



DEEPING ST JAMES PRIORY CHURCH

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 23rd February 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom Call

Present: Revd Mark Williams Chairman (**MW**), Simon Marshall (**SiM**), Revd Sonia Marshall (**SoM**), Lisa Goodchild (**LG**), Ted Fisk (**TF**), Jan Fisk (**JF**), Philip Astle (**PA**), Caroline Herron (**CH**), Niccy Fisher (**NF**), Martin Jones – secretary (**MJ**)

Apologies for Absence were received from: Victoria Worthington (**VW**), Vicki Bilyard (**VB**), Kate Drewett (**KD**) and Nick Drewett (**ND**)

The meeting opened with prayers and began at 7.30 pm. **MW** started by wishing **NF** best wishes for a speedy recovery from her recent injury and this was echoed by all of the PCC.

<p>21.58</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting: Corrected Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>a. The Minutes were accepted.</p> <p>b. The Minutes can be published.</p> <p>c. Matters Arising:</p> <p>New website;</p> <p>TF reported that, very sadly, Ryan Overson’s business, which was going to develop and manage our new website, has hit very difficult times and will not be able to continue. This is very bad news but TF and the PCC send their thoughts and prayers to Ryan at this uncertain time.</p> <p>We will explore an alternative developer.</p> <p>Magazine;</p> <p>MW reported that, following the merge of the January and February magazines he was editing the March magazine and requested articles for inclusion.</p> <p>RSC;</p> <p>MW informed the PCC that the postponed Local Mission Partners (LMP) meeting has not yet been rescheduled.</p>	<p>MJ</p>
<p>21.59</p>	<p>Clergy Report:</p> <p>The report had been circulated in advance. SoM reported that, in addition, she had conducted 3 funerals, 3 home communions and 3 Sunday services. SoM has been acting in place of the vicar due to his covid isolation and MW led a vote of thanks to SoM for covering the ministry in his absence.</p>	
<p>21.60</p>	<p>Resourcing Sustainable Church Update:</p> <p>The clergy conversations regarding LMP is broadening. The Vicar of Crowland is leaving and will not be replaced. Discussions are taking place to see whether Crowland will be included in the LMP with Market Deeping, Deeping St James, Deeping St Nicholas and the Ness Group.</p>	

	<p>The Vicar of Market Deeping is now on maternity leave and may be back around September time. The discussions that MW is engaged in regarding LMP are being viewed favourably by the Diocese.</p>	
<p>21.61</p>	<p>MAP Update: MW commented that KD was doing excellent work with Eco Church and recently held a successful bug hotel event on Saturday 5th Feb. He led the PCC in thanking KD for all of the work she is putting into Eco Church.</p> <p>NF asked if it is now clear who chairs each of the Teams and Groups. MW replied that that has not yet been fully identified.</p> <p>MW informed the PCC that the Music Committee (specifically to arrange musical events and concerts in the church and/or hall) has been included within our MAP records.</p>	
<p>21.62</p>	<p>Treasurers Report: Current acct £8158 Reserve acct (deposit) £17 (investment) £ 20729 total of £20746 Fabric acct (deposit) £1910 (investment) £ 10502 total of £12412 Organ acct (deposit) £3338 (investment) £4048 total of £7386 Chancel Trust (deposit) £6745 (investment) £11312 total of £18057</p> <p>In the current account there is the chapel fund, mission monies and wedding deposits of £1859. After adjusting for these items the current account becomes £6299</p> <p>It was proposed to pay £0 to Parish share at the present. This was agreed by all. This brings the total paid for the year to £0 compared with £0 paid at this time last year.</p> <p>The insurance premium is due and stands at £5597, hence no contribution to Parish Share, which is the same as last year, as stated above.</p> <p>NF asked how much the Chancel Fund paid towards the insurance. SiM replied that 1/3 of the premium comes from the Chancel Fund, which has been a long standing practice. Following questions about whether the Chancel Fund was still receiving contributions or would slowly diminish, SiM responded that the Chancel Fund receives approximately £6000/yr from endowment assets and grows in net at approximately £4000/yr, leaving funds available should major work be needed.</p> <p>Annual Accounts;</p>	

	<p>The accounts had been distributed in advance and SiM asked for any questions.</p> <p>TF asked if the money raised by special events (approximately £500) to fund the website would be ring-fenced going forward for when we do move forward with a new supplier. Yes.</p> <p>LG stated that she had heard of a legacy fund held for the children’s church work, possibly from some time ago. SiM replied that, as stated in the accounts on p8, the JP Buck’s Bequest (£3063) has been held since possibly as long ago as the 1930s for children’s work. A discussion ensued about how this could have been on the books every year but no one involved in Children’s Church/Sunday school in recent memory was aware of it.</p> <p>NF stated that there had been much discussion in the past as to whether the Children’s work should be self-funding or have a PCC budget and that this legacy was never mentioned. SiM again stated that it had been included in every annual statement of accounts.</p> <p>MW asked if there are any other specific legacy funds that might not be well known about. SiM replied that there are the Handley bequest standing at £8000 for the organ fund, the Rev Cooper Charity fund for the stained glass window maintenance and two endowments for the church fabric.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about how these funds could be unknown to the PCC for so long and never used. SiM reminded the PCC that they were in the accounts every year. MW requested that the accounts be amended now and going forward to include an indicator as to what these funds are for. SiM said that this was a change from usual practice but would be done. The auditor needs to be appraised of this.</p> <p>LG asked what the funds which show in the accounts as being held by the diocese are for. SiM replied that these are funds held as investments using the diocesan investment vehicle in order to get best return. They are our funds and available at short notice to be withdrawn.</p> <p>MW proposed that, with the amendment above, the Accounts be approved by the PCC. Agreed.</p> <p>SiM informed the PCC that the accounts had gone to the auditor. MW led the PCC in thanking SiM for all his work managing our accounts.</p>	SiM
21.63	<p>Reports from Teams: Mission Matters;</p> <p>The recent minutes had been circulated. CH, on behalf of VW, asked whether a cheque from MM funds had been sent to the Afghan Children’s charity, £250.00 from specific events held. SiM said that he had not sent it yet and asked if the MM had to ask the PCC for approval before funds were</p>	

	<p>committed. The PCC Agreed with sending £250 to the Afghan children’s charity.</p> <p>SiM asked confirmation that it was the practise that the MM committee recommends giving from MM funds to the PCC for approval. This was confirmed.</p> <p>Discussion also ensued about the types of charities we support. It was widely agreed that there are many cases of severe need in the UK and abroad and that the MM Committee is committed to supporting worthy causes. LG noted that all charities that we support should be registered and recognised charities and this was Agreed.</p> <p>CH stated that, in the past, the money from Lent Lunches has been given to WaterAid and asked to do so again, but also sharing this with a local Alzheimer’s group. Agreed</p> <p>JF informed the PCC that Daisy Manfield was coming to talk on Sunday on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. CH added that it was proposed to give £150 plus the collection from a dedicated plate, which would be left out and labelled. Agreed.</p>	
<p>21.64</p>	<p>Safeguarding (Including Youth Work contact database):</p> <p>TF asked if DBS checkers, Church Wardens (CW), Clergy, and PCC Secretary all received the recent diocesan e-mails regarding new safeguarding policies. Clergy and Secretary did receive them but the DBS checkers and CWs had not. Discussion followed as to how best to forward these messages, but it was agreed that the best method was to ensure that the diocesan distribution list was updated, rather than re-forwarding messages, which can lead to confusion.</p> <p>TF agreed to check that the correct people are on the distribution for these messages.</p> <p>The e-mails referred to Safeguarding, Recruitment and People Management (SRPM) policy. TF asked for a separate agenda item to be listed for next PCC meeting as he had only had time to briefly read the e-mails.</p>	<p>TF</p> <p>MJ</p>
<p>21.65</p>	<p>Covid Update:</p> <p>MW informed the PCC that the Clergy had discussed the approaching “Covid Freedom Day” with some reservations. The consensus, which was Agreed by the PCC was:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Not to go back to the common cup at communion, and to keep the ‘station’ for communion</p>	

	<p>Encourage masks but state that people can remove them if they wish</p> <p>Additionally the PCC decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with the queuing policy Maintain ventilation and hand sanitising Maintain the North Isle as distanced sitting, with masking Spray the church when services follow too closely <p>As there will be no contact tracing in place there is no need to take a register of attendees.</p> <p>TF asked about the policy for the church hall. It was agreed that that should follow the guidance for the church.</p> <p>CH stated that hall users were following Gov't advice and it was agreed that notices should still display our recommended guidelines to set a tone for behaviour. Many shops still request masks to be worn so it is reasonable for us to request, even if we cannot enforce.</p> <p>MW to check which notices are still relevant and amend or remove others.</p>	MW
21.66	<p>Annual Report:</p> <p>The report had been circulated in advance and some corrections have been submitted. MW informed the PCC that the annual report covers Jan1st 2021 to Dec 31st 2021 but that his sermon at the APCM covers everything from APCM 2021 to APCM 2022 and teams reports for the APCM should do also.</p> <p>MW proposed that that Annual Report, including the Statement of Accounts, be approved. Agreed.</p> <p>MW asked SiM if he would also pass on the first part of the Annual report to the auditor. SiM agreed, and asked MW to forward the final version.</p>	SiM MW
21.67	<p>AOB:</p> <p>MJ reminded the PCC that the APCM as dated 24th April and that the statutory notice must be displayed 6 weeks prior to that date. MW agreed to work with MJ to prepare the paperwork.</p> <p>MW alerted the PCC to the storm damage to wall and adjacent fencing on the south boundary of the churchyard. As the churchyard is closed, the responsibility belongs to South Kesteven District Council. Their representative, Mel Cummings, will be visiting on Monday 28th February to assess the damage.</p>	MW & MJ
	<p>Date of Next Meetings:</p> <p>23rd March, APCM 24th April</p>	
	The Meeting closed at 20.49pm.	