

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held by Zoom at 7.30pm on 19 January 2021

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Vicar; Chairman), Revd Matthew Gough, Angelica Amoroso, Josh Crick de Boom, Sian Howard, Michael Kirk, Andrew Oldershaw, David Palmer, Lorna Pollard, Judith Rudd, Bob Rutland, Nigel Siesage (Secretary), David Stanyer (Treasurer) and Ida Stanyer

The Vicar welcomed Josh Crick de Boom to his first meeting.

21/1 PRAYERS and REFLECTION

The Vicar led the meeting in prayers and a reflection on Acts 2 v42 et seq.

21/2 PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Vicar introduced a discussion of pastoral care and discipleship, reflecting two of the parish's objectives and taking as its starting point two articles published in last year's newsletters. It was desirable to review the approach to these both in the light of changes in the parish over time, and in view of the more recent impact of the pandemic.

It was noted that a model existed in other churches/denominations of a team approach which extended beyond the licensed clergy. This might include allocation of particular households or parts of the parish to the care of individual team members. Something of the sort – a good neighbour scheme – had existed in Knighton in the past.

The pandemic had highlighted the need to use a variety of forms of communication and contact, and if these were developed in the future, it would be important to identify the form preferred by different people. The value of an active social programme and the potential of house groups were also noted.

The PCC would return to this subject to build on this helpful introduction.

21/3 ECO-CHURCH

The PCC noted the existence of the national Eco-Church Award scheme, through which churches could develop various aspects of their life and activities, resulting in Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. Resources were available to assist in the process. The PCC **agreed** that the parish should establish a small group of volunteers to carry out the initial assessment and recommend the next steps.

Action: AJ to solicit volunteers through newsletter.

21/4 OFFICE OF TREASURER

With reference to minute 3(i) of 19 November 2020, the Vicar reported on the discussions by the working group considering the future arrangements for the Treasurership. It was agreed that steps should be taken to adopt more easily managed accounting systems. These might include online banking and use of the parish giving system. This would allow some day-to-day activities to be devolved from the Treasurer.

It remained critical and urgent, however, to identify a new Treasurer. Even with simplified systems and more support, the need to be regularly involved in the work of the PCC might be a deterrent to anyone not currently involved in the life of the benefice. Members were encouraged to review their own contacts.

21/5 ANNUAL REPORT AND APCM

The PCC noted the schedule leading to holding of the next APCM on 25 April 2021.

21/6 FEES FOR MEMORIAL AND BLESSING SERVICES

The PCC noted that the Church of England did not prescribe fees for such occasional services as memorials or blessings after civil weddings, but recommended that fees comparable to those for funerals and weddings might be applied where they were on a similar scale.

The PCC **agreed** to adopt this policy. Where the service was of a significantly different scale, the Standing Committee would have the authority to vary the fee based on the Vicar's recommendation.

21/7 LEICESTER CITIZENS

Revd Matthew outlined the work of Leicester Citizens, part of Citizens UK, an organisation devoted to empowering civil society. The PCC did not feel that it was ready at this stage to become an associate member of the organisation, but welcomed the suggestion that Revd Matthew should continue to be involved in its work and report back to the PCC and the congregation through the magazine.

21/8 SPIRE REPAIRS

Mr Oldershaw reported on the progress of the spire repair project. (Copy of written report appended to this minute). The project was on schedule. Following the recent inspection, it was recommended that additional steel restraint straps and ties be added to the spire. At present it was hoped that the cost of this could be met within the tender contingency.

Mr Stanyer reported that donations and fund-raising had so far generated £50,840 towards the total cost of the project. £100,000 had been transferred from investments to meet any costs not otherwise funded when necessary. The Listed Places of Worship scheme, which makes grants to offset VAT, had produced £6,400 so far. Its continuation beyond 31 March remained in doubt. Ms Howard had arranged for banners to be made and installed on the churchyard boundary, encouraging donations.

21/9 LEGACY

The PC noted the receipt of a legacy of £500 from the estate of the late Mr Bill Ibbs. There were no restrictions on its use. After discussion, the PCC **agreed** unanimously that the gift be applied to the purchase of a new portable font, as being consistent with Mr Ibbs's interests. The purchase had been approved in principle at a previous meeting.

21/10 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 20 November 2020 were received and approved.

21/11 ACTION LIST

The PCC reviewed the update action list. There was some uncertainty about whether 1st Aid training was possible during the present lockdown.

21/12 BUILDINGS

The new lamps in the churchyard had now been installed. It was intended that the new spotlights could be commissioned after the scaffolding was removed.

21/13 SAFEGUARDING

There was nothing to report.

21/14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There was nothing to report.

21/15 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 25 February 2021 at 7.30 pm, by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm with Grace.

Chairman

Appendix to Minute 21/8Church Spire Progress Report - January 2021

The work to the spire & upper tower is well underway, with the scaffolding having been completed on the outside and to the inside above the bell chamber.

The Weather Vane Cock has been removed and sent for re-gilding and much of the spire stonework joints have been prepared and the repointing work is well under way.

The dismantling of very top section of the spire has begun and the new stonework is being prepared ready for rebuilding back straight and true.

Prior to Christmas, the Architect, Richard Brook, carried out a more detailed inspection of the spire from the scaffolding with a Structural Engineer, following concerns about the stability of some of the stonework. The inspection revealed clear evidence of movement within the middle section of the spire, around the head of the lucarne style window openings. This movement being attributed to the fact there is insufficient bonding between the stone blocks, which is particularly evident now the lichen has been cleaned from the angled corners to reveal the vertical mortar joints.

Simon Britton, David Stanyer and I attended a site meeting with the Architect and Bruce Park, from Contractors MSM, on the 18th December. Richard explained that the Structural Engineer did not perceive this additional work to be a major issue, in that the stability of the spire remains intact, but felt that it would be advisable to introduce additional steel bracing inside the spire area, together with metal strengthening plates on each of the angled corners, thereby greatly limiting any future movement.

Richard and Bruce stated that this kind of repair work is not uncommon and clarified that this would be in addition to the steelwork already allowed for in the tender. Richard explained that the Engineer had completed similar projects and a full report has been produced, which is attached, (Report B). The report explains in detail the problem, and is illustrated and supported with photographs and drawings. Essentially, this work involves the fabrication of new stainless steel reinforcing bands, which will be fixed as 'internal hoops' inside the spire.

Richard hopes that the cost for this extra work will not exceed the tender contingency figure of £12,118.00.

To date, two invoices from MSM have been received and paid, totalling £51,936.50 + VAT.