

Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th November, 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; Piers Wilson; Nick Carter; Angela Dunne [Secretary]

1	Welcome and opening Prayer YD welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the two new members, Pam Smith and Nick Carter, after their election following the recent APCM
2	Apologies Due to technology issues Pam Smith was unable to attend
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 21.9.2020 The minutes were approved. Due to the virtual meeting AD will liaise with YD to sign a hard copy.
4	Matters Arising from the minutes held on 21.9.2020 4.1 Foundation Governor – unfortunately, this position has not yet been filled. YD is very keen that the person who takes on this position has a Christian faith and links with the Church. YD was asked if he would email a summary of the job description to PCC members. ACTION: YD 4.2 Single Parish Benefice YD reminded the committee that documents had been sent out regarding the process of forming a Single Parish Benefice. These documents are also on the Benefice web site. After some discussion, the PCC agreed to put steps in place to enable the Rectors Council to move the process forward. In addition, it was stated that a subcommittee should be formed that had representatives from each Church in the Benefice. ACTION: YD 10.a [iii] Broadband installation – after some discussion it was agreed that it is inappropriate to use any link from the Vicarage to the Church. It was agreed that ACJ obtains quotes from two companies who specialise in broadband installation to Churches. These will be emailed to PCC members ACTION: ACJ 10.3 Yann's Sabbatical - YD reported that his three month Sabbatical/ Study Leave planned for early 2021 is delayed due to the uncertainty of Covid 19 and the immense planning that would be needed to be done if this was to happen next year. However, he is in discussion with his study supervisor who likes his idea regarding researching the question, "Is there new life in the rural French Churches?" His findings would be useful for the future of the rural Churches in England.

<p>5</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>5.1 Report from the Treasurer – ACJ had sent out a copy of a spreadsheet showing an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st October 2020 via email. A copy of this is in the minute file.</p> <p>[a] ACJ highlighted that the income is down by £8,000 compared to last year but that the expenditure is also lower. The shortfall is due to less plate and envelope collections [£3,000] following the closure of the Church buildings and few physical services, less income from weddings [£3,000] and limited opportunities for fundraising [£1,500]. However, he said that he remains positive and that he is sure that funds will accumulate again once Church services are allowed to take place. ACJ stated that a lot of people who give via the Parish Giving Scheme often give again in the plate collection when they attend a service. He reported that 13 people currently use the Parish Giving Scheme and 8 people give using the Standing Order System on a monthly basis .A further half a dozen or so people give by Standing Order half yearly/annually.</p> <p>[b] ACJ reported that people initially donated a lot of money during the first month after the appeal on- line but this amount has since declined. This money is divided between the three churches in the benefice.</p> <p>[c] ACJ answered KHJ question regarding the restricted Bell Ringers fund. The money represented bellringers funds which had been held in a separate bank account which the bank advised had to be closed. It has been agreed the church will look after this money in a restricted fund.</p> <p>[d] KHJ queried the reduced amount of money spent on the Church yard. ACJ said that Mr Hopcroft had been asked to reduce his hours of working. In addition, the Community Payback Team have not been able to provide their usual help with the churchyard due to Covid-19 restrictions which has also reduced what would otherwise have been a usual expense for our church.</p> <p>[e]ACJ explained that the Church maintenance entry relates to items such as maintaining and servicing the gas boiler and for all non-Quinquennial repairs.</p> <p>[f] NC inquired about the parish training and mission amount of £10,142. YD explained that this was a transfer of money from our funds to Bentley PCC to help pay the salary for Sam and Gemma.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Review of how we are managing during this second Covid-19 Lockdown</p> <p>YD stated that it is difficult to maintain a sense of community during lockdown. PS had emailed YD with a question regarding how we can signpost people whom we get to know about who feel abandoned during this difficult time. Discussions took place and NC highlighted that there is the Anna Chaplain and care team who are trying to keep an eye out for people, however, he realises that not everyone is reached comprehensively and asked the question how do we achieve this? YD stated that “word of mouth” and Monday morning prayers often brings people to the fore front but, he is aware that there needs to be an easy referral system. KHJ said that the original WhatsApp group of volunteers needed re- instating so that people in need could be encouraged to get in touch if they needed help. In addition, she said that it would be useful to know if the volunteers were still helping people in any way. KHJ said that people liked having a “hard” copy of peoples details they could contact. KHJ agreed to draft this so that it could be included in the next parish magazine, or as an insert.</p> <p>ACTION: KHJ</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>Re-ordering Project</p> <p>[a] YD stated that the Re-ordering is still a sensitive issue. He informed the committee that he had had a discussion with Andrew Hunter Johnston [Chairman of the Re-ordering Committee]. AHJ said that, “ he is happy to continue to chair a re-formed sub-committee, consult widely with members of the village community and invite those with relevant expertise to be co-opted to the committee’s discussions on specific topics and to share their views.”</p> <p>[b] YD said that most people agreed that new toilets should be the priority of the project. AD highlighted PS view that we should be mindful of costs, especially in these times of hardship due to the pandemic. However, SCJ said that it should be a priority because it is embarrassing having to tell workmen who come to the Church that there are no toilets they can use, inside or nearby to the Church, especially since the toilets in the Wickham Institute cannot be used due to Covid 19 restrictions. CW echoed this opinion and said it is difficult for wedding guests too. This led to a discussion about obtaining quotes for the installation of portable loos as a temporary solution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: KHJ agreed to investigate the cost and availability.</p> <p>[c] KOT said that she thought we would have had to re-assess the Re-ordering project, since the impact of Covid-19 has made us look at things differently, both in a practical and financial way and the changes brought about by the pandemic will affect how the church body fulfils its mission in the future.</p> <p>[d] YD stated that AHJ has asked if a new electronic organ with a moveable console can be purchased. The old organ would remain in place at this stage. There is £39,000 in a restricted music fund which is available. ACJ understood that £7,000 is from a Trust for the improvement of the organ. Informal legal advice has been received indicating that the word “organ” would be interpreted as generic not specific, thus the whole of the music fund could be used to purchase a new organ.</p> <p>[e] YD reported that he has had a request from the group of people he met up with in February, 2020 regarding their concerns and objections to the Re-ordering project, They have requested that the minutes of the meeting be put up on the Benefice web site. A discussion took place and PW strongly supported YD decision that it was inappropriate for these to be published. ACJ said that the Benefice and Parish web sites are for official PCC business from formal meetings held by elected members of the congregation and not for a meeting of parishioners. It was agreed that the minutes should not be uploaded on to the web site.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Feedback on recent events</p> <p>8.1 APCM – 11th October 2020</p> <p>[a] AD enquired about any progress that has been made regarding obtaining quotes for a different accountant. Item 11 [d] in the draft APCM minutes. She was reassured that due to the plans towards having a Single Parish Benefice and the likelihood that only one Treasurer will be required, it was wise not to change our accountant at this stage. This was proposed by COT under 5.1[c] at September’s PCC meeting.</p> <p>[b] Item 13 [d] APCM draft minutes – Opening of the Church for private prayer. KOT reported that only one person had asked for this to happen and she was accommodated. The Church is now closed for services due to the restrictions imposed during the second lockdown but still open for individual private prayer and the churchwardens will willingly open it if requested.</p> <p>8.2 Remembrance Sunday – everyone agreed that this was a nice service. It brought all three Churches in the Benefice together and that the visuals accompanying the Role of Honour Calls were very moving. YD said that when we get back to “normal”, consideration needs to take place concerning what will continue to be put on-line.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Planning ahead for possible forthcoming events and services – whether virtual or “normal”</p> <p>9.1 Christmas Events – Real Nativity and Christmas Eve recordings</p> <p>[a] A trailer for the virtual Real Nativity Service has been uploaded on the benefice web site. YD thanked NC and Rose for organising the event and co-ordinating the volunteer actors. In addition, he thanked Sam for his filming and editing skills. YD said that he is excited about seeing the whole film which everyone will be able to view on Friday 18th December.</p> <p>[b] There will be no midnight Communion Service inside the Church but there will be a virtual meditation service on-line beginning at 11.45pm.</p> <p>[c] YD informed the committee that Gemma is working on producing a virtual Christingle Service in conjunction with Bentley School.</p> <p>[d] YD said that we are very Blessed to have Gemma and Sam working with the Benefice team producing such wonderful on- line material. All agreed.</p> <p>9.2 Christmas Day Service in Church at 9.30am - It is hoped that services will be able to resume after the second lockdown in a limited capacity. Therefore, it was felt that people would appreciate a Communion service on Christmas Day. However, only between 35- 40 will be allowed inside the Church, therefore this will be a ticketed event.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Fabric Report</p> <p>SCJ sent a copy of her report via email prior to the meeting. A copy of this is included in the minute file. Her report highlights progress on the construction of the new ladder, cracks in the Westcote Chapel, repairs to the roof and other quinquennial work. In addition, she reported that the boiler flu sensor is faulty. A replacement is currently been sourced. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>YD thanked SCJ for all her hard work to date.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>11.1 Fundraising</p> <p>[a] AD reported that due to the cancellation of the Christmas Fair she wanted to try and raise a little money from the sales of Christmas wreaths. Usually these are made by a team of ladies. It had been arranged to make them in the Church this year but the new lockdown restrictions has led to a new plan. AD has been liaising with Sam Barrow, Tess Droy and Helen McDonald. These four ladies will make the wreaths in their own homes after Sam has distributed the materials. 18 wreath orders have been received so far. ACTION: AD</p> <p>[b] SCJ reported that the sales of the Christmas cards is going well and so far total sales are £450, a net profit of £130. There are still cards for sale and SCJ will continue to advertise them on the Church and village community FB sites. ACTION: SCJ</p> <p>11.2 Advent window update</p> <p>AD informed the committee that she has been liaising with Sue Stephenson and Tess Droy concerning the display of Advent window designs in the village. AD has encouraged people to make their own designs this year, however, she has asked NC to help provide some resources from the Messy Church supplies. All the dates have been filled and it is hoped that this repeated Church initiative will bring some festive joy to the residents and visitors in the village. ACTION: NC & AD</p> <p>11.3 COT asked YD to explain the system of I Church to PCC members. YD stated that it is an administrative system that is being used by the staff team. It is a good data base system that when fully implemented will help with the organisation of the numerous rotas and it will enable visibility of clashes where they occur for people. It</p>

	will help with the administrative “flow” and assist the centralisation of the Church administration in the Benefice.
12	Dates and venues of next meeting in 2021 Monday 1st February 2021 at 2.00pm
13	YD Closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting closed at 3.45pm