

The Parish Church of St. George, Jesmond



Parochial Church Council

Minutes of a meeting of St. George's PCC on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom.

Present	Revd Canon Brian Hurst (Chair)	Revd Derek Avery
	Louise Chapman (Churchwarden)	Mike de la Hunt
	Donald Gaze	Joan Grenfell
	Graham Hatt (Churchwarden)	Tom Klenka
	Sophie Leach	Izzy McDonald-Booth
	Kay Plumley	Paul Taylor
Apologies	Caroline Field (Treasurer)	Revd Stephanie Keates
	Margaret Vane	
In Attendance	Catherine Laidler (Secretary)	Janet Wilson
Not In Attendance	Sue Vernon	

		Action
1.	Welcome, Prayers and Apologies The vicar welcomed everyone and apologies were given.	
2.	Minutes of the Meetings of Monday 7th June 2021 The minutes of the PCC meeting of Monday 7 th June 2021 were accepted as an accurate record.	
3.	Matters Arising Arising from minute 2: The resolutions agreed were being progressed. Arising from minute 12: The plaque had been recommended for approval by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Ian Ness was applying for Faculty. Public notices regarding this would need to be put up and the vicar would chase Ian on these. It was hoped the plaque would be installed in October in time for it to be blessed by the Bishop when she visits for the Dedication Festival. Otherwise the Archdeacon would be invited to bless it at a different time.	
4.	Matters Arising from Standing Committee Arising from minute 10: There have been a few technical issues with the livestreaming. The video quality and panning between shots is fine, but there have been problems with the sound. The audio input from existing amplifier needs to be lowered and adjusted within the new system, but when it was unplugged during recent cleaning, these settings were lost. Blaydon Communications have now updated the firmware in both the main controller and camera which has solved this problem. Graham was thanked for organising the livestreaming and coping with the teething issues. Post meeting note: the subsequent livestreaming of then 25th July service went smoothly, which was a relief to all involved!	
5.	Finance Report John Oswald had prepared the Finance Report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. However, it was password protected so could not be considered at the meeting. Catherine would ask John for the password and for a commentary on the figures and recirculate after the meeting.	<i>CL to contact John and recirculate Finance Report</i>

6.	<p>Treasurer Update</p> <p>John Oswald had recruited Mike Ranson, an accountant who lived locally and occasionally worshipped at St George's, to take on the role of Treasurer for a 2 year period. Mike would cover the strategic side of the role and the day to day tasks would be covered by the Parish Office. The vicar would clarify with Mike/John whether Mike would be in attendance or co-opted as a full member of the PCC. Mike would be providing his services free of charge.</p>	<p><i>BH to confirm if MR in attendance or co-opted</i></p>
7.	<p>Contactless Giving</p> <p>The vicar had circulated information on contactless giving devices to the Standing Committee but would also circulate to the wider PCC. There was no proposal yet. It would be possible for the device to be screwed down or for the holder to be screwed down and the device removable for use at events such as the Fete. A device could also be set in a large display board, although the board would need to be purchased. Standing Committee would do further research.</p>	<p><i>BH to circulate information to PCC</i></p>
8.	<p>Generous Giving</p> <p>It was planned to hold a stewardship campaign before the end of the year and the budget was dependent on that. The diocese had proposed to make the last week of September a Generous Giving week and it was suggested the PCC could support a mini stewardship campaign that would coincide with Generous Giving week. A task group would be set up to work on it.</p>	
9.	<p>Know your Church Know your Neighbourhood Update</p> <p>The process was starting to come to an end. There had been a conversation with the community via zoom with lots of positive feeling towards St George's and ideas about what more could be done. The task group would meet on Thursday to reflect on all the different parts and following that, the PCC would be invited to consider feedback and next steps.</p> <p><u>Prayer Walk</u></p> <p>The parish boundary had been split into three sections with the idea that different groups would explore different sections, approaching with fresh eyes. However, they had not been well attended.</p> <p><u>Congregation Survey</u></p> <p>There was a lot of differing views which made it hard to make decisions and it needed further work. Kay offered to help Izzy with this.</p> <p><u>Community Survey</u></p> <p>The community survey had received 54 responses, mainly from older members of the community. The information was being collated and discussed with John Sadler. It was recognised that there was still work that needed to be done on getting feedback from the student population.</p>	
11.	<p>Musical Director</p> <p>The interviews and auditions had taken place on Saturday. There were three strong candidates but one stood out clearly. The candidate had been conditionally offered the position dependent on references and DBS check and the agreement of the PCC. The salary offered was £6,500 including travel expenses to help ensure the candidate would accept and would be reflected on at the 6 month review. The candidate had asked for support on administration. There may be retention issues since the candidate was very experienced and if the candidate should not accept, the process would need to start again.</p> <p>It was suggested there could be money temporarily available from the funds raised for Family and Youth Leader if there was to be investment in external facing children's projects with the community (e.g. community children's choir).</p>	

	<p>It was also suggested the post could become self-funding through concerts/organ recitals advertised as raising money for St George's. Tom Klenka advised that he would be happy to help with the design and printing of posters.</p> <p>The vicar stated that he would like to seek the PCC's agreement on the decision made on Saturday. All were in favour.</p>	
12.	<p>Tower Repairs</p> <p>Graham Hatt advised that the scaffolding included in the contract for the Tower Repairs was not sufficient and the contractor had pulled out. Classic Masonry was the next lowest tender and their scaffolding was compliant. The bid was received about 15 months ago but despite concerns the price may have risen it had still been possible to get it for the same price. There was funding gap of £13,000 and the Friends of St George's had been approached and were willing to plug the gap. Mike de la Hunt advised that a response from National Churches Trust was still awaited so it was possible the Friends would not have to pay the full £13,000.</p> <p>Classic Masonry had now been appointed. It was expected the work would take place in late summer, although no exact dates were available yet. Ian Ness was confident that the work to be done was all that needed to be done and he was in touch with Lorna Taylor regarding any possible impact on bell ringers.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Graham and to the Friends.</p>	
13.	<p>Eco Event</p> <p>The Eco Group intended to hold an event on 25th September to connect with the community. It would remind people of the pressing nature of the problems we face with the climate crisis; would celebrate what we have already achieved (and plan) at St. George's; would generate interest and enthusiasm in the congregation and community; and would teach people about the tips and tricks that they can contribute. Speakers were being booked and there would be activities and the aim was to raise interest and enthusiasm, not funds. It would take place from 10am-2pm and about 100 people were expected, Covid restrictions permitting. A risk assessment would need to be completed. Paul Taylor suggested it might be useful to involve the Allotments and offered to put Kay in touch with the relevant people. A budget of £300, which could come from the existing PCC budgets for Marketing and Buildings and Grounds, would be needed to cover publicity and speaker expenses. Prizes would be donated from local businesses. It was also suggested an application could be made to the local councillor who would allocate £350.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how this might fit with a Big Friendly Gathering but it was felt it was too short notice to hold a gathering in the same way as before. It was agreed a fundraising event would be good but it should be separate to the eco event. It was suggested that it could be combined with an event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.</p> <p>Graham Hatt proposed the eco event should happen in a covid safe way and spend £300 from within the existing budget. Izzy McDonald-Booth seconded. There was a majority in favour with 1 abstention.</p>	
14.	<p>Deanery Synod Update</p> <p>At Deanery Synod, members had been asked to give 2 or 3 points about what their church was doing. There was a lot of work happening on the Transformation agenda, looking at different structures and how to organise ourselves.</p>	
15.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>This was Catherine's last meeting and she was thanked for her work.</p>	
16.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 20th September at 7.30pm</p>	