



**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Held via Zoom on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Canon Roy Woodhams (Chair), Katherine Tuck, Michael Roberts, Paul Jenkins, Gabrielle Clarke, Maurice Bowles, Susan Clarke, Howard Cherry, Georgina Francis, Frank Sole, Paul Dyer, Joan Connolly, Sandra Keeping, Margie Nursey, Judith Wedderspoon, Tim Oxborough, Rogan Dixon, Alan Walton, Bryn Jones, Jane Etherington, Revd Tim Clifford Hill, Revd Rutton Viccajee. Revd Tricia Hislop and Brian Boxall were present as guests.

**Apologies:** Nicola Craven-Smith

**1** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

**2 Minutes:** With the insertion of the year 2021 in the heading and the correction of Rogan's description to 'qualified accountant' (final page, first paragraph, penultimate line), the Minutes of the Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were agreed unanimously – proposed by Mike Roberts, seconded by Frank Sole. There were no matters arising.

**3 Election of Statutory Officers:** The following were elected unanimously:- Vice Chair, Mike Roberts (proposed by Roy, seconded by Margie Nursey). Standing Committee, Rector, 2 Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary & Sandra Keeping (proposed by Roy, seconded by Maurice Bowles). Hon Treasurer, Rogan Dixon (proposed by Mike Roberts, seconded by Frank Sole). Hon Secretary, Paul Jenkins (proposed by Susan Clarke, seconded by Margie Nursey).

Roy proposed and Mike Roberts seconded the proposal that Rogan Dixon and Paul Jenkins be co-opted to the PCC with voting rights. All in favour.

#### **4 St Nicolas Post Pandemic:**

Roy asked the co-ordinators of each team (Caring, Sharing and Daring) to outline the main points of action arising from their discussions.

#### **Caring Team – Co-ordinators Tim & Tricia**

Five points that the team feels it would be good to act upon:-

##### 1) Support the Community Hub

This is a new ecumenical venture, started by Cranleigh Methodist Church. Members of all the churches in Cranleigh are coming together to help make the new extension at the Methodist Church a hub for the community. A place where people of all faiths and none can meet for coffee and discussion. Tim is on the working group for this. The working group's first meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

##### 2) Make Pastoral Care more obvious

Use the church noticeboards to advertise the pastoral care services we can provide (including, pastoral visiting, home communions, listening etc.).

##### 3) Pastoral Assistants and Training

The Pastoral Assistants are Linda King, Celia Roberts, Sally Jones, Margie Nursey, Sue Ansell, Sue Walker, Colin Tilbury and Michael Wild. We should seek out new Pastoral Assistants and give them 'in-house' training. The Pastoral Assistant training that the diocese used to give has recently been suspended.

##### 4) Local Radio and Magazines

Can we use Cranleigh Community Radio and local magazines to bring discussions about faith to the village community?

##### 5) Gate Café

The PCC have asked the Caring Team to move forward with plans to set up the Gate Café.

#### **Sharing Team – Co-ordinators Mike & Rutton**

A list of seven propositions had already been circulated (see document attached to these minutes) – summarised as follows:-

- 1) Develop and grow small groups. Traditional home groups; children's and young people's groups (which have thrived during the pandemic via Zoom); newcomers' groups; groups for prayer and Bible study. Groups for young families.
- 2) Relationship with schools. An important part of our mission is introducing children to the Christian Faith. Part of the Youth Minister's role, supported by lay volunteers.
- 3) Volunteering. This is all about using our talents. We are all called to a life of discipleship and have different gifts to offer.
- 4) Outreach Programme. Sharing the Gospel by running (e.g.) an Alpha course for the community, perhaps shared with the other churches.
- 5) Prayer. All our planned activities should be based on prayer. We need to establish a new impetus and encourage the use of prayer opportunities and resources that already exist.
- 6) Social events. An important way of helping church members to get to know one another better and of sharing with the wider community.
- 7) Time and money. Plan a Stewardship Campaign – a review of our giving of Time & Talents and Money.

In relation to 'Small Groups' Howard pointed out that there are house groups already in existence – in fact they have been meeting for years. No doubt they will meet up again once the lockdown has ended.

The idea of a lychgate café was supported by both the caring and the sharing team. It was agreed that it would be taken on by the caring team (with help from volunteers), with no ulterior motive other than to meet people and offer them friendship as they pass by.

Rogan asked how often the church is open during the week, and Roy replied that normally it is open all day, every day. This will be the case once again after the lockdown, except that it will have to be closed while the new lighting is being installed.

## **5. Safeguarding:**

Brian Boxall had joined the meeting as Safeguarding Officer. In order not to detain him any longer than necessary, the Chairman brought forward this item on the agenda.

Brian stated that at this first meeting after the APCM the PCC has to agree the Policy Statement prepared by the Diocese. This is also an opportunity for the new PCC members to be introduced to their role regarding safeguarding. The Statement of Safeguarding Policy is intended to make St Nicolas Church a safer place for all – adults and children alike. The Document is to be displayed in the church and in the church rooms. Brian took us through the Document on the screen.

The Policy Statement was adopted by the PCC, with all in favour (proposed by Susan Clarke, seconded by Bryn Jones).

Brian encouraged everyone to do awareness training – 45 minutes on the diocesan website. He asked us to let him know when we have done this. He also recommended that all PCC members have DBS checks, and would arrange for this to be done.

Both Rutton and Alan were able to point to situations in previous parishes where safeguarding had been an issue, and Rutton emphasised the need for training and vigilance.

## **4 contd. Daring Team. Co-ordinators Roy, Gabrielle & Katherine**

A list of the priorities, based on the voting on the original questionnaire and agreed by the group had already been circulated (see document attached to these minutes).

Roy commented that this was the most difficult and least tangible of the three areas of discussion. Everything identified was important, but some things were ranked lower because they will have to be done when the time is right. To his surprise, the priority that gained least points in the original questionnaire was the one about planning for secure funding, but he assured the PCC that the Finance Team have this well in hand.

Commenting on the list of priorities, Roy said that the first two – a review of worship patterns and making our buildings fit for purpose – are massive issues. Any work on the buildings (including the Church Rooms) would obviously be very expensive. The involvement of young people (ranked 4<sup>th</sup>) is important and easier to achieve – as are the next two, releasing the gifts of the laity and welcoming new people. He said that people had had differing experiences of welcome when they first came to St Nicolas – some good and some not so good. He was pleased that several of the current members of the PCC are relative newcomers.

Howard expressed his fury that, in his view, financial security had not been put first. He claimed that the church is dying in terms of numbers, because people are getting older and they are not being replaced by the younger generation. He said we are all talking about things we can't afford.

Roy took issue with Howard over his comment about the church dying. He said that he could see many signs of growth and was optimistic about the future. Funding is obviously important, but, as he had already assured us, the Finance Team were working on this – to relaunch the funding programme that was already planned and about to begin before the first lockdown.

Rogan said that he is encouraged by what he has seen so far. In his opinion, patterns of worship, people and buildings are the main priorities, with finance running alongside everything we do. Clearly the more people we have, the better our financial support.

Susan agreed, pointing out that we always accept the fact that we need to fund everything we do. Moreover, several of the priorities identified don't require extra funding.

Howard suggested that (apart from funding) our priority should be to maintain what we do for older people and improve what we do for younger people. Roy agreed.

Katherine, agreeing with Rogan, insisted that the church is not a business. The church is about people, and the funding goes alongside everything we do.

Roy summed up by proposing that the three teams become 'implementation teams' and that they go away to develop action plans, based on their agreed priorities. The coordinators should ascertain whether current members wish to continue, and co-opt new members where appropriate. The proposal was seconded by Tim C-H and passed by 21 in favour and 1 against. Roy said that he would arrange a meeting of the team co-ordinators soon.

#### **6. Rector's Business:**

Roy announced that Gabrielle has officially given notice of her resignation. She will be leaving in the summer to begin her course at Ridley Hall, Cambridge in September. Roy wished her well in her new venture. An advertisement has been placed for a new Young People's Minister and interviews are likely to take place next month. The PCC agreed that Roy could make an appointment (proposed by Mike Roberts, seconded by Susan Clarke).

Roy suggested that the June meeting of the PCC should be a business meeting, possibly including an update from the Caring, Sharing and Daring teams. We would meet live in church, socially distanced, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. This was agreed unanimously (proposed by Mike Roberts, seconded by Katherine Tuck).

***However, it later emerged that both Rogan and Paul will be away on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting has therefore been re-scheduled for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The church will be closed for the installation of the new lighting, so please wait for the announcement of where the meeting will be held.***

#### **7. Any Other Business:**

Sandra announced that, all being well, the church fete will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00 a.m. Much has already been arranged by the committee members, Sandra, Frank Sole and Jackie Vale. She will be appealing for volunteers to help. If social distancing is still required, the fete will have to be cancelled. The Social Committee have also arranged for 'Picnic in the Park' to go ahead on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Tickets will need to be requested from the church office, by email or telephone.

Susan commented that it is good that both events are outdoors. She asked for fresh ideas for social events and commented on the

importance of social events, both for the whole church family and for our outreach to the wider community.

For the date of the next meeting see under 'Rector's Business'.

The meeting ended with The Grace at 8.40 p.m.