



DEEPING ST JAMES PRIORY CHURCH

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 20th October 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom Call

Present: Revd Mark Williams Chairman (**MW**), Simon Marshall (**SiM**), Revd Sonia Marshall (**SoM**), Vicky Billyard (**VB**), Lisa Goodchild (**LG**), Kate Drewett (**KD**), Ted Fisk (**TF**), Jan Fisk (**JF**), Philip Astle (**PA**), Niccy Fisher (**NF**), Nick Drewett (**ND**), Martin Jones – secretary (**MJ**)

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Victoria Worthington (**VW**), Caroline Herron (**CH**)

The meeting opened with prayers and began at 7.30 pm.

<p>21.19</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting: Corrected Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Minutes were accepted. b. The Minutes can be published. c. Matters Arising: <p>21.17 NF commented that it was important that the previous minutes should reflect what she actually said at the meeting. Instead of “and this cannot convey the solemnity” it should have read “where they can be heard and provide a better lead”.</p> <p>21.10 ND commented that the sound system survey has not been actioned as Chris Pallister could not make the appointment. It will be rearranged.</p> <p>21.12 ND has had no further information about an alternative architect. Jullian Limintani has been out of the field for several years and has lost contact with colleagues.</p> <p>Quinquennial report: This has been issued now. Liam, the Project Manager for the works, will meet with ND re the blower and porch roof leaks.</p> <p>Door catch: ND has greased the main door catch but to no avail. Another solution is needed. Any ideas welcome.</p> <p>LED lighting: ND reported that, on inspection, our dimmer switches will not work with LED lighting and replacement will take the quote from £10-12K to £20K+. This will require more funds. SiM stated that this would require further funding and before he investigated this he wanted to know that the PCC agreed to the extra scope and cost. A discussion followed, including</p>	<p>ND</p> <p>ND</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>the point that it may take 6 months to get funding which would not have the lighting improved for the Christmas period. It was AGREED to go ahead and investigate a firm quote and research a source of funds.</p> <p>Watertightness:</p> <p>MW reported that there was a roof leak over the piano. ND said that there was a meeting planned with CJ Carter for next week and it could be that wind was blowing it under the covering. PA reported that there was a leak at the back of the Church that was 5 times worse than that over the piano. SiM pointed out that it was only re-leaded 5 years ago and there should be a guarantee. He would look to see who the contractor was.</p> <p>ND reported that the marks on the Chancel wall may be, the architect thinks, residue from a previous leak within the wall. It leaves a smear when wiped and he will monitor it.</p> <p>21.14</p> <p>Replacement for the Bishop of Lincoln: MW reported that a meeting of the Deanery Synod had raised similar concerns as those we had raised. It had been vocalised that the new Bishop should be a pastoral person.</p>	<p>ND, SiM</p> <p>ND</p> <p>SiM</p> <p>ND</p>
<p>21.20</p>	<p>Clergy Report:</p> <p>MW had circulated his report ahead of the meeting and asked for any comments.</p> <p>NF commented that it missed off the connection with schools. MW reported that DSJ Primary School had attended the church for their Harvest Festival and the teachers took some Light Party leaflets. The headteacher also promised to add them to the parent mailing. Linchfield Primary school are also coming for a service in December, and a visit in January. He will continue to develop a relationship with them also.</p> <p>SoM added that she had also met with one local family who used to be Church regular attendees and has also been giving home communions.</p> <p>MW informed the PCC that he would be taking Monday to Saturday of the following week (25th Oct) as holiday.</p>	
<p>21.21</p>	<p>Resourcing Sustainable Church Update:</p> <p>There was a meeting with the Churches in our partnership group, attended by MW, ND and NF.. The aim of the discussion was to see if we are in the same frame of mind about the process and goals. There had been a wide range of discussion but, in general, there was a convergence of opinions and there is enough common ground to continue talking.</p> <p>NF asked if we had decided to stay in South Holland or move into South Kesteven. MW said that it was not decided yet. NF suggested that we really need to decide. SiM added that if we did not make a decision it may be made for us.</p> <p>MW stated that he had joined a Church Type on-line meeting but that no new information had come out of it. He told the Bishops of Lincoln & Grantham, and the Deanery Synod, that people in the parish, and other</p>	

	<p>parishes as well, had fear and apprehension about the RSC process and aims.</p> <p>MW reported that all people with ministry roles are having a “vocational conversation” with one question being “how would you feel about moving to another location”. MW’s conversation is on 15th Dec and he told the PCC that he would not be very happy at being asked to move, having been asked previously if he was committed to staying in DSJ.</p>	
<p>21.22</p>	<p>MAP Update:</p> <p>MW had previously circulated documents relevant to this topic. Regarding the Standing Committee notes, and looking at the overall aims, he reported that the committee were concerned about trying to do everything and not doing anything very well. The notes propose four keys aims and when MW asked if the PCC agreed with these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve our finances 2. Growth in numbers 3. Improve communication/networking 4. Relevance/service to the community <p>After some discussion it was AGREED that these are the top four aims for us.</p> <p>MW added that participation in RSC is a given as we have to conduct that in parallel with MAP.</p> <p>A discussion followed about establishing teams to achieve our aims. The major initiatives include communications and outreach. This would benefit from the establishment of a platform where we have a common calendar. The discussion went on to include re-vamping of the website and magazine, which is covered in more detail under a separate item under 21.24.</p> <p>It was stated, for clarity in the minutes, that it is a short term aim to action development of the website and its associated links and to include the magazine on the website.</p> <p>Community Partners Group:</p> <p>There was some confusion whether this is similar to a Friends of The Priory Church concept. It became clear that it was different.</p> <p>JF said that she had ideas for the Hall Users plus representatives of the schools, council and local businesses to join a meeting. MW suggested that it needed to include significant groups from the community to find out what they wanted from the Church.</p> <p>Much discussion followed and MW pointed out that there is already a Hall Users Group who have one remit, and that this initiative was separate from that. SiM asked what we would ask this group if we got them to come to a meeting. A meeting would have no structure unless we had a goal to achieve from it.</p> <p>More discussion followed, including the periodicity of such a forum. MW returned to the point that the aim is to get representatives from local community groups together to find out what they would like to see the</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>church do within the community. He has started with the schools, as noted previously, and he has plans to meet with the Scout Group of the Deepings on another matter.</p> <p>KD suggested that Eco Church is an initiative that might appeal to the wider community and could be included in the discussion to promote interest and potentially church growth. She stated that whilst she has given the Eco Church report to the secretary she had decided that the agenda was already too full to include it at this meeting.</p> <p>MW proposed that achieving Eco Church Silver status should be a medium term goal. This was AGREED. MJ was asked to circulate KD's report.</p> <p>PA suggested that Eco Church might appeal to members of the congregation who only come to services and might take more interest in the church via that initiative.</p> <p>MW asked again about the issue of rearranging the church layout and providing toilets. NF suggested that we have discussed this several times and we need to make a decision. JF pointed out that there are toilets in the hall but PA spoke for people with mobility issues and said that having excellent toilets in the hall was no encouragement to those who would find the journey challenging. He had been in two small churches which had a toilet in the church. It was agreed that MAP should consider adding toilets for the longer term and SiM reminded the PCC that significant funding would be needed. Not only would a significant faculty input be needed, adding a toilet requires plumbing, including a sewer connection. TF suggested a composting toilet behind the church, but, again, this requires mobility. It was agreed to include a feasibility study of adding toilets to the MAP plan.</p>	MJ																
<p>21.23</p>	<p>Treasurers Report:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Current acct</td> <td>£13228</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve acct (deposit)</td> <td>£ 17</td> <td>(investment) £21371</td> <td>total of £21388</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fabric acct (deposit)</td> <td>£2618</td> <td>(investment) £10828</td> <td>total of £13446</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organ acct (deposit)</td> <td>£3255</td> <td>(investment) £4174</td> <td>total of £7439</td> </tr> </table> <p>In the current account there is the chapel fund, mission monies and wedding deposits of £2175. After adjusting for these items the current account becomes £11053.</p> <p>The Chancel trust (deposit) £16835.</p> <p>It was proposed to pay £8500 to Parish share. This was AGREED by all. This brings the total paid for the year to £28500 compared with £25500 paid at this time last year.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate a draft of the Treasurer's report approximately the day before the PCC so that PCC members do not need to take notes.</p>	Current acct	£13228			Reserve acct (deposit)	£ 17	(investment) £21371	total of £21388	Fabric acct (deposit)	£2618	(investment) £10828	total of £13446	Organ acct (deposit)	£3255	(investment) £4174	total of £7439	
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	<p>SiM informed the PCC that the Chancel fund had accrued 41p in interest. Investing it in the CBF investment fund would have generated a significant amount in interest and it would be at 14 days notice to withdraw. It was proposed to transfer £13000.00 to the CGF fund. AGREED.</p>	
<p>21.24</p>	<p>Reports from Teams: TOR: MW suggested that reviewing group TORs would take too long for this meeting, the PCC agreed. NF suggested that the Standing Committee could review TORs and report to PCC. The review is not intended to change things, but to clarify them. AGREED. PA suggested that the review should include who was on these committees and are they still active. KD proposed a new outreach committee to include Mission and Social committee. PA spoke for VW to say that the Mission Committee is a fundraising committee and has decided to move away from all money raised going outside to include giving some of it to the church. However, some of the long standing members believe strongly that all mission money should go outside. SiM pointed out that historically, the money raised all went outside the church as at that time we had a surplus of funds.</p> <p>Mission Matters: MJ to circulate the recent meeting minutes.</p> <p>Children’s group: SoM pointed out that there was approximately £2500.00 in funds for the children’s work but that there had been no call on it for a long time. It was proposed to use £150.00 for a Light Party on 30th October. AGREED.</p> <p>Worship committee: MW had made recommendations for the monthly church calendar. After discussion it was AGREED that starting Nov 1: 1st Sunday; 9am Eucharist. 10.15am children oriented all-age service (in due course perhaps with coffee in between). 6pm choral evensong. 2nd Sunday; 10am standard service, with Children’s Church coming in at the end, and showing what they have been doing. 3rd Sunday; 9am Book of Common Prayer service for a trial period. 10am standard service. 6pm Alternative Evening Service. 4th Sunday; 10am standard service. 5th Sunday; 10am service to include Friday Knights. It will be Communion, but simplified, with a more creative approach to the service. Hybrid services are well watched when live, not so much when watching a streamed recording. MW proposed investigating the cost of a wi-fi hub in the church hall. AGREED. MW asked the PCC if they were happy for him to circulate the order of services to be adopted. AGREED</p>	<p>Standing committee</p> <p>MW</p> <p>MW</p>

	<p>TF asked about the proposal to shorten the length of some pews? This may cost a lot and it was agreed to look into the costs. It was mentioned that Chris Halley may know who shortened the pews that he bought from the church previously.</p>	
21.22	<p>Safeguarding (Including Youth Work contact database): Lin Witherington wishes to join the 'Open the Book' team, and so will need to be DBS checked. All other children's workers have been identified and added to the list sent to the diocese, along with their roles. MW to confirm that Helen is to be considered a leader. TF and CH have undertaken safe recruitment training. MW asked to be included as well. TF reminded the PCC that everyone needed to be aware of the safeguarding policy and ensure compliance. TF wishes to meet up with hall users to discuss safeguarding compliance with them.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>TF</p>
21.23	<p>Planned Giving Scheme: SiM's information regarding the PGS was circulated with the minutes. In summary, it could replace the standing orders for planned giving with direct debits, which can be automatically increased by inflation each year, having notified the donor in advance. LG asked who administers the scheme. The scheme is run by a private company but is already running on behalf of the diocese. After much discussion MW proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join the scheme 2. PCC trial the scheme 3. Hold a stewardship programme to inform all donators and others 4. Roll out to all donators old and new, with standing order still available for those who want to keep it. <p>AGREED</p>	
21.24	<p>Priory Magazine & Website Action Plan (inc post of communications officer): TF reported that Ryan Overson can set up a modern, upgraded website for us. Set up fee is £379.60 plus £4.6/month per e-mail address. He will check about an annual cost. This will replace Easy Space and we can keep domain names. MW proposed that the Standing Committee review and compare the costs. AGREED. NF proposed a sincere vote of thanks to TF for actually making this happen. All joined her in this, including the Sec. JF asked if we have an e-mail address for Jonathan, who is taking over the Parish Magazine. It was replied that it should be the same address but that it currently goes to John Worthington. KD asked when the next magazine would be published as John has stopped. MW reported that John had subsequently offered to continue until the end of the year, however</p>	

	Joh=Nathan was expecting to start with the November issue. Perhaps this could be a hand-over period, with John & Jonathan working on it together.	
21.25	Covid Update: MW noted the rising covid rates, especially in schools. He said that we have re-introduced the register of attendees and pay special attention to masks, gel and ventilation again.	
21.26	AOB:	
	Date of Next Meetings: 24 Nov, 15 Dec	
	The Meeting Closed with the Grace and thanks from MW to all PCC members at 9.44pm	