p> <p>Finally, SCJ said that although the old notelets were all the same, she thought it would be nice if the new packets had photographs as 4 different designs, others as 4 of the same. All agreed. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>[c] LC suggested the possibility of setting up a choir in Binsted Church. YD said that he was happy for this to happen if there was someone who was willing to organise this.</p> <p>[d] YD said that Sam [youth leader] had asked if a new keyboard could be purchased for Binsted Church as the existing one is of very poor quality and difficult to play. After some discussion it was felt that YD asks Sam for his specific requests and these are brought to the next meeting in March. ACTION: YD</p> <p>[e] SS requested that there are specific services “relevant to the community” and that they reflect what the community needs. e.g. a service for reflection or remembrance and or a service for people who have experienced miscarriages and still births. YD welcomed this idea and would consider this proposal. ACTION: YD</p> <p>[f] AD reminded the committee that a copy of the recent approved minutes are kept in a folder in the table draw inside the Church. It was agreed that from today future PCC minutes are put on the Binsted Church web site. ACTION: AD</p>
12	<p>Dates and venues of next meetings in 2020:-</p> <p>Next PCC meeting 2nd March at the home of Stella and Andrew Croom-Johnson</p> <p>PCC Meetings – Monday afternoons at 2.00pm 2nd March, 8th June, 21st September, 16th November</p> <p>APCM – Sunday 5th April after the 9.30 morning service</p> <p>Joint Benefice PCC Meeting – Monday 12th October at 7.30pm</p>
13	<p>YD closed the meeting with a Prayer</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 4.40pm</p>