

Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th June, 2020 at 2.00p.m. via Zoom webinar

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

1	Welcome and opening Prayer YD welcomed everyone to the meeting
2	Apologies None
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 2.3.2020 The minutes were approved. Due to the virtual meeting YD will deliver a signed copy of the minutes to AD.
4	Matters Arising from the minutes held on 2.3.2020 4.1 Foundation Governor – ACTION YD to approach the person that has been suggested. 10.a [iii] Broadband installation – ACTION ACJ & YD 4.2 Single Parish Benefice – ACTION YD to forward the presentation from Rev Alex to the Benefice admin team who will then put it on the benbinfro web site. [a] PW asked what was the feedback from the presentation. YD replied that there was positive feedback from Bentley and Froyle PCC's. However, when it was discussed at the Binsted PCC meeting in February, it was generally felt that the proposals were too soon to be considered by the congregation due to the conflict of views regarding the Re-ordering Project. Circumstances have now changed and it is now more urgent to act on developing a Single Parish Benefice. Due to the consequences of Covid – 19 there will be less resources and fewer incumbents to serve the Christian community in England. YD recommended that the Rectors Council investigate the next steps forward to develop the Single Parish Benefice, with a priority to explain why these proposals are necessary to the benefices congregations and to plan for consultations to take place. ACTION YD and Rectors Council
5	Appointment of Church Architect It was proposed by PW and Seconded by CW to ratify the continued appointment of Antony Feltham-King as our Church Architect. All agreed. ACTION: SCJ to write to Antony

6	<p>Finance</p> <p>6.1 Report from the Treasurer</p> <p>[a] ACJ apologised that due to technological problems with his computer he was unable to give us details of the current Income and Expenditure analysis. However, he sent a spreadsheet showing the bank account balances and a breakdown of the individual funds as at 31st May 2020 via email prior to the meeting. A copy of this is in the minute file.</p> <p>[b] ACJ said that he will action payment to Bentley PCC agreed at the March PCC meeting (the money in the Church worker Fund [£10,126] to be paid to cover some of the costs of the Pastoral assistants).</p> <p>[c] ACJ stated that he will be transferring some monies from the CBF fund to the National Westminster Bank as funds are rather low. Due to the current lockdown there is approximately £1,000 less income each month.</p> <p>[d] ACJ reported that there had been an error in the worshipping community figures sent to the Diocese. This had led to an increase in our Parish Share payment to the Diocese. The Diocese has now agreed for the amount to be adjusted and reduced for next year. YD stated that the PCC should approve the worshipping figures annually. It was agreed that this will be done at the PCC meetings held in January in the future and also to forward the figures to the Benefice admin team.</p> <p>[e] ACJ reported that he had had a letter from Wettone Mathews who are our Church Accountants [copy of which is included in the minute file] stating that they were no longer able to honour the discount arranged with Anne Miller who previously prepared the accounts. However, the increase of their charges from £300 - £700 was felt quite excessive so it was agreed to ask Tim Wettone who attends Bentley Church to perhaps intervene and to also ask David Munroe who is an accountant and involved in local Church activities for a quotation for his services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: KHJ</p> <p>[d] AD asked, due to the current reduction in weekly income whether it was possible to ask for donations from the Church community. SS agreed, saying that, “it would be a way of saying thank you and showing appreciation for the online services provided during the lockdown period.” It was discussed that handling money in the future could be difficult and using a contactless system would be ideal. However, this is not possible at the present time because there is no internet in the Church. A suggestion was made that a request for donations could be made at the end of the on line Sunday services via a link. The money given would benefit all the Churches in the Benefice. COT and ACJ volunteered to investigate how this could be done and to contact Steve Fice for his ideas too.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: COT & ACJ</p> <p>[e] PW asked if ACJ is recovering the 25% Gift Aid tax on the plate collections and any donations given in the envelopes. ACJ said that he is doing this.</p>
7	<p>Review of how we are managing with providing on line and supporting congregation and wider parish during this time of Covid-19 Lockdown</p> <p>[a] There has been very good feedback for the Sunday services, “Thought for the day” and assemblies available on-line via the benbinfro web site, Youtube and Facebook site. YD said that he has received positive emails from people who have been viewing these who do not normally attend Church. A new telephone service has recently been introduced for people who do not use a computer. People can dial the advertised number to get access to the Sunday services. YD informed the PCC that a Sung Evensong is in production and will be available in the near future. He also stated there will be a continuation of on line services even when “normal” services resume.</p> <p>[b] AD stated that other feedback regarding the online provision and the future of Church services was discussed in detail during the extraordinary meeting held on 20.5.2020. These minutes are included in the minute file.</p> <p>[c] AD asked what action will be taken in Binsted Church following on from the</p>

	<p>announcement by the Government that Church buildings can open for private prayer later this month. YD said that the PCC is liable for what happens inside the Church. COT said the Church Wardens, himself and Steve Fice are due to have discussions with the Diocese regarding this new development. Risk assessments will have to be made and the provision for private prayer inside the Church will have to be managed very carefully. YD acknowledged that there is a lot of anxiety towards a second spike occurring with the virus.</p> <p>10.1 Prayer Week [24th-31 May] – this was held virtually as an online prayer wall. KOT and AD said that they had had good feedback from people in their home groups. In addition YD said that he was going to contact the headteachers’ of both Binsted and Bentley Primary Schools informing them of the childrens’ prayer activities which they may like to use.</p>
8	<p>Planning ahead for possible forthcoming events and services – whether virtual or “normal”</p> <p>8.1 Marquee Service – there is normally a marquee service in each village the day after their fetes. Due to the restrictions this year, these will not be taking place, however, the Binsted Fete and Flower Show is going to be a virtual one and details are being advertised on the Community Facebook sites. YD suggested that it may be possible to hold an outdoor service but this will depend on guidelines given by the Government. At this present time only six people can gather together outside keeping 2metres apart. It was agreed that no plans could be made yet but to “watch this space.”</p> <p>8.2 Summer – YD said that due to the current restrictions it is still very difficult to plan, as normal services will not be taking place in the near future and he will be following guidance given in due course. ACTION: YD and Church Wardens</p> <p>8.3 APCM –this is still delayed and cannot take place until guidance is given, but perhaps there is a possibility it could take place in October.</p>
9	<p>Fabric</p> <p>9.1 Westcote Chapel – SCJ stated that she will circulate the report on the stonework in the Westcote Chapel she has received. In addition she will chase up a formal quote for the cost of digging a trial pit. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>9.2 Bell Tower – Update on the Ladder and Electrics</p> <p>[a] SCJ reported that she had now received drawings for the ladder construction into the Bell Tower. An application for a faculty had been made which she will now chase up, especially as she can confirm the appointment of Antony as our Church architect. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>[b] KOT reported that an electrician did do the necessary work in the bell tower the week before “lockdown” took place. The extra lighting and switches that he has installed has meant that the current fuse board is at its maximum capacity. This was going to be upgraded as part of the Re-ordering plans, but due to the delay in these developments KOT has asked for a quotation for the fuse box to be upgraded for extra usage. KOT will circulate the quote to PCC members via email when she has received it. ACTION: KOT</p> <p>[c] KOT stated that when the contractors are happy to return to work on fumigating the timbers in the Tower she will accommodate this. ACTION: KOT</p> <p>9.3 Gutters and downpipes – this work is delayed due to Covid 19</p> <p>9.4 Wooden Floor near the Font – SCJ to look into the possibility of this work being done soon. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>9.4 Trees in the Churchyard - SCJ reported that the trees in the Churchyard are</p>

	<p>now safe. She will ask Kingsley Tree Services if they can carry out the report required on the trees as highlighted in the quinquennial report. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>9.5 Heating – SCJ stated that the boiler had been serviced. However there is an on-going problem with the expansion tank and pressure gauge. She is waiting for a quotation from the engineer to replace and install these items.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>10.1 Notelets – SCJ has successfully had two different packs of notelets depicting the Church printed by Treloars Printers. One is of line drawings of the Church and the other is of photographs submitted by the Church and village community. There are four notelets in each pack. Stella has advertised the new packs in the online parish magazine. They can be purchased from the Church as before. After some discussion it was agreed to charge £5 per pack. AD and LC requested that a Christmas pack is also produced for sale from late September. Thanks were given to SCJ for organising this so successfully.</p> <p>10.2 KHJ offered to help SCJ obtain grants for the continuing work needed inside and outside the church.</p> <p>10.3 YD stated that he had received an email from Anne and Alan Shelley regarding the future distribution of the Parish magazine. They are concerned that 70% of the distributors are over 70 years of age and “should they carry on in the future?” Due to the virus pandemic it is currently being read on line via the benbinfro web site and no hard copies are being delivered. A discussion took place and it was felt that in the future, when circumstances allow, people would like to have a hard copy delivered again, as it is evident less people are reading the magazine on line and they are missing the hard copy. As a result, the distributors will be asked if they are happy to continue delivering the magazine in the future. Many may decline, in which case new volunteers will be required.</p>
11	<p>Dates and venues of next meeting in 2020</p> <p>APCM – October ????? tba</p> <p>PCC meetings 21st September and 16th November – 2.00pm</p> <p>Joint Benefice PCC Meeting Monday 12 October - 7.30pm</p> <p>*** There is the possibility that another Extraordinary meeting is called before the scheduled September PCC meeting.</p>
12	<p>Yann Closed the meeting with a Prayer</p> <p>Meeting closed at 4.50p.m.</p>