



**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Held in the Church Rooms on Wed 17 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

**1 Welcome:** Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and said the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies:** Frank Sole, Tim Oxborough, Katherine Tuck, Alan Walton

**3 Minutes:** A minor correction was made to the September minutes and an addition, requested by Bryn, under AOB. These minutes and the minutes of the October meeting were then approved (proposed by Susan and seconded by Mike) and signed.

Further to Bryn's suggestion that the Cranleigh Carnival should be used as an opportunity to grow the congregation, Roy stressed the importance of the church being involved in community events and expressed disappointment that we did not lay a wreath at the war memorial service on Remembrance Sunday.

**4 Safeguarding:** Nothing to report

**5 Treasurer:**

Please see Rogan's Finance Report, already circulated.

Rogan said that we are financially stable and should be in a reasonable position at the end of the year. This is partly due to the grant from Waverley Borough Council.

Roy's recital made over £1000 for the church, and Susan expressed our thanks to him for putting it on. A number of on-line donations have been received since the recital. Roy commented that a series of

summer concerts was being planned for 2022, mainly on the third Saturday of each month.

Rogan said that any balance remaining in the General Fund at the end of the year should be transferred into the new designated (unrestricted) Buildings Fund and this received PCC approval – proposed by Rogan, seconded by Maurice. All in favour.

The budget for 2022 will be presented for approval at the January meeting of the PCC and members were asked to email or telephone Rogan before the end of December with anything they want included (see Rogan's email of 17<sup>th</sup> November).

Rogan said that a replacement easy-to-use 'donate' button linked to the Charities Aid Foundation will continue to provide the facility for on-line giving, as with the previous provider.

## **6 Update on Caring, Sharing and Daring:**

**Caring:** Pastoral Care posters are being planned – to be displayed from the beginning of Advent.

**Sharing:** Mike listed briefly:- links with schools (also part of Emily's role); engaging people in volunteering; encouraging small groups; establishing a Bible course; prayer; social events (working with the Social Team); stewardship (working with the Finance Team).

Roy urged the Caring and Sharing groups to meet again before the next PCC meeting.

**Daring:** Roy had sent out to PCC members in advance a paper entitled 'Sunday Worship Patterns January – June 2022.' He said that he and the Team had been responsive to people's comments and tried to balance different opinions. However, not everyone would be happy! The challenge of balancing the needs of different traditions and age groups is not new – it long pre-dates the Covid lockdown.

Roy talked us through the paper, explaining both the rationale and the details of the proposed service pattern. See Daring Team paper.

To enhance the contemporary worship, there would need to be improved AV provision in St Andrews Room. The cost of this will be included in the 2022 budget.

Bryn expressed concern over running concurrent services, for the following reasons: it would create a split in the church; it would mean that the children and young people would not be part of communion; the church rooms are too small to gather in an effective manner.

Bryn also felt that the 4 o'clock service had been inconsistent; in his view, colouring in was not a fulfilling use of the children's time. The sermons, although fulfilling on the whole, were not aimed at families. He commented that people were less likely to attend a contemporary service if they had to attend a traditional church service first.

It was pointed out that this proposed new arrangement would provide us with an opportunity to re-introduce the preparation of children to receive communion. Roy said that we also need to offer a course of preparation for confirmation.

Susan said that we should think carefully about what we should call the new form of service. This will be addressed, with other details, by the Daring Team at their next meeting.

Responding to the recommendation that evening services should take place twice a month, Judy offered personally to lead Evensong on the intervening Sundays – particularly so that the psalms could be more widely used. Rutton agreed that we don't use the psalms often enough. Roy reminded us that a psalm is said each morning at 8 a.m. Morning Prayer. He also suggested that we could sometimes sing a psalm at Parish Communion instead of the gradual hymn. Roy thanked Judy for her offer, but felt that there was no demand for an evening service every week.

Jane asked whether 6.00 p.m. would be a better time for the service than 6.30, and this suggestion was adopted.

Bryn questioned whether six months was too long a period for an experimental pattern of services, but Roy explained that, for practical reasons it couldn't really be shorter. However it was agreed that there could be a mid-point review in March.

Margie asked whether communion in both kinds could be re-introduced, but Roy felt that with Covid cases still relatively high it was not the right time to do this; indeed, in churches where this had been done it had not proved popular.

Roy concluded by proposing that we adopt the Worship Pattern recommended by the Daring Team, with the evening services at 6.00 p.m. instead of 6.30 and with an interim review at the March meeting of the PCC. This was seconded by Joan and passed unanimously.

## **7 Churchwarden's Report: Susan**

Susan passed round a 'Welcome' card, which had just been produced, to be left on the pews for newcomers to pick up. This was well received.

A First Aid course would be arranged, through St John Ambulance, early in the new year. Georgie and Rutton declared that they had received First Aid training, and Susan was keen to know of anyone else who was trained.

Referring to the Volunteering questionnaire, Susan said that there had been thirty responses, and all of these had been followed up.

The Covid regulations for St Nicolas were under constant review.

## **Churchwarden's Report: Mike**

We need to consider further enhancement of the AV system in church, and will obtain a quote for a new system in St Andrews Room.

The stonework around the window at the west end of the north aisle is in need of repair. It was agreed that this work should be carried out and that a faculty should be applied for as part of the process to initiate works (proposed by Mike, seconded by Bryn). All in favour.

## **8 Reports from PCC Teams**

**Outreach & Mission:** Following a meeting of the Team on 15<sup>th</sup> November, Mike had circulated their proposal for Mission Giving 2021. The same causes as in 2020 would be supported in 2021. However, in 2022 there would be a review of the causes supported, as well as continuing to include 'local' causes alongside others. Mike proposed, and Maurice seconded, that the 2021 proposal (a) and proposal (b) be added together, to give exactly the same figures for Mission Giving as in 2020. All were in favour.

**Social Team:** Sandra drew attention to the minutes of the Social Team dated 4<sup>th</sup> October and listed the events already planned for 2022.

**Buildings Team:** The minutes of the Building Team had already been circulated. No further comment was required.

## **9 Young People's Minister's Report**

Emily gave an update, based on her report previously circulated. She is particularly looking for volunteers to help with the groups she would like to run.

## **10 Rector's Business**

Church School. Good things are happening at our church school. The headteacher Gill Leadbetter-Sims has grasped the problems and is transforming the school. Roy became the interim Chair of Governors in September, on the departure of the previous Chair and Vice-chair – both moving away at the same time. Sandra and Tim C-H are the foundation governors appointed by the PCC. It is hoped that the school and church will work more closely together.

Rogan suggested that we give the school an annual donation as part of our outward giving and it was agreed that in January we will pass a motion to make a donation of £500 as part of our 2022 giving.

Roy said that it is traditional for a church, when it sends an ordinand into training, to give him/her some financial support. The proposal was made by Rogan and seconded by Tim C-H that we send Gabrielle a 'book grant' of £250 per annum. To comply with the regulations we will need to ask her to submit her receipts. The motion was carried, with all in favour.

Roy asked Nicola to speak about updating the admin system in the church office. She would like to purchase Churchdesk, which is very user-friendly and brings everything together into one central system. It includes a new website. It has been recommended to Roy by another parish which has begun to use it. At a cost of just over £1000 per annum, it was proposed by Maurice and seconded by Rogan that we go ahead and purchase Churchdesk. All were in favour.

**11 Any Other Business:** Emily announced that she will be ordering a set of lanyards for the various officials and volunteers to wear.

**12 Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, 7.30 p.m.  
Coffee/tea will be available before the meeting – organised by Maurice.

The meeting ended with The Grace at 9.45 p.m.