



**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Held via Zoom on 13th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Canon Roy Woodhams (Chair), Michael Roberts, Susan Clarke, Paul Jenkins, Georgina Francis, Joan Connolly, Sandra Keeping, Margie Nursey, Bryn Jones, Jane Etherington, Revd Tim Clifford Hill, Maurice Bowles, Katherine Tuck, Emily Clark, Nicola Craven-Smith, Revd Rutton Viccajee, Frank Sole, Tim Oxborough, Judy Wedderspoon, Brian Boxall

Apologies: Rogan Dixon, Alan Walton, Joan Connolly

Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer. He reminded us that this meeting was to focus entirely on the matter of Safeguarding. The September minutes would be carried forward to the next meeting, as would any other items of business, apart from:

1. Appointment of a Foundation Governor for Cranleigh C of E Primary School. Tim Clifford-Hill was appointed (proposed by Maurice, seconded by Bryn, unanimously agreed).
2. Judy Wedderspoon's PTO Renewal was unanimously agreed (proposed by Frank, seconded by Margie). Formal wording of the proposal: 'The PCC of St Nicolas Cranleigh support the Rector, The Revd Canon Roy Woodhams, in his request that Mrs Judy Wedderspoon's Permission to Officiate be renewed to enable her to continue her ministry as a Lay Minister (Reader) in this parish for a further year.'

Safeguarding

Brian announced that every member of the PCC had completed the Basic Safeguarding Course and thanked everyone for their commitment. He emphasized that it was important to be kept aware of our responsibility for safeguarding and to think about the implications for St Nicolas'. We must never be complacent.

Brian said that we need to answer two questions:

1. Has the PCC implemented action to raise awareness and educate the Christian community about safeguarding?

2. Has the PCC implemented action to minimize the risk of harm or abuse to children and vulnerable adults?

Katherine drew our attention to a small card that had been produced by the Mothers' Union and distributed to all their members, summarizing the main issues to do with safeguarding. She wondered whether something similar could be produced for our church members.

Brian divided the PCC members present into four 'breakout' groups, to discuss three questions and report back to the full meeting.

Question 1. What do we do that demonstrates to all that we are a safe church?

Feedback from Gp 1. This is difficult to demonstrate. There could be a message on the screen in church and on the notice sheet.

Gp 2. Easier to communicate to church members; more difficult to demonstrate to all. PCC minutes available on website and in folder at back of church, with record of safeguarding discussions. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

Gp 3. Post fresh info on church notice boards. Display names of welcomers and ensure that all welcomers are properly trained. For children's activities ensure correct adult/ child ratios. For Church Rooms bookings ensure that groups sharing the premises are appropriately matched. The group favoured the MU card: 'This is what we do and what you should do if you have a concern.'

Gp 4. We must be careful to ensure that DBS checks are carried out where necessary and risk assessments always done thoroughly. We need to advertise what we are doing with, e.g., posters.

Brian commented that a culture of safeguarding is needed. A church with an obvious commitment to safeguarding acts as a deterrent to would-be offenders. Many people don't go to the website, but a reminder on the screen would be useful. Our notice board is too small: a bigger one is needed to take a poster. Where should this be? Roy asked for this to be put on a future agenda.

Question 2. Are we an inclusive church?

Feedback from Gp 4. One member felt strongly that we are not inclusive,

in the sense that there are different cliques and there is a lack of understanding of the needs of young families. Having different services with different congregations is not inclusive. We might welcome all comers, but are we sufficiently aware of the possibility of people being tempted to harm or abuse those who are vulnerable?

Gp 2. We are not inclusive enough of the 20-30 age group and we don't give enough consideration to those who are disabled. For example, it's not easy for those with a walking frame to negotiate the steps at the south door. (This must be addressed at a future meeting.)

Gp 1. Are we inclusive enough in our preaching? In speaking about forgiveness are preachers aware that there might be someone in the congregation who has experienced abuse?

Gp 3. In thinking about the needs of those who are disabled, are there people in the congregation who have poor eyesight and can't read the words on the screen? Every individual needs to feel included. Do we have a positive attitude towards children in church (or at a church activity)? Roy asked for a discussion on 'Inclusive Church' to be put on a future agenda.

Question 3. What can we do in the future to ensure that safeguarding is part of the culture of our church? Roy referred to the keeping of Safeguarding Sunday and said that this should be an annual event.

Summary of Action Points

- For a future meeting:
 - Inclusive Church
 - Access by south door
 - Notice board
- Message on screen and on weekly notice sheet
- Katherine Tuck to work on adapting MU card
- Annual Safeguarding Sunday – ? 2nd Sunday in October
- June PCC Meeting each year to focus on Safeguarding
- Each new PCC member to be required to do the Basic Safeguarding training and to be advised of this before they accept the role

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17th November 2021 (the THIRD Wednesday in November) at 7.30 p.m.

