

## Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 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]; Kay Hunter Johnston; Cathie Weldon; Sue Stephenson

1	<b>Welcome and opening Prayer</b> YD welcomed everyone to the meeting
2	<b>Apologies</b> Angela Dunne and Piers Wilson
3	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 8.6.2020</b> The minutes were approved. Due to the virtual meeting YD will deliver a signed copy of the minutes to AD.
4	<b>Matters Arising from the minutes held on 8.6.2020</b> <b>4.1 Foundation Governor</b> – YD has had no response so far from the person suggested, but will continue to make efforts to contact <b>ACTION YD</b>  <b>4.2 Single Parish Benefice</b> It was agreed at the last meeting that this should be explored further. YD said most bishops favour a Single Parish Benefice with one PCC responsible for everything. YD is in favour of a simpler structure. KHJ asked if funds would be centralised and YD said there would be a central fund for ministry, but that there would be restricted funds for each church. YD will email a flowchart to the PCC explaining further and stressed that the formation of a Single Parish Benefice will not make any difference to the person in a pew. He will also contact a vicar with recent experience of this structure. <b>ACTION YD</b>  <b>10.a [iii] Broadband installation</b>  ACJ reported that this would have to be done through BT and judging by the estimate provide for installation at the Wickham Institute, would cost £300-350, plus monthly rental. KOT said a phone should be installed in the church and CW said BT would probably have to boost the signal because of the extremely thick walls in the church. ACJ will obtain an accurate quote. <b>ACTION ACJ</b>

5	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Report from the Treasurer</b></p> <p>[a] ACJ reported a significant fall in income because of Covid-19. Collections are down £4,000, income from weddings and funerals down by £3,500 and there was no opportunity to serve teas this summer at Wheatley House, which normally generates around £1,000. Total income is down by around £9,000. Parish share costs have increased by £2,500. Next year our Parish Share contribution will be decreased by £3,200. Binsted Parish Council has contributed £1,500 for upkeep of the churchyard for this year.</p> <p>[b] ACJ asked whether the tithes system should continue with the same recipients at the same level and was informed that the four recipients will continue as before until further notice. £500 will be given to each of the following – Tear Fund; St Michael's Hospice; Karamoja and towards employing our Anna Chaplain, Nicky Smallwood.</p> <p>[c] ACJ said we will continue with Wettone Matthews and that the work should be simpler next year. COT said it would be best to continue until a decision is made about the Single Parish Benefice.</p>
6	<p><b>Review of how we are managing with providing on-line and supporting congregation and wider parish during this time of Covid-19 Lockdown</b></p> <p><b>6.1</b></p> <p>[a] YD reported good feedback for the online services, with possibly 70 visitors for the last Sunday. Physical attendance at Froyle was low and Bentley had a congregation of 24. We are doing more than many churches and are also providing assemblies, a phone service and offering DVDs and CDs.</p> <p>b) YD reported that Bentley has decided not to continue opening the church outside service times because of low attendance. A notice on the door tells visitors that if they wish to enter for private prayer they can phone for admittance. COT said Binsted should do the same as there have been no visitors.</p> <p>[c] Supporting our congregations – the Anna friends are phoning and visiting the elderly in our communities. Increasing national restrictions may affect this work.</p> <p>[c] KOT queried the earlier suggestion of spreading the use of Zoom amongst groups and assisting those who might have difficulties with the technology particularly the elderly. It was agreed that this should be investigated through Anna Friends and LC volunteered to check. CW said we must encourage older members to use technology. LC asked if we would fund any capital costs and YD said it could be considered.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: LC</b></p> <p><b>6.2 Use of church for events.</b></p> <p>a) YD reported that the school has requested use of the church for its Harvest Festival and Christmas events. YD has checked church guidelines and concluded that these events are defined as performances. The church must be empty three days either side of each event and the school will be asked to ticket attendees and be responsible for track and trace and parking. Children will be in their KS1 and KS2 bubbles and a limit of 30 parents will be able to attend. It was agreed that it was good for the community to allow the school to use the building.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: YD</b></p> <p>b) Other events – KHJ enquired about us offering Alpha, Parenting, Bereavement, Reconciliation courses and marriage preparation during this time. The next Alpha is starting shortly and will be advertised on the Benefice website and social media. Christopher will alert the Home Group Leaders and share this information more widely via them. Any further suggestions of courses can be made to KHJ who will draw up a</p>

	<p>list. KOT will ensure the couples planning their weddings are made aware of the HTB online Preparation for Marriage courses, she will liaise with Gemma and Hannah.  <b>ACTION: KHJ and KOT</b></p>
7	<p><b>Re-ordering Project</b></p> <p>This has been halted due to Covid, but YD suggested that as restrictions could continue for some time, we could investigate proceeding with the installation of the toilet facilities. He suggested contacting a number of interested parties for a discussion or possibly forming a new committee. After a lengthy discussion about this, it was agreed that YD should make contact with AHJ for advice on the correct procedure and how as the current chairman he would like to proceed. General consensus was that making contact with those who had disagreed with original suggestions would be constructive and should take place in real life, distanced and in the presence of the church architect and Ron Neil, as they have a full understanding of the parameters involved and the views of the key amenity societies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: YD</b></p> <p><b>8 Planning ahead for possible forthcoming events and services – whether virtual or “normal”</b></p> <p><b>8.1 APCM</b> – YD reported that this will take place on October 11 in Bentley, so it can be lived streamed. Voting may have to be by email or text. Details will be available closer to the time. He said he hoped that the current church wardens would continue to stand. ACJ confirmed that KHJ and SS have both served three years and must therefore retire.</p> <p>YD said that the Deanery Synod needs volunteers and anyone taking up a position would then automatically come onto the PCC. KHJ agreed to do this.  SCJ will contact PCC candidates to fill the vacancies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: YD/ SCJ</b></p> <p><b>8.2 Remembrance Sunday</b> – YD said that due to the current restrictions it is still very difficult to plan, and a risk assessment will have to be undertaken to work out how to handle a group in the churchyard.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: YD and Church Wardens</b></p> <p><b>8.3 Christmas Fair</b> – will not happen this year.</p> <p><b>8.4 Christmas Events</b> – The Real Nativity is being filmed this year. It was agreed that Carol Singing could probably take place around the village and that the Advent Calendar would be repeated. The Christmas Eve service will air online at 11.45pm and the Christmas Day service will take place in all three churches on a ticketed basis.</p>
9	<p><b>Fabric</b></p> <p><b>Please refer SCJ’s note circulated before the meeting – to be included in file 9.1 – Beetle treatment</b> – it was agreed that the quote of £56 for insurance should be accepted.</p> <p><b>9.2 – Westcote Chapel - SCJ</b> has received a quote of £600 plus VAT from a reputable company to deal with the crack in the Westcote Chapel. It was agreed this was acceptable, but first we must check whether the Bishop’s permission is needed to excavate for the work.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: SCJ &amp; KHJ.</b></p>

	<p><b>9.3 Roof repairs</b>  [a] SCJ reported that the Quinquennial report identified roof problems and following the recent leak during summer storms, it was considered essential to inspect the roof fully with the church architect. The roofer is not available until November. It was agreed that this inspection should go ahead and the cost of £300 per day (for the roofer) was approved. <b>ACTION: SCJ</b></p>
10	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  <b>10.1 Notelets</b>  SCJ reported that the notelets featuring views of the church are now available. Treloar will be asked to provide samples of the Christmas cards. <b>ACTION: SCJ</b></p> <p><b>10.2</b> YD asked for reactions to the TV in church. KOT said it was well received. YD asked the PCC to approve the cost of £458 plus £129 for the stand. <b>ACTION: ACJ</b></p> <p><b>10.3</b> YD reported that the Bishop of Basingstoke has been advising him to take a sabbatical for some time and that he has agreed to do this January 28-April 28 2021, following consultation with the Diocesan Representative on how best to use the time. This requires the approval of all three PCCs so he will email further details and ask for a vote by email.</p>
11	<p><b>Dates and venues of next meeting in 2020</b>  <b>APCM – October 11 – 2.00pm Venue Bentley Church</b></p> <p><b>Joint Benefice PCC Meeting Monday 12 October - 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>PCC meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November – 2.00pm</b></p>
12	<p>Yann Closed the meeting with a Prayer</p> <p>Meeting closed at 4.15p.m.</p>