

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST GEORGE, BENENDEN

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on 22nd November 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: In the chair: Rev. D. Commander

Rev. Y. Blid Mackenzie, Mrs. S. Fisher, Mr. D. Collard, Mr. D. Barnes, Mrs. J. Collard, Mr. R. Fisher, Mrs J. Kellie-Vickers, Mr. Ian Malaugh, Mr. M. Pexton, Mr. C. Trollope.

The meeting started with a reading from Psalm 85 and prayer.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs. J. Davies and Mrs. H. Trollope
2. **Minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2021.**

These had already been signed.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes of 27th September 2021**

Memorial Hall electricity

The Treasurer will switch the electricity supplier to Total Power in line with the church.

Church Clock

The church clock work has not been done yet but is on order.

Sidesmen

Mrs. S. Fisher has enrolled a further sidesman.

Chaplaincy

Rev. Ylva Blid Mackenzie is joining the Benenden School chaplain one day a week to observe the work. She is to give her first sermon there shortly.

Minutes

The last minutes were signed and published within two weeks of the last meeting. The Secretary will in future ask David Harmsworth to put them on the church website as well.

4. **Ministry Report**

The report was previously circulated

Bell

Rev David Commander has now received a complaint about the 8 am bell on a recent Sunday. He replied positively that now we are back to normal services this will be rung just prior to 8 am on Sundays from now on as it was prior to Covid 19.

Sabbatical

David has now been told he can firm up plans for his forthcoming sabbatical (Monday 11th July 2022 to Monday 2nd October 2022). The Treasurer confirmed the PCC's contribution is available for him to use.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report had previously been circulated together with the accounts summary to 30th September 2021 which he explained where necessary.

Legacy

Another £6,595.20 has been received from the Mary Wilkins Estate. The Treasurer proposed investing this in the General Fund CCLA Investment Income Account (as with previous amounts). The meeting unanimously agreed he should do this.

Fees

The Treasurer proposes the **Verger's** fee is increased from £35 to £40 and if refreshments are served in church after the service then £60. This was passed unanimously.

He also proposed, after consultation with the **choir**, to reduce their fees to £80 to reflect the lower number attending. This was also passed unanimously.

To reflect the increased **fuel** costs recently he suggested the heating fee is increased from £40 to £50 which was also agreed unanimously.

Benefice Administrator. The meeting unanimously agreed the Administrator's hourly fee should increase by £0.50 per hour, to be reviewed annually. It is hoped Sandhurst PCC will agree to this increase so it can be implemented.

Deanery Presentation of Diocesan Finances

This gave a very honest but shocking summary of Diocesan finances. The Diocese is to sell off surplus properties to repay £2.5M it has borrowed. This will enable the Diocese to reduce parish shares. Our parish share is now £47,800 but the Diocese has requested those parishes that are able to pay last year's figure so we will pay £52,730. Deanery may well set up a contingency fund and the PCC agreed that if called upon we could increase our parish share to £55,000 max.

Collections

We currently have retiring collections but it is thought total collections will be down overall. Rev. David Commander has seen a large debit card machine in another church where visitors/congregations can pay this way. Our Treasurer currently has a small Sumup machine which takes debit cards but suggested he could purchase a better, larger machine costing £120.

6. Fabric Reports

Churchyard/Glebe Pathway

The faculty still has not been granted but we know it is now before the Registrar as questions have been asked. David Barnes has been speaking to Josh Lucas, the contractor we will be using. They suggest it would be wise for us to have a supervisor for the contract and the meeting agreed Brian Goodman, (who drew up the plans) should be asked.

It is noted that the pathway passes under the outer branches of the oak trees on the south side of the Glebe. We will check the Primary School are still having the trees checked annually and ask them to pass us a copy.

Railings Extensions

These have now been completed and fit in very well with our existing railings.

Quinquennial

John Bailey (our architect), the contractor and David Barnes are meeting to discuss the quinquennial works this week.

Window Grills on East Window

David Barnes reports some work has been done but a second phase is needed. He will remind the contractor.

7. 20/20 Update

Heating

Rev. David Commander reported they have now had slightly conflicting reports from Chris Reading and ISO Energy regarding which energy source is recommended for use in the church. They are looking for one which will be viable for at least 25 years. ISO Energy recommend a ground source heat pump. They suggested a visit to Berwick Church where a ground source heat pump is used but it is a much smaller

church than ours and GSH was used mainly for humidity control. The group will try and find another more compatible church to visit before coming to any conclusion.

Lighting

A lighting engineer has visited and will give an estimate for LED lighting for the church.

8. Primary School

They currently have a few cases of Covid. Pupils from the school visit St. George's for class visits to study certain aspects of the church, ie stained glass windows. The whole school also visit for festival services such as Christmas.

9. Deanery Report

This was included in the Treasurer's Report above.

10. Safeguarding

Mr. David Harmsworth has completed a recent module and is therefore now up to date.

11. Correspondence

Walk Church

Notes on Church Walk had already been circulated. Walk Church is a fresh expressions of church set up by Rev. Alex Bienfait while at Biddenden parish. He is no longer there and Tim Bentley from our parish who helps on the walks has asked that our PCC agrees to sponsor Walk Church for the time being until it can be arranged through his local parish. This will take advantage of our insurance for third parties from Ecclesiastical. It is noted a risk assessment is done before each walk. Regarding Safeguarding, as long as there are no unaccompanied children on the walk it can be disregarded. Bearing this in mind the PCC voted unanimously to sponsor Walk Church.

12 Confidentiality of Proceedings

There were none.

13. Any Other Business

Christmas Tree

Benenden School are again providing a Christmas tree for the church.

Christmas Services

These have now all been planned and put on the website, noticeboards etc.

Christmas Day Lunch

It has been decided not to have a Christmas Day lunch for the elderly/alone this year due to Covid. However, if requested, visits could be arranged to their homes during the day.

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next PCC meeting will be on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

Signed Dated

