

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN, READING

Minutes of Meeting 06/2022 of the PCC held on Tuesday 31st May at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Present

David Howell (Chair)(Churchwarden) (DH), Wendy Howell (Asst Churchwarden) (WH), Joy Abel (Assistant Churchwarden) (JA), Bob Abel (BA), Mark Burton (MB), Susie Downer (SD), Irene Lindsay (IL), Richard Cunningham (RC), Roger Moore (RM) (PCC Secretary)

Opening Remarks, Welcome and Prayers

DH opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 12 and a prayer

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Noel Drury and Felicity Chapman

Approval of Minutes 05/2022

The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by DH.

Actions and Matters Arising

RM remarked that he had received advice from the Gardening Team about the proposed memorial bench. It was agreed to take this proposal at a later date.

BA outlined the ongoing issue with CTC. It was agreed to pay the new fee net of the £140 owed. (Annex A)

BA accepted an action to draft a letter to CTC expressing St Barnabas' PCC concern and disappointment that they had not been consulted before decisions were taken noting the importance of engaging all churches and operating in a collaborative manner.

Action BA

Health and Safety.

JA reported that two new First Aid boxes had been sourced and a third would be refurbished..

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy (Annex B) had been circulated to PCC Members prior to the meeting and was unanimously agreed.

Re-authorization of John Volland

Taking account of the confirmation by the Revd Phil Cooke that all training requirements have now been fulfilled and all Safeguarding and DBS requirements being met.

We the PCC of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, give our approval to the Churchwarden, David Howell and the Revd Mike Smith, Associate Area Dean, to recommend to the Bishop of Reading the renewal of the authorization of Mr John Volland to officiate as an Authorized Preacher at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green

Vacancy – Update

DH outlined the Diocesan online system for recruiting ministers. He reported that he had accumulated a mass of information and now there was a need to distil this into a crisp and focused text. He accepted an action to produce a draft for final review at the meeting on Tuesday 7th June before being sent to the Archdeacon and Revd Mike Smith for review.

Action DH

Timescales and Actions

PCC Meeting 7th June – to review draft Profile before circulation to Archdeacon et al

Section 11 Meeting 14th June – Election of Parish reps, etc

Section 12: Monday 27th June at 7pm – Parish to make venue arrangements etc

Deadline for Parish Profile/Advert etc: Friday 1st July

Advertising start date: Friday 15th July

Advertising closing date: Sunday 14th August

Shortlisting: Monday 22nd August

Interviews: Wednesday 7th September

Action DH – contact Archdeacon's office to confirm dates and arrangements

AOB

DH reported that the manager of St Lukes had written (Annex C) thanking Gail, Mark and John for the recent remembrance service.

JA asked that the PCC agree to Clare Lewis-Reed helping parents with young children in church during services. JA to check on DBS status and the understanding of parents.

Action JA

Closing prayer

JA closed the meeting with a prayer

Annex A

You will recall that we made a contribution of £140 to CTC for the Pentecost 2020 event, which did not take place. They ring-fenced the money for Pentecost 2021 which did not happen either and then subsequently suggested that the funds might be diverted to funding a Jubilee event in 2022, which would be voted on at the Annual Assembly. I drew this to the attention of the PCC at the April meeting which agreed that we should seek a refund since this did not seem to be an appropriate way to deal with ring fenced funds. I did so, pointing out that we were currently without a vicar and therefore would not be represented at the Assembly and therefore unable to approve expenditure for a Jubilee event. In reply I was assured that Roger, David and myself would receive invitations to the Assembly, but this did not happen and the Assembly agreed (“although quite a few ... were not in attendance”) to a 2022 contribution from each of the twelve churches of £925 (less for the each of the churches in the CTM parish since they make a direct input to RE Inspired). The details are set out in the attachments to Alvin Laird’s email.

£925 represents a significant increase in contributions sought in previous years (approximately 50%) and I have set out in the third attachment the amounts St Barnabas has paid previously. Alvin Laird’s 2022 Contribution Note says that none of the ring-fenced Pentecost funds were needed for the Jubilee event which is happening next Sunday and suggests that “it would be highly desirable if churches would agree that the original £140 contribution could now be put towards CTC general funds so it is able to fund unplanned events”. However, if we wished to have our contribution returned, the most expedient way would be to net it off against the 2022 contribution. I would propose that we do this. The PCC will wish to be aware that there are still significant increases agreed in the provision for young people (£787 compared with £640 in 2019) and £47 required for general funds. I would wish to have the PCC’s views before making a payment this year.

Best wishes,

Bob

June 2022

Appendix 1 to Annex A

Dear Church Treasurer,

The 2022 proposed contribution to Churches Together in Caversham ('CTC') agreed at the Annual Assembly is £925.

The schedule overleaf was presented at the meeting showing how the contribution would financially support various activities.

You will note that the original proposal was £900 but at the meeting, Holiday Club requested a further £700 to fund their first aid training so it was agreed to ask each church to contribute an extra £25 toward this.

Quite a few of you were not in attendance and I'm including the 2021 treasurer's report and accounts in case you have not already had sight of this.

The report's proposal regarding Pentecost monies was agreed at the meeting. I'm now in the position to say that the Jubilee Event did not require any of the monies originally intended for Pentecost 2020. **(TBC)**

It would be highly desirable if churches would agree that the original £140 contribution could now be put towards CTC general funds so it is able to fund unplanned events, e.g., in 2021 CTC was able to cover the Crowne Plaza cost for the Knife Crime public meeting but this would not be possible with the current financial position.

Please let me know if you agree with this but if you wish to have your contribution returned, the most expedient way is to net it off against the 2022 contribution (CTC does not have online banking facilities and would have to issue a cheque).

I understand that Covid has adversely impacted most church finances and if you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me. And if your church can contribute a little extra to CTC funds this would be most welcome!

I know the REInspired cashflow position is not healthy and wish to have the CTC funding as soon as possible. As such, I would be grateful if contributions could be made quickly and at the latest by 30th June 2022.

Bank account details are unchanged: Churches Together in Caversham, Account Number 03075481, Sort Code 090153. Alternatively, cheques made payable to Churches Together in Caversham can be sent to me at 29 Clonmel Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 5BF.

Finally, this is my last year as CTC treasurer and if anyone is interested in taking on the role, please do get in touch. It is not particularly arduous, and I would be happy to discuss and share the accounts working spreadsheet.

Kind Regards,



Alvin Laird

07866432796

Annex B

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 31 May 2022

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the front page of the parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Joy A Abel as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent: (Vacant)

Churchwarden: David Howell

Date: 31 May 2022

Please send a copy of your Safeguarding Policy to: safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org or Diocese of Oxford Safeguarding Team, Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1GF

Annex C

Hi David,

Thank you for your call on Friday to let us know the sad news about Rosemary.

As discussed, I just wanted to write to thank Mark Burton and his volunteers for all their help with our remembrance Service, it is very much appreciated. Mark in particular did a wonderful job of putting the order of service together, choosing the hymns and readings and typing it up. The service was well attended and all remarked on how lovely it was and how the content was just right. Below is an excerpt from an email received from a relative who attended the service on Thursday:

“Thanks so much for today . It was a really beautiful service, and so fitting. It was lovely to reminisce and it felt a step closer to being able to have some closure and find some peace having not ever been able to say goodbye to dad”.

Kind regards.

Kim Franks

Manager

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