

ST MARY'S CHURCH, FROYLE

MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL HELD AT 7:30 PM ON 22 JANUARY 2020

AT ALDERSEY HOUSE

Present: Yann Dubreuil, Christopher O-T, Robert Bourne, Nigel Bulpitt, Nigel Hughes, William Knowles, Jane Macnabb, Sarah Roberts, Nigel Southern and Michael Starbuck

The meeting opened with prayer.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Jane Harrap and Jonathan Pickering.

2. Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of the PCC meeting of 27 November 2019 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings

- (1) Jane Palmer's request regarding storage for music has not yet been taken any further (item 8 - **NS**).
- (2) MS noted that no action had yet been taken regarding the points on the top of the churchyard gate (item 10 – **MS/NS**).

4. Vicar's Benefice Report

- (1) **bMAP:** YD acknowledged the long delay on this – it would be addressed at the next Rector's Council meeting in February.
- (2) **Review of Christmas services in the Benefice:** YD said that these had gone very well in all three parishes. In the case of Froyle, the meeting remarked in particular on the carol service [*for which the churchwarden had intended (but failed) to propose a vote of thanks to SR for organising. We didn't have the numbers to hand at the meeting, but, for the record, attendance was 168, including 15 under-16s – it was 102 in 2018.*] NS had been surprised at how many people at that service he didn't recognise – including from the Froyle Park development. Although the numbers at the crib service were down, it was still reasonably well attended [*again, we had no numbers at the meeting, but the attendance number was 80, of whom 25 were under 16 – in 2018, attendance was 115, with a much larger proportion of children*]. The meeting noted, regarding the crib service, (a) how surprising its popularity was, given that it was always held immediately after the huge Christingle service in Bentley, (b) how many adults attended without kids, and (c) that none of the children dressed up (in Bentley, costumes were provided and handed out to kids who arrived without having dressed up).
- (3) **Hymn books:** the review of Christmas prompted SR to say we needed many more hymn books (at least 50), unless we still have some old ones hidden away. The purchase of these was approved. **WK** to pursue with Linda.
- (4) **Confirmation on 18 March:** unless anything were to change, 6 children and 6 adults would be confirmed by Bishop David at a special Live@Five service on 8 March. Yann said this is a big success. The candidates included two MacInnes girls and Amanda Maher

– we should encourage people to go along in support. Also the Bishop would be preaching at Froyle at our 11:00 am service that day.

5. Church Representation Rules update

The Agenda pack circulated to PCC members prior to the meeting included a summary of changes to the Church Representation Rules applicable to parish governance, which came into force on 1 January 2020. YD drew the meeting's attention to the most relevant ones, in particular relating to

- **the electoral roll:** a question was raised as to whether publishing the names of members electronically meant putting them on the website.
- **appointment of sidesmen:** since these were now to be appointed by the PCC rather than at the APCM, COT raised the question of when this should be done, and whether the existing appointments would technically expire if not renewed by the PCC before the next APCM. A benefice view on this would be formed before our next PCC meeting (on 11 March, so before the APCM). In the meantime, the PCC approved two new sidesmen, namely Simon and Penny Marshall.
- **Joint Councils:** this new form of body corporate, introduced by the changes to the Church Representation Rules, was designed for use, if required, in multi-parish benefices; If adopted, a Joint Council would take over, on a benefice wide basis, some or all of the powers and responsibilities of the individual PCCs in that benefice. It was noted that, even if such a Joint Council were to assume the entire role of the PCCs, it would not thereby transform the benefice into a single parish. Such a transformation was possible, but it was a different (and more far-reaching) process. The meeting's attention was drawn to the joint PCC meeting the following Monday, 27 January, which would hear a talk given by the vicar and treasurer of the Parish of the Itchen Valley, where four parishes have taken the latter route of amalgamating into one. YD emphasised that, although he had always favoured a greater degree of centralisation and elimination of duplication in the way in which the benefice was run, he saw this as an administrative matter rather than something which affected the separate cultural identities of the three parishes. No proposals were currently being put forward, but we were all urged to attend the joint PCC meeting with an open mind and hear what the speakers had to say.

6. Reordering

- (1) **Vestry:** WK reported that we were in the final stages of getting the Faculty for the kitchen (possibly with conditions attached, but unlikely to be any we couldn't live with). NS, JM and WK had met to plan the next steps – we needed to identify a design for the cabinets for the community at large to view before proceeding: NS was looking into this. MS had that day spoken to Louise, who had emphasised her need to know the nature of the floor and of what was behind the peg boarding once this was revealed.
- (2) **Lighting:** JM expressed concern that we should not let the VAT refund on the consultancy work to date (see below under Finance) and the grants received to date lapse if that could be avoided. Although the main work on the lighting would now be started out of time for these, she wondered whether the lighting element of the vestry works might qualify, and possibly whether we could proceed with the outside lighting. JM will consider this with NS, WK and others. SR wondered whether, since NS had made

it clear that he wanted to concentrate on one project at a time, we could not involve someone else to keep the momentum going on the lighting in the meantime. **WK** will pursue this.

- (3) **Sacristy:** JM was concerned that the sacristy project, the most challenging of the different aspects of the proposed modernisation, had a particularly long lead-in time due to the need to consider the graves/tombstones, and suggested we should start looking at this aspect of the sacristy project now. **WK** and **JM** will talk to Tony May, who had to deal with all this at Bentley.

7. Group Reports

- (1) **Fabric:** MS had reviewed progress on outstanding 2015 quinquennial items with Louise: it was agreed that chancel repair/redecoration could be deferred until installation of new lighting, likewise redecoration of the nave (only advisory anyway). The ironwork and redecoration of the porch remained to be addressed. The activity which people had noticed earlier in the week in the churchyard was an analysis of the services and soakaways being prepared by Vision, using radar/x-ray/laser technology. Their work would support that of GeoTechnic, who were expected on site on Tuesday 28 Jan to put down visual trial holes and boreholes to test the nature of the soil supporting the building.
- (2) **Fundraising:** There was a discussion about the need to get WiFi into the church to support electronic payments, possibly by means of a Dongle (at a cost, NB thought, of £26 per month). It was suggested that CES, who (if appointed) would be putting in the wiring for the new lighting in due course, might have ideas – **NS** would talk to them.
- (3) **Worship and Services:** JM asked whether we couldn't do something for younger people in the afternoons of the Sundays when we have an 8:00 am service – maybe using Sam and Gemma? YD pointed out that we already had Live@Five in Bentley on those Sundays. He said that Sam and Gemma were also looking at putting something on in Binsted once a month in the afternoon (week 4) in Live@Five format but more family led. He suggested that, if we wanted something like this, it would need a champion to drive it – this had been our problem with Messy Church, which he thought had been a missed opportunity for Froyle with our wealth of craft-related skills.

8. Other Church group reports

- (1) **Vestments:** Madeleine's report was noted with thanks.
- (2) **Choir:** Jane Palmer's report was also noted, and appreciation expressed for the 'ethereal descants' to which she referred.

9. Finance

NB was thanked for his report and the draft 2019 accounts (currently under examination). He drew the meeting's attention to the following:

- In terms of regular income and expenditure, we had tipped into negative territory on our general account in 2019, with a deficit of £4,578, with weekly giving per person below what is achieved by some other, less affluent parishes. The Fundraising Group was looking at how best to approach an initiative to increase general giving.

- We nonetheless had an accumulated cushion of £24,000, subject to what we might need to supplement the fabric fund, which stood at £28,000. In considering what we had available for what purposes, the key part of the accounts was the Statement of Funds (as opposed to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, which simply stated where the money was).
- We needed to resolve, with the help of Sarah Lovell, what to do with the £1,700 still standing to the credit of the Clive Barter Memorial.
- NB confirmed that, in order to recover the VAT of £417 on amounts paid thus far to CES by way of consultancy fees, we needed to be partway down the line in terms of implementation of the work by 27 June 2020 (the anniversary of the CES invoice).
- It was agreed to pay £800 from the Carol Service and Crib Service collections to Naomi House (recipients to be reviewed for next Christmas).

10. Health & Safety

There was nothing that needed to be drawn to the meeting's attention (other than item 3 (2) above).

11. AOB

- (1) SR asked that the weekly pew sheet be posted to the website before the relevant w/e. **YD** would address (he thought this was already being done).
- (2) It was observed that the HC service sheets were becoming frayed. **WK** to address – it had long been on his 'to do' list to update and correct the forms of service sheet.
- (3) It now seemed unlikely, sadly, that the Jesus College Cambridge choir concert would take place this summer, as James Hudleston had earlier hoped.
- (4) Dates: The joint PCC meeting date of 27 January was noted. The next Froyle PCC meeting would be on Wednesday, 11 March, at 7:30 pm at Park Edge. The APCM would be held on Thursday 2 April in Froyle church, 7:00 pm (drinks) for 7:30 pm start.

Yann closed the meeting with prayer.

Signed: