

## Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 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; Pam Smith; Angela Dunne [Secretary]

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and opening Prayer</b> YD welcomed everyone to the meeting and said a prayer</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b> None</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 21.9.2020</b> The minutes were approved. Due to the virtual meeting AD will liaise with YD to sign a hard copy. LC suggested that YD could use the application “DocuSign” to send a signed copy to AD. <b>ACTION: LC to send details to YD</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the minutes held on 16.11.2020</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Foundation Governor</b> –YD to approach the person that KOT has suggested and send the summary of the job description. <b>ACTION: YD</b></p> <p><b>4.2 Single Parish Benefice</b> – YD &amp; KOT stated that there is a Working Party who are preparing a document which outlines the process, next steps and options regarding the Single Parish Benefice proposal. This will be sent out via email to PCC members before the joint PCC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. <b>ACTION: KOT</b></p> <p><b>10.a [iii] Broadband installation</b> – ACJ reported that a contract has been agreed with Daisy Communication. There will be a one-off installation cost of £78.00, then a monthly payment of £36.98 for the router plus £9.30 for the business line for twenty-four months. A modem will be provided but a cheap phone needs to be purchased. A survey is to take place on 3rd February 2021. The survey information will then be used to apply for a faculty. <b>ACTION: SCJ</b> YD thanked ACJ and said that the facilities are urgently needed as there is more demand for their use and especially for streamed funeral services during this time.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Report from the Treasurer</b> – ACJ had sent out a copy of a spreadsheet showing an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 via email. A copy of this is in the minute file. In addition he wrote out his comments and observations from the accounts. These have been copied below:-</p> <p><b>Income:</b></p> <p>Our basic income, having excluded the 2 items under “other income resources”, has been severely affected by Covid being down by nearly £13,500 year on year. Although we did have a modest increase in Planned Giving of £1,157, there were substantial reductions in income elsewhere:</p> <p>Collections at services (cash and gift aid envelopes) down by £5,730</p> <p>Fund raising down by £2,462</p> <p>Fees from weddings/funerals down by £5,814</p>

**Expenditure:**

The accounts show an increase in expenditure of more than £12,636. This side of the equation is a little more complicated.

2019's Reordering prep costs were £8,288 with no costs in 2020 but we did spend £8,410 on works identified in the last quinquennial and £4,767 on church general maintenance (electrical works, boiler repairs etc) an increase of £3,707.

There was the extraordinary payment to Bentley PCC from the Restricted "Children's worker" fund to support the Benefice costs relating to Sam and Gemma.

Parish Share costs increased by £3,882. (n.b. Parish Share for 2021 will be £3,216 less than in 2020)

Some costs were substantially down:

Fees to the Diocese (weddings/funerals) were down by £1,666

Churchyard costs by £1,653

Our tythe giving by £1,500

One last point to mention, under the spreadsheet "Funds" section, we paid for the Tower ladder in January so the balance of the Fabric Fund has been reduced by £7,600.

ACJ reiterated in the meeting that he had a concern that the General day to day fund stood at £4,583 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 compared to approximately £11,000 a year ago. He said that we "need to be careful" with future spending. Due to lockdown restrictions during 2010, our income was severely reduced and this has resulted in the loss of £5,000 - £6,000 for 2020. In reply to KHJ query ACJ confirmed that the General Fund was split into 2 separate funds with £25,000 put to one side which could be used for Re-ordering prep work with the remainder in the day-to-day fund which receives all general income and pays all day to-day expenditure and maintenance only, allowing parishioners to be confident that their giving goes towards general expenditure costs for the Church and not any re-ordering costs. There is a separate Restricted fund for Re-ordering which has £380,00 in it as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

YD said that we do need to be careful as our outgoings are greater than our incomes.

**NB** A couple of members [PW and KHJ] made financial queries after the meeting via email. Please find attached ACJ reply to these queries and clarification of the financial position to date.

**6 Current Covid 19 Lockdown and Restrictions**

[a] YD stated that the current arrangements that are in place will remain the same. Things will only change after the Government has had its review and then changes to services in the Benefice will be reviewed according to any new guidelines given. He said that all services are online except for funeral services.

[b] PW stated that he liked the hymns on the online services that had been filmed from "our own team." Everyone agreed however, YD said that this is rather difficult to film and that the Benefice Choir cannot sing together at the moment.

[c] AD said that NC had discussed the notion of having an "easy referral system" for those people who need support in the Benefice with Nikki and the Anna Friends team. NC said that there is an overlap of support between the Anna Chaplain Friends and

the pastoral care team. The Monday morning Benefice prayer meeting highlights people and the prayer chain requests offer confidential private prayer support.

[d] PCC members were told of other services and initiatives that are taking place:-

- [i] Live@5 once a month
- [ii] Archbishops Call to Prayer for the Nation. – This will take place in our Benefice via Zoom every day for the month of February at 6pm. The Prayer time will be between 15-30 minutes. This is being advertised on the Benefice web site and local FB sites. This is for everyone of different faiths. CW stated that, “we need to come together and plea to God for help in our Country during the pandemic.”
- [iii] Froyle village reach out idea, titled Froyle’s Ark, Celebrating Creativity. People are being asked to use any media to create something to go into the ark and photograph it so that the creation can be uploaded into a virtual gallery at first. Then, when restrictions allow a real ark will be built and the “real” creations can be put inside. All the details are in the February issue of the Parish magazine and can be found at [www.Froylesark.com](http://www.Froylesark.com) or Froyle village community FB page.

- 7 Re -Ordering Project**
- [a] YD stated that the PCC needs to formally agree and approve the way forward. A progress report has been put on the Benefice web site and the village community FB page.
- Therefore, the proposal is that, “It is the PCC’s intention to move to a phased approach and proceed with the parts of the project that were most widely accepted by the community.” The PCC has asked the Re-ordering Sub-Committee to consider the following items:
- [i] toilets and baby changing facilities
  - [ii] full disabled access to the church
  - [iii] hot water and storage for providing after service refreshments
  - [iv] better audio-visual and internet facilities to enable streaming of services etc to those unable to attend in person
- This was unanimously agreed.
- [b] YD stated that Andrew Hunter-Johnston will be arranging a meeting with a new reformed committee that will include Piers Wilson as a full member and with Claire Fargeot and Ben MacDonald as co-opted members.
- The committee will then bring their proposals to the next PCC meeting for discussion and approval.
- [c] It is the intention of the PCC to formally re-appoint Antony Feltham King as our continuing architect for the Re-ordering project. KOT reminded us that he stepped back from the role about 18 months ago due to his personal circumstances and ill health, but he has now fully recovered and is happy to continue with his role. SCJ had received an email from Antony FK just before our meeting which outlined his costs and future terms and conditions. Unfortunately, this came too late to forward to everyone prior to our meeting. Therefore, SCJ stated that she will send the details from AFK to all the PCC members who will be asked to approve/ disapprove via email. **ACTION: SCJ**
- [d] SCJ said that “we should take things slowly” and NC stated that it is important to keep everyone informed. This was agreed.
- [e] KHJ reported that Andrew HJ will be sending out a “Specification” regarding a new portable organ console via email very soon. This will also be discussed at the next Re-ordering meeting. YD reported that the specification will include details of how the organ can be stored securely.
- [f] PS asked if the new keyboard requested by Sam Ball a while ago was a separate piece of musical equipment from the new portable organ being considered. KOT said that it was but that this consideration was put on hold due to the pandemic. YD said that a new keyboard is important for Sam to use in all the churches in the Benefice and that equipment and resources are being bought and shared between the Churches.

8	<p><b>Feedback on recent events</b></p> <p><b>Christmas online events and Christmas Day Services</b></p> <p>[a] YD said that the Real Nativity that was filmed and available online was the “star of the Show this Christmas.” He gave thanks to Nick and Rose Carter, Sam and Gemma and the team for putting it together. YD has had a lot of messages of praise from people.</p> <p>[b] The Christingle service was also a success.</p> <p>[c] Christmas Eve Meditation online service – KOT said that this was very good.</p> <p>[d] Christmas Day Church Service – 22 attended with 20 taking communion. Unfortunately, due to the changing Covid 19 new restrictions that had come into place, people changed their plans to not attend at the last minute. However, the service was very much appreciated by the people who did attend and it was conducted in a very Covid safe way.</p>
9	<p><b>Planning ahead for possible forthcoming events and services - whether virtual or physical</b></p> <p>9.1 Ash Wednesday – this will be a virtual service online</p> <p>9.2 Unfortunately due to the pandemic the Maundy Thursday Passover meal cannot take place.</p> <p>9.3 Good Friday Meditation – this will be available online</p> <p>9.4 Easter – Some ideas were suggested which included :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm crosses being included with the March parish magazine as a gift if it was going to be hand delivered again.</li> <li>• Providing an online borrowed footage of a “real nativity” type Easter production.</li> <li>• Recording the Sunrise service</li> </ul> <p>9.5 Easter service – probably online, but a decision will be made closer to the time.</p> <p>9.6 Pentecost Prayer Week – An indoor 24/7 prayer station would not be advisable due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions however, all the Home Groups have been asked to do a prayer station that can be positioned outside somewhere in the Benefice. These will not be manned but visited by individuals or by a family “bubble.” KOT proposed that a prayer walk is produced around Binsted village. It is hoped that Binsted school will be involved. Other ideas included using the telephone box at the edge of Thurstons with the Parish Councils permission and putting a prayer station somewhere along St Swithun’s Way where walkers would see it.</p>
10	<p><b>Fabric Report</b></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 highlighted the completion of the ladder into the Bell Tower. This has been designed and made to a very high standard with a motorised opening to the hatch. It was agreed that a letter of thanks is written to Ricky Crimes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>SCJ to ACTION</b></p> <p>Stella said it was now possible to begin planning the rest of the work needed in the Bell Tower.</p>
11	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Fundraising</b> – AD informed everyone that a net profit of £778.25 was made from the sale of the Christmas cards and the Christmas wreaths. Thanks were given to all who were involved. AD said that she will organise pre-order sales of Christmas wreaths again next year and SCJ said that Christmas cards could also be sold if there were new pictures of the Church taken.</p> <p><b>11.2</b> AD asked if the March issue of the Parish magazine would be delivered again as she felt that the online provision does not reach the same amount of people. YD agreed but said that the situation is uncertain at the present time, due to the pandemic. He</p>

	<p>said that approximately 30 hard copies of the February magazine are always printed and can be given to people who don't have online facilities to view the magazine. Spare copies are kept in Bentley and Binsted Church porches. AD said that she had recently found out that the residents in Frith End were not receiving hard copies of the magazine when the rest of parish was. The distributors in Frith End were not comfortable doing the deliveries. However, there was a line of communication from Anne Shelley to the distributors who in turn told the residents when the magazine was available for online viewing. YD said that it would have been useful for the staff team to have known about this as arrangements could have then been made for deliveries to be done. In future any similar problems should be brought to the attention of the administration/Staff Team.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Dates and venues of next meeting in 2021</b>  15<sup>th</sup> February Joint Benefice meeting at 7.30pm on zoom  8<sup>th</sup> March Binsted PCC meeting at 2.00pm on zoom  APCM – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm on zoom  24<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup>, September, 8<sup>th</sup> November - Binsted PCC meetings at 2.00pm</p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>YD closed the meeting with a Prayer</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 3.40pm</p>