



**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Held via Zoom on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Canon Roy Woodhams (Chair), Michael Roberts, Susan Clarke, Paul Jenkins, Rogan Dixon, Gabrielle Clarke, Georgina Francis, Frank Sole, Paul Dyer, Joan Connolly, Sandra Keeping, Margie Nursey, Judith Wedderspoon, Tim Oxborough, Alan Walton, Bryn Jones, Jane Etherington, Revd Tim Clifford Hill

Apologies: Nicola Craven-Smith, Rev Rutton Viccajee, Maurice Bowles, Katherine Tuck (joined mid-meeting)

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

2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting 12th May 2021 were approved unanimously – proposed by Margie Nursey, seconded by Judy Wedderspoon. There were no matters arising.

3. Safeguarding:

Brian Boxall has asked that all PCC members complete the initial safeguarding training before our September PCC meeting. This is online training that we can access through the Diocesan website. Once we have completed the course we are asked to send a copy of our certificate and completion date to Brian: safeguarding@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk Brian will come to the PCC in September or October to lead a discussion based on this training.

Roy added that the requirement for training applies to those who have not done the course within the last three years. We should check with Brian if we are not sure.

4. Treasurer:

Rogan introduced himself and referred to his Finance Report (attached). The report demonstrates his method and thinking about the way forward. He said that, although the budget shows a deficit, we could now expect a surplus of almost £5000, thanks to two grants from Waverley Borough Council (Government support during the pandemic).

Frank Sole has agreed to take over as Planned Giving Secretary and will ensure that we receive all the Gift Aid recovery due to us.

Rogan explained that we currently have two main funds, the General Fund and the Restricted Fund. The latter is for specific building projects (e.g. the lighting scheme). He suggested that we should set up another designated fund for unrestricted building repairs - to the Church, Parish Rooms or Orchard Gardens - which the PCC could use as necessary. We need to ensure that our day-to-day funds are at least breaking even.

Alan commented that the extra fund was a good idea. We shouldn't have all our eggs in one basket, as this wouldn't look good if, for example, we were ever to apply for a grant.

Replying to two questions about the Finance Report, Rogan said that he would find out from Jane Mant what comes under 'unplanned giving'. The 'bookstall' mentioned in the report refers to the Bible Notes bought and sold on to church members by Diana Trent and Michael Wild.

Roy thanked Rogan for his report. He said that as the new Treasurer he needs to shape the job, and it is great to see that he is doing just that.

5. Update on Caring, Sharing and Daring:

Caring. Referring to the five points of action that he identified at the last meeting, Tim reported as follows:

- a) Support the Community Hub. The working group is due to have another meeting in July. Meanwhile Toddler Praise has been started and is doing well.
- b) Make Pastoral Care more obvious. With Gabrielle, who designs many of our posters, leaving, a professional graphic designer, Gary Shacklady, has offered his services free of charge.
- c) Pastoral Assistants and Training. Tricia is working on this.
- d) Tim has featured on Local Radio, talking about the church during the pandemic. The recording will be made available, and Nicola will mention this in the weekly new sheet.
- e) Gate Café. Still to be developed. Although the Caring group has taken this on, it was agreed that its purpose is both to care and to share.

Sharing. The group has yet to meet, following the May meeting of the PCC. At this point, Toddler Praise was mentioned. This is now 'up and running' at the Methodist Church, run by Anne Beresford and assisted by Gabrielle and volunteers from the Methodist Church and St Nicolas. The

aim of Toddler Praise is both caring and sharing the gospel, and the sessions include a mixture of familiar songs and Christian songs. Advertising is important – most people coming had heard about it by word of mouth or through Facebook.

Daring. Little progress so far because it has been a very busy and challenging few weeks since the May meeting. The future pattern of services is probably the most difficult issue. The original questionnaire produced many different ideas and opinions and so far there is no common agreement. Maybe we should try a particular arrangement for four months from September and something different for the following four months. Roy said that he would send out a proposal to the Daring group by email and invite their response in order to arrive at a way forward.

Mike said that we need to show people that we are in the process of discussion, and he encouraged us all to pray about this.

Roy took the opportunity to thank Mike for all the extra work he has been doing, particularly in the areas of technology and finance during the last few weeks.

6. Churchwarden's Report: Mike

Churchyard

The pre-circulated note and covering email describe possible proposed steps to be taken towards a St Nicolas' response to the ecology and climate debate. In addition, all churches are being encouraged to adopt 'green' policies, otherwise known as becoming an Eco Church. One of the causes that St Nicolas is supporting as part of its outward giving is A Rocha UK. Their website espouses 'facilitating an Eco Church movement of more than 3,100 local churches in England and Wales, learning how to care for creation in all they do.' The A Rocha UK website covers a wide range of ecology related issues.

Cynthia Plewman and a small band of volunteers meet each Wednesday at 2.00 p.m. to deal with Churchyard care other than grass cutting. The note from Cynthia Plewman describes possibilities. The PCC are asked to support the finding of a balanced approach that maintains an apparently cared for churchyard alongside developmental ideas for sustaining wild flowers and habitats for small mammals. The Churchyard so becomes a resource that the local community can enjoy, as well as an educational resource for the local schools. There are some wilding areas already. What needs to be settled is how much further this should go.

The extent to which further change can be effected needs a coming together between the two Churchyard care groups. The Churchwardens will facilitate this discussion.

One concern was expressed about the suggestion to put in a small pond, and whether this could be a safety hazard. Also it was felt that the point about inappropriate items left on the garden of remembrance stone markers being removed did not recognise that such items help the bereaved. Alan Walton said that he would obtain a copy of a policy on such matters from his previous church for us to consider.

GDPR

The annual audit is underway to ensure that the personal detail and preferences affecting data of Church members held by St Nicolas, is accurately and securely held.

Church Rooms

Since the Buildings Team last met, both boilers have been replaced, as they had become more and more unreliable, one in fact unable to be repaired after 14 years. However, further cost has been incurred due to an under-floor leak. This has required fresh pipework above floor level to be installed. This may not happen until September.

Church Lighting

This continues apace, with a series of funerals causing time to be lost. The estimated completion time is mid July 2021.

Elmbridge Village Services

Depending on Government decisions on the easing of lockdown, 19th July 2021, St Nicolas services at Elmbridge are planned to re-start in August. A new step is that the Methodist Church is planning to hold a service each month with the possibility of a joint Praise service when there is a 5th Tuesday in a month.

Seating Arrangements in Church

The rule of 6 has been applied at all services and events in church with a new limit of 93 persons attending, excluding the clergy officiating and a choir. Mask wearing and no congregational singing remains in place.

Churchwarden's Report: Susan

Susan thanked everyone for welcoming her as our new Churchwarden, and especially Mike for his support. She said that she had assumed

responsibility for the rotas and seating plans and thanked all the volunteer stewards. She will be looking in due course for some additional volunteers to serve as welcomers and sidespeople.

Susan thanked Celia Jenkins and her team of cleaners for keeping the church clean, especially at this time when work is being done in the church.

Commenting on the new seating arrangement, she expressed the hope that we will soon be able to sit where we want.

7. PCC Teams

The list has been revised, and we are asked to let Susan know if any changes need to be made. The 1170 Team is not a part of the PCC and will be removed from the list.

8. Reports from PCC Teams

The Finance Team Report was covered under Item 4.

The Buildings Team Report was covered under Item 6.

Social Team. Sandra reported that 'Picnic in the Park' has been postponed to Sunday 29th August, 5.00 p.m. It has been difficult to organize, and we are all encouraged to buy tickets and attend.

It is hoped that the Harvest Lunch will be able to go ahead.

The Rectory Fete has been postponed to Saturday 21st August, which means that a number of helpers will no longer be available. New volunteers are needed to run stalls and to help set up the day before. So far it has not been possible to arrange anything for the arena.

Georgie offered to run some children's activities, and to recruit a few friends to help her.

C of E School. Sandra, who has recently become a governor at the school, has visited recently and met the head. They agreed that a) the church and the school should have as close a relationship as possible, with (e.g.) some of the children taking an active part in regular church services; b) school displays could be put up in church when they are no longer needed in the school; c) knitted characters could be made, to be used in school for acting out Bible stories.

9. Young People's Minister's Report

Commenting on the Mentoring Project at Glebelands School, Gabrielle reported that The Surrey Care Trust have offered to take it on; that includes ongoing training and support for the mentors. The lady who will

be coordinating our team is called Helen Placito. The school want the project to be re-started, however they first need to find a member of staff who will co-ordinate it. It was agreed that the mental health of young people is a big issue at this time. Roy will pursue this project when Gabrielle leaves.

10. Rector's Business

On behalf of the PCC Roy thanked Gabrielle for her four years at St Nicolas and wished her well for the future. Her last service at St Nicolas will be on Sunday 15th August at 11.00 a.m.

The Parish Visit to Iona, planned for autumn 2020 and twice postponed, will hopefully take place this September. The PCC gave their full agreement and support (proposed by Mike, seconded by Rogan). Rutton is to be seconded to Dunsfold & Hascombe while Ian Maslin is off sick.

Tim is to be ordained priest in Guildford Cathedral on Saturday 3rd July and will preside at the Eucharist for the first time in St Nicolas on Sunday 4th July at 11.00 a.m.

The deadline for applications for the post of Young People's Minister has been extended. So far there has been one expression of interest.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
Hopefully a live meeting, but venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended with The Grace at 8.50 p.m.