



Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Held in the Church Rooms on Wed 14th June 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Roy Woodhams (Chair), Susan Clarke, Paul Jenkins, Margie Nursey, Revd Tim Clifford Hill, Jane Etherington, Sue Knight, Alan Walton, Maurice Bowles, Sandra Keeping, Bryn Jones, Katherine Tuck, Steff Shepherd, Nicola Craven-Smith. Brian Boxall attended the meeting as Safeguarding Officer and Claire Oxborough as Leader of the Discovery Service.

1 Welcome: Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer. He gave a special welcome to Brian Boxall and Claire Oxborough who had been specially invited.

2 Apologies: Rogan Dixon, Revd Rutton Viccajee, Joan Connolly, John Watson

3 Safeguarding

Brian handed out and introduced three documents: 1) Statement of Safeguarding Policy; 2) Know your Safeguarding Role; 3) Who needs to do what training...

The Statement of Safeguarding Policy was adopted (proposed by Katherine and seconded by Bryn) and signed by the Chairman, and will be displayed on the church notice boards.

PCC members were urged to read Documents 2 and 3 and to complete the statutory Foundation and Domestic Abuse Training as necessary. This training needs to be refreshed every three years.

We were reminded that any incident must be reported within 24 hours – or immediately if it appears to be urgent (see Document ‘Responding Promptly to Every Safeguarding Concern or Allegation’).

A further document was distributed, ‘Church Activities on the Dashboard’. We are on Level 2 of the Dashboard and need eventually to get to Level 3. All church activities agreed by the PCC have to be

included, with details of insurance and risk assessment. A question was asked about church activities which take place in people's homes or at Elmbridge, and Roy said that we need to check on this. He will take it to the next churchwarden's meeting and we will review again at the September PCC meeting.

Susan suggested that the notices containing essential information about safeguarding should be more prominent and in larger font. They could perhaps include photographs of Brian and Katherine and be displayed as posters. Nicola has noted this and will take action.

4 Ministry to Families and Young People

In introducing this item Roy reminded us that it was the first of three controversial issues – the other two being Sunday Services and the Car Park. All three issues have attracted strong feelings, and Roy requested that, although opinions will differ, we remain calm and gracious towards one another, in our discussions and the decisions we make. All are important issues, but we mustn't become divided.

Roy clarified that at the next PCC meeting, when a decision is to be taken on the Car Park, members can only vote if they attend the meeting. However, if they are unable to attend in person they can vote if they apply to attend via Zoom.

Roy paid tribute to the volunteers who have stepped forward since Emily's departure to maintain some of the children's activities. However we have been left with a 'hole'. On paper we can't afford to pay for another member of staff, but in reality we can't afford not to. We have to invest in Young People's Ministry.

Members were asked to form groups of three to spend a few minutes sharing any thoughts about the way forward. Feedback included the following points:

An Outreach Minister might be appointed, with a specific responsibility for families – perhaps on a three-year contract and with a six-month period of probation.

Someone with experience and with a real vision would be preferred – although a younger person might appeal more to young families.

We could consider one or two part-timers – perhaps sharing with another parish or with the other churches in Cranleigh.

As well as considering the appointment of an Outreach Minister, we should also be adopting a higher profile at village events and in schools and young people's organisations.

We must remember that as trustees we are responsible for the finances of the parish. Already for this year we have agreed a deficit budget. Could we establish a special project for church members to finance Outreach in the parish? It was pointed out that, according to the Diocese, a starting salary for a full-time minister would be around £28K.

Roy summed up the general feeling – that we should consider advertising for an outreach minister, with a definite job description, perhaps sharing with another parish. A group from the PCC will take this forward – namely Roy, Claire, Bryn, Steff, Susan and Tim. They will try to meet before the July PCC meeting, or if not, in time for the September meeting. Roy will speak to the Finance Team, who have a meeting arranged for the end of June.

5 Sunday Services

Roy said that we now have a 'new normal' following the lockdown and he is not seeking any major changes. However, we did agree that we would review the situation after a year. The 11.30 Discovery Service has become an established feature, and has achieved limited success. It now needs further development and expansion to attract more families.

The PCC resumed their discussion in groups of three and reported back with the following points:

The All-age worship on the first and third Sundays is popular with many.

The overall number coming to church each Sunday is nearly back to pre-Covid levels. Some have not returned, and we have to accept this.

We mustn't expect everyone to like the same style of worship. It is right that we provide variety and cater for the needs of all.

The church doesn't exist purely for its own members. We must think of the needs of newcomers. With this in mind, we must have clear and detailed information available, describing our pattern of

worship and pointing people to the services they might prefer. We need to follow up newcomers. In advertising our pattern of worship we could make more use of social media.

We should make every effort to involve the children and young people, before and during the service, especially on the First Sunday. They are more likely to want to come to church if they have something to do.

It was acknowledged that the idea of a crossover coffee time has not worked. Should this be given more encouragement?

A practical suggestion was made that we re-introduce a children's withdrawal group during the sermon on the third Sunday. Many in the 10 a.m. congregation enjoy the presence of the children, and for the children it would provide more continuity of teaching.

Thus the Sunday morning pattern would be:

Week 1, All-age informal service with talk aimed at the children

Week 2, Parish Communion and 11.30 Discovery Service

Week 3, All-age Communion with adult sermon and the children withdrawn

Week 4 (and Week 5), Parish Communion and 11.30 Discovery Service

Some members of the evening congregation would prefer that Choral Evensong alternate with an Evensong including more congregational participation.

It was suggested that following the Discovery Service on 30th July (the last one before the August break) there should be a picnic lunch for families in the Rectory Garden.

Roy proposed that we continue with the current pattern of services, but work hard to develop and market the Discovery Service and our provision for children and young people. This was seconded by Bryn and unanimously agreed.

6 Any Other Business

- The Choral Communion on Sunday 2nd July at 6.00 p.m. will be a Celebration of the Three Ministries – Roy's 30 years of ordination, Peter Poole's retirement from active ministry and Erik Heemskerk's ordination as a deacon.

- Also on Sunday 2nd July PCC approval was given to an outing for the Ignite Group, led by Bryn, Claire and Georgie.
- Members were urged to support The Queen's Six concert (Sat 17th June), Picnic in the Park (Sat 24th June) and The Rectory Fete (Sat 8th July). Help is needed particularly with setting up for the Fete on Friday afternoon 7th July.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Wed 12th July: full Business Agenda, with final vote on car park

The meeting ended with the Grace at 9.40 p.m.