



Saint Michael and All Angels, Highworth with Sevenhampton and Inglesham

Minutes of PCC Meeting – Monday 15th March 2021, 7.45pm.
Held online via Zoom

Present: Bobby Bailey (BB), Julia Bishop (JB), Peter Croton (PC), Stephen Fasham (SF), Ruth Huband (RH), Pam Linfield (PL), Philip Sapwell (PS), Geoff Sowden (GS), Emily Swinerd (ES), Helen Weaver (HW) and Julie Miles (JM). Jamie Swinerd (JS) for item 11

Agenda	Action
1 Open in prayer Prayers by GS	
2 Apologies: None	
3 Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 16th November 2020 and Matters arising No matters arising.	
4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest None	
5 Safeguarding All need to continue to be aware and mindful of both young families and people living alone and supporting them.	
6 Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 accounts highlight a £4,219 deficit. Conversation needs to be had going forward to cover deficit in the future. • The DEC have continued their Sudan appeal (There is £435.81 in the DEC fund). Resolution: £250 to the appeal proposed by GS, seconded by PC with all in favour. 2021/3/001 • Discussion on whether to hold one service or individual services when asking for offerings for CAP, Christian Aid and the Church in the coming months. It was agreed individual services would be better. 	
7 Fabric JM requested a new WiFi timer for floodlighting now the administration has come to the office. The old timer is no longer accurate. There is £2,000 in the floodlighting account. Resolution: All in favour of purchasing and installing a new timer. 2021/3/002	JM
8 Clock Chimes The Church neighbour has sold their property and is hoping to move by the end of April. It was agreed by all to leave the quarter clock chimes off until they move out. The chimes will be completely off for 5-6 weeks from June due to the bell frame being painted.	
9 Transforming Church PS put together a paper regarding this which was circulated prior to the meeting. There is an online questionnaire for all to complete. ES will send to JM for circulation to the PCC. All agreed to St Michael's taking part in. GS, PS and ES will facilitate three groups, young people, those on the fringe of church and another group. PS will put together something for showing at a service and to go in the bulletin. People will be invited but the groups will also be open to all.	ES GS/PS/ ES PS

Signed _____ Date _____

	This needs to be completed by mid-April. The Diocese regards those under 25 as young.	
10	<p>Church opening plan for Services</p> <p>The plan is to return to Church on Easter Day. Names will be requested in advance with a few seats available for those who didn't confirm their attendance.</p> <p>The youth provision between St Michael's and St Leonard's is being discussed in the coming weeks as both churches have benefited from being together and to separate again may be difficult for the young people. Part of the discussion will be whether it is appropriate to gain the views of the children on whether they want to continue together.</p> <p>PL prayed for the meetings ahead and for the youth.</p> <p>Services will continue to be streamed but emphasis on encouraging people to return to church if they can.</p> <p>A notice will be put in the porch and announced at the start of church that the service is being streamed live. There are areas where people can sit and not be seen online.</p>	JM
11	<p>Children and youth plan</p> <p>Youth Worker - A paper was distributed prior to the meeting and Jamie Swinerd joined the meeting. The group will need meet again and talk in more detail about what is needed, approaching schools, especially Warneford with a vision/proposal, set out a job description, person specification and a statement of what we want the person to do.</p> <p>Churches often don't put together a good package for a youth worker and get a lot of fresh graduates where sometimes someone with a little more maturity and experience is required.</p> <p>The finances have shown we are consistently in deficit but it is felt this is a pastoral and crucial role ES, PS, GS and SF, and anyone else who would like to be involved will get together to discuss funds and funding opportunities. The new youth worker would need to start in line with schools so perhaps a September start.</p> <p>The 3 and Baptisms</p> <p>It is hoped The 3 will be up and running from 11th April after an outdoor service the day before. The outdoor service will be similar to the Christmas services. The 3 is aimed at people who aren't used to going to church and it is hoped people who aren't Christians might come and engage in faith as a family. It will be a family service and as children get older they may wish to join the 10.15am service.</p> <p>Still need to ensure there is a child and youth provision at the 10.15am service as teenagers aren't likely to go the afternoon service.</p> <p>Baptisms – ES was due to take over baptisms but this fell by the way side due to the pandemic. The plan is for a more individual focus rather than families meeting in groups. Lyn Sapwell has worked a lot on baptisms and visits and PS suggested speaking to her about her experiences. The initial Saturday morning surgery will continue as the initial contact. Individual families will then come to a church service and during the family news there will be a thanksgiving moment and the family can meet the wider church family. Then the family and friends attend the actual baptism. Families will be told the process rather than being told they must attend the thanksgiving. ES to update the office and provide a new policy document.</p> <p>ES prayed for the schools, children and for a youth worker.</p>	<p>JS/BF JV/PL</p> <p>ES/PS GS/SF</p> <p>ES</p>
12	<p>Churchyard plan</p> <p>Everyone happy in principle. The council meet tomorrow so GS has written to them today. The council have asked if a blossom tree can be planted in the churchyard in memory of those lost to Covid. Richard Williams and GS have been discussing a memorial service and it will be put to the council tomorrow to combine the tree planting with a memorial service.</p> <p>The ongoing issue of the council taking responsibility for maintaining the trees was discussed</p>	

	<p>and whether this would push the responsibility to the church even more. The young people have made it very clear that the environment is very important and want to do something about it and it was generally felt that if there are management bureaucratic issues involved then the adults should take on that to enable the youth to carry on. The youth have plans to involve the whole church in their environment plans.</p> <p>Resolution: All in agreement to wilding, memorial service and blossom tree planting.</p> <p>2021/3/003</p>	
13	<p>Deanery Synod Representatives BB and HW willing to stand as Synod reps.</p> <p>Resolution: Proposed by GS, seconded by Julia Bishop and all in favour. 2021/3/004</p> <p>GS gave thanks for them standing during this critical time within the Diocese. JM will complete the paperwork and inform the Diocese.</p>	JM
14	<p>APCM date Possibly 17th May with max 30 in church and online with the PCC meeting the following week. Final decision to be made soon.</p>	
15	<p>AOB Brief discussion about getting an electronic card reader for in church. People often have a card rather than cash and with social distancing etc likely to continue and people are used to using contactless now it may be an optimum time to purchase one. SF to look at options again.</p>	SF
16	<p>Correspondence A short video from Archdeacon Christopher thanking the Parish for our continued support of the Diocese was watched.</p> <p>Newburgh House is devastated over resident Mary Gadd's passing. Mary has been the life and sole at Newburgh House for over 20 years. Prayers for Mary and other members of the congregation recovering from illness and operations were said.</p>	
14	<p>Grace and Close</p>	
	<p>Next Standing Committee meeting is on Monday 19th April. Next Meeting of PCC to be confirmed 17th or 24th May.</p> <p>Please pass apologies to the PCC Secretary in advance of the meeting and raise AOB 10 days before the meeting so it can be added to the agenda</p>	

Addendum

Email from Highworth Town Council to Geoff Sowden on 19th March 2021:

"Hi Geoff,

I can confirm Councillors approved the request to re-wild an area of the Churchyard but if the trial was not successful the area would be returned to its original state.

Councillors unanimously supported the proposal of a Community Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service.

Kind regards
Deanne Rose
Acting Town Clerk
Highworth Town Council"