

Minutes

St Mary's Church, Froyle

Minutes of PCC meeting

At 6.00 pm on 30 September 2020 by Zoom

Present:	Yann Dubreuil Nigel Bulpitt William Knowles Simon Marshall Sarah Roberts Michael Starbuck	Christopher Ogilvie-Thompson Nigel Hughes Jane MacNabb Jonathan Pickering Nigel Southern
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Apologies:	Robert Bourne	Jane Harrap
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The meeting opened with prayer.

Item	Subject	Action by
1	Apologies for absence	
	Apologies for absence had been received from Robert Bourne and Jane Harrap. The meeting was quorate.	
2	Minutes of previous meeting – 18 June 2020	
	The minutes of the PCC meeting on 18 June 2020 had been circulated in advance, and any comments received incorporated into the final version for signature. YD was given authority to sign the minutes and send a scanned signed page to the secretary for the minute book.	
3	Matters arising from the meeting of 18 June 2020 (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)	
	There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere.	
4	Vicar's Benefice Report	
	1. p/bMAP	
	YD reported that given current circumstances and the considerable prevailing uncertainty there had been no progress on the p/bMAP: he recognised that he had an outstanding action to convene a working party to progress it, in particular to re-establish the wishes of Bentley. However, its progress might be affected by the possibility of a future pastoral reorganisation arising from the retirement of Tony Pears in October 2021 which could lead to the dissolution of the Northanger benefice and the assimilation of Oakhanger and Kingsley, and possibly one of the	YD

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Worldhams, into Benbinfro. Including Oakhanger and Kingsley in the benefice made sense as many of the children at Binsted School live there.

2. Services and church reopening

The church remained opened for private prayer and occasional worship in line with the recently established rota. Regulations had recently been tightened in relation to weddings and baptisms, but there was some relaxation in relation to choir singing, which could allow for a small choir at some Froyle services, which WBK was progressing with Jane Palmer.

YD was uncomfortable about resuming Holy Communion, as the regulations and guidance issued by Government and the Church authorities were confusing and occasionally conflicting, and allowed individual discretion; he was adopting a “Safety First” approach given the practical difficulties as well as the additional risk posed by a more elderly congregation, which in his view precluded resuming communion services. As far as he was aware this was the attitude locally. There were also a number of current challenges to the Church’s approach, interpretations of the meaning of “communion” (eg, in “single form”) and how it should be administered, all of which made the issue more difficult. COT supported YD’s view. PCC members had some difficulty with this approach, observing that communion had resumed in Alton, and elsewhere, which indicated that those clergy were comfortable with their own risk assessment and management such that they and their congregations were able to resume administering and taking communion. PCC members, and other parishioners, were strongly in favour of the resumption of communion if compliant and acceptable provision could be found. YD suggested that PCC members study the published guidance which might help them understand how he had reached his conclusion; he recognised the desire to resume communion, and that it was likely to be raised for discussion at the APCM.

YD

ALL

YD

So far there had been no guidance, other than the publication of some liturgy, on Remembrance services (now five weeks away). YD was open to advice and counsel on dealing with those, commenting that David Perryman would not be available to lead a service; he hoped for further church guidance; the numbers likely to want to participate would cause difficulty and their management would require some thought and planning. SR, WBK and SM agreed to formulate some proposals, involving Julie Southern from the Parish Council, risk assess them and address any issues identified.

SR

YD observed that although he had sought clarification and additional guidance from the Diocese, the church’s general approach was to await government announcements, then process them at a national level and cascade them to dioceses which then promulgated guidance. This was neither very efficient nor helpful.

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5 Arrangements for Annual Meetings

There would be physical Annual Meetings, in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm on 22 October, although the basic idea was that participants would join remotely. YD, WBK, NB and JCP would be in the Hall, with others unable to join remotely whose individual condition and risk assessment permitted it. YD, WBK and JCP would work out the practicalities.

**YD, WBK,
JCP**

JCP reported that the Electoral Roll was open for revision from 24 September to 7 October, and the new roll would be published on 8 October. So far he had enrolled one new member since the revision in March, and it now numbered 71. SR offered to canvass other members.

JCP

SR

WBK confirmed that he intended to stand down in April 2021, unless another church warden started then, in which case he would stay on to assist. There was therefore one vacancy now, and there would be two from April. YD commented that it was important that there be at least one church warden (and two would be better); and that he must have the nomination form(s) before the meeting.

MS would be retiring by rotation at the APCM, and was willing to stand for re-election. RB was retiring from the Deanery Synod and therefore from the PCC as an *ex officio* member: following the co-option of SM on 25 September, there was one vacancy (with 51-100 members of the Electoral Roll, the quota of lay members of the PCC is nine). (Note: SM will need to be elected at the APCM.) Charlie Zorab had indicated a willingness to stand; and WBK, SR and YD would investigate whether either of the Findlays, Amanda Maher and Vanessa Remington would be prepared to stand for election.

**WBK, SR,
YD**

WBK would prepare the list of sidesmen; and NB confirmed that Phil Elliott was willing to be reappointed.

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meetings had been included in the meeting pack for completeness and would require formal approval on 22 October.

It was agreed that the Annual Report (for 2019), which had been circulated in April, should not be updated, but could be made available for those interested.

6 & 7 Group and other reports

Reports from relevant Groups had been circulated which PCC members had been able to read, and to which reference should be made.

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Fundraising

NB commented that the Fundraising Group would be meeting on 1 October to discuss the Christmas Fair.

8 Finance

NB commented on the “wonderful response” to the requests for direct donations, and how the “Sum Up” app and related technology were facilitating these; and that they could be useful at whatever Christmas Fair was arranged.

9 Deanery Synod

WBK reported that the Deanery Synod had not met recently. However, with the prospect of local pastoral reorganisations ahead, involvement with it would be more important, which he encouraged. NH expressed an interest and YD promised to provide some material prepared by Brian Pritchard, the Area Dean, about it.

NH/YD

10 AOB including diary dates

Fabric

Further to the PCC meeting on 25 September, MS reported that he had discussed the Vision quote for a detailed ground survey (for £8,600 + VAT) with Martin Kirby who had advised that:

1. it was vital that the survey be started as soon as possible and before the winter;
2. it was unlikely a cheaper quote could be found; and
3. in his view, Vision was good enough and he was comfortable we should use them.

MS was convinced by MK’s arguments and recommended that Vision be engaged. He hoped that the survey would show that significant movement had stopped and therefore that underpinning could be avoided. He noted that “mini-piling” was likely to cost more than the c£150k previously indicated. The PCC approved the engagement of Vision on the survey as quoted.

MS

Future services

SR agreed to investigate arrangements for a “Virtual Carol Service” under the then-relevant guidelines. YD commented that a different, filmed, version of the “Real Nativity” was being considered, to be shown on YouTube. He hoped for wider benefice involvement in that, with Froyle providing the choir, but it was noted that this would offer limited opportunity for involvement by children and young people from Froyle (who have historically been the readers at the Froyle Carol Service).

SR

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A Froyle Advent Service was being considered and YD would discuss it with Jane Palmer.

YD

The PCC noted that in the current régime, the likely numbers of participants at “special” services could pose a problem.

Decisions by circulation

JCP reported that since the meeting on 18 June, the PCC had agreed two items by circulation:

1. that the church be reopened for private prayer and limited services in adherence with relevant government guidance (25 July);
2. that the church clock be repaired in line with the quote from the Cumbria Clock Company for £985 + VAT (17 August).

YD extended leave

The PCC noted that YD would be seeking formal support for a period of extended leave for theological study, from 31 January to 30 April 2021, for which some planning would be required. He would circulate further details in due course, with a request for its approval.

All to note

Next meetings

The Joint PCC, if it happened, would be on 12 October at 7.30pm, by zoom, for one hour, when YD hoped that Archdeacon Richard Brant would lead a discussion in break-out groups, after a presentation, on the Single Parish question. He did not believe the effect of the decision on the Northanger Benefice would be relevant to this discussion.

YD

As noted above the Annual Meetings would be on 22 October.

All to note

The next PCC meeting was on 25 November, date, time and method to be finalised nearer the time.

Meeting close

The meeting closed with prayer at 7.39 pm.