

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held by Zoom at 7.30pm on
17 September 2020

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Vicar; Chairman), Angelica Amoroso, Sian Howard, Michael Kirk, Andrew Oldershaw, Bob Rutland, Nigel Siesage (Secretary), David Stanyer (Treasurer) and Tanya Willis

Apologies for absence were received from Mary Britton, Revd Matthew Gough and Ros Mathews

1. MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the PCC and the parish, the Vicar expressed warm appreciation to Ros Mathews for her service as Church Warden for several years. Although she was now moving to Antigua, it was hoped that contact would be maintained.

The PCC also recorded its appreciation of the contributions to its work made by Bob Rutland, Tanya Willis and David Stanyer. Their current periods of membership, which had been extended because of the Covid pandemic, would now expire at the forthcoming APCM.

2. REOPENING OF CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

The PCC reviewed the arrangements which had been made for the reopening of St Mary's for worship, with the restricted attendance and other precautions required by pandemic regulations. The following points were noted:

- Entrance and exit: It was important to be clear on these with participants. It was agreed to experiment with using the west door both for arrival and departure, rather than using the north door as the exit. To avoid close gatherings outside, people should be guided to leave at the end of the service pew by pew.
- Stewards: More stewards to direct people to their seats should be identified. **Action** AJ
- Participation by children: further thought should be given to facilitating this. The Vicar would consult other churches. **Action:** AJ
- Attendance: It might not always be possible for people to attend when they wanted to. It was suggested that a waiting list be maintained to ensure fairness.
- Ventilation: Some windows should be opened for services; and where circumstances allowed, also the west door.
- Music: There were mixed opinions on whether it should be necessary to stand for the hymns, given that singing was not permitted.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

The draft Annual Report for 2019 had previously been circulated. The PCC welcomed and unanimously approved it. Copies would be sent electronically, and a supply of hard copies would be available at the Annual Meeting.

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The PCC reviewed the arrangements for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday 11 October at 11 am following the morning service. Members of the parish would be encouraged to submit any questions to the Vicar in advance.

As the regulations meant that a maximum of 40 people could attend in person, it was agreed that attendance online by Zoom as well as in person should be available.

5. PARISH GIFT

The PCC considered a paper by the Treasurer setting out forecast Management accounts for the year to 31 December 2020 in the context of the need to consider the levels of the parish contribution to the diocese. The PCC noted that the parish's financial position had been seriously and adversely affected by the pandemic, with reductions in giving income and other forms of income, and a marked reduction in the contribution from the Parish Centre, where no activities had been possible. It was agreed that it was essential to protect the parish's capacity to use its reserves for the spire repair and other essential projects, and that it would not therefore be appropriate to use the reserves either to offset a prospective deficit or to meet the originally agreed diocesan contribution.

The PCC therefore agreed unanimously:

- a) That the contribution to the diocese for 2020 be limited to £37,020, with the final payment to be withheld until January 2021 and then subject to review.
- b) That in view of the continuing uncertainty, the contribution to the diocese for 2021 be set at a base level of £30,000, to be paid by monthly instalment by cheque and not by standing order. If circumstances changed significantly, this could be reviewed.

6. SPIRE

The PCC recalled that members had been consulted by correspondence about options for proceeding with the repair of the spire, in view of the limited success of approaches to major trusts, and the clear indication that relevant charities were now focusing their resources on the consequences of the pandemic. This and other factors (rising costs; the likely closure of one funding source in 2021) had led members to agree that the contractors should be instructed to begin the works in October 2020. This decision was formally confirmed.

Fund-raising would continue locally to the extent that circumstances permitted, and other sources would be pursued if identified, but it was recognised that the shortfall would have to be met by a larger contribution from reserves than had originally been planned. It was noted that the Treasurer had authority to release resources from investments if necessary for this purpose.

The PCC **resolved** that a recently received legacy of £5,000, which was without restriction, should be applied to the funds available for the Spire project.

7. MUSICATHON

It had been proposed that the fund-raising Musicathon, which had been postponed to comply with restrictions on church and public events, should now proceed on 10 October, following the revised criteria now applicable to churches.

Concern was expressed that the event was not consistent with the permission extended to churches for acts of worship. The virus was still not controlled, and it might not be regarded by the public as a suitable activity, notwithstanding the charitable objective. Reputational damage might follow if any infection were to be associated with the event.

The PCC acknowledged that very great care had been taken by the organisers to ensure that the event would be 'Covid-safe'. It expressed its gratitude for the efforts which gone into planning the event, but with great reluctance concluded that it should again be postponed.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

There was nothing to report.

9. SAFEGUARDING

There were no issues to report. The certificates for those who had received training were still awaited.

10. CHURCHYARD

The PCC noted that Mr Oldershaw was now liaising with the City Council over maintenance of the churchyard, following Mr Bonnett's move to the North West.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with Grace.

Chairman