THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST GEORGE, BENENDEN

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on 31st January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: In the chair: Rev D. Commander

Rev. Y. Blid Mackenzie, Mr. D. Collard, Mr. D. Barnes, Mrs. J. Collard, Mrs. J. Davies, Mr. Ian Malaugh, Mr. M. Pexton, Mr. C. Trollope.

The meeting started with a reading from 1 Corinthians 12. Rev. David Commander then paid tribute to our former member, Heather Trollope who had died since our last meeting. She had been a valued member of our committee and our church over many years and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. We then continued with prayer.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs. S. Fisher, Mr. R. Fisher and Mrs. J. Kellie Vickers.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22nd November 2021

These had already been signed.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes of 22nd November 2021.

Memorial Hall electricity
The Treasurer is still to switch the electricity supply to the Memorial Hall.
Church Clock
The ordered maintenance has still not been undertaken.
Chaplaincy
Rev. Ylva Blid Mackenzie has now finished her chaplaincy placement at Benenden School and will shortly be reporting on her time there.
Fees
The increased heating fee will be shared with wedding and funeral requests shortly. Sandhurst PCC have agreed our suggestion the Benefice Administrator's fees are increased by £0.50 per hour.
Collections
The Treasurer is still to purchase a larger Sumup machine.
Churchyard/Glebe Pathway
We had no reply from the Primary School when checking if they have an annual report on the trees in the Glebe. The Secretary will enquire again.
Walk Church
There was a Walk Church in Benenden last November and in Great Chart recently. A risk assessment is sent to our Secretary beforehand.

4. Ministry Report

A comprehensive report had already been circulated. Rev. David Commander also reported:
Deanery Synod Plan.
This has now been adopted by the Deanery, as seen by our PCC last year.
Parish Shares
There have been two Deanery meetings but Rev David Commander heard more news at a Chapter meeting where two parishes indicated they did not expect to be able to pay their full share this year.

Funerals
Rev. David Commander reported he is suddenly very busy with six funerals across the Benefice at the moment.
Weddings
There are 20 weddings in the Benefice this year, 18 being at Benenden.
"Building Relationships"
Rev. David Commander is meeting with Alison & Peter Brook on Saturday with two or three other families to see how this new relationship with younger families might work.

5. Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer had distributed the annual reports for our perusal before the meeting. We looked at the summary of general account first:

General Account.
This shows the amazing income of £13,915 from last September's church fete which has resulted in a surplus of £16,000 for the year. He has split this between the Mission Fund and Fabric Fund at the moment. However, he suggested we reclaim £4,000 from the BAT fund |(which we had previously donated) to bolster the Fabric Fund in view of forthcoming expenses soon if the back of the church is re-ordered.
Legacy Fund
There has been another addition from Mary Wilkins' estate - £6595.
Magazine Fund
This continues well and £500 has been transferred to the PCC.
Memorial Hall
The Memorial Hall has only been open for half the year and before that was repaired and cleaned which has meant a reduction in funds. They had an AGM last week. It was decided to add wi-fi to the hall. The heating is being fixed and upgrading being looked into.
Statement of Assets
This statement shows our assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2021. Our Treasurer was pleased to point out our total market value has increased again.

Parish Share
The Diocese has indicated our Parish Share for this 2022 is £47,990. However, as our Deanery has two parishes that do not expect to be able to pay their full share and has asked other parishes to help it was decided to send £52,750, asking the excess goes to Weald Deanery.

6. Fabric Reports

Churchyard/Glebe Pathway
David Barnes reported the contractor is keen to start this project. Brian Goodman (who drew up the plans) has agreed to be the project manager. David Barnes was asked to write to the KCC confirming we are relying on their promise of funds towards this project. Unfortunately our faculty has not been granted yet although the Secretary has been answering questions from the Commissary General via Ann Beswick. This means we cannot start the project yet. Rev. David Commander will investigate what is holding it up.
Proposed path from Village Hall to Play Area & Primary School nearest gate
The Benenden Village Trust is making plans to have a hard path from the hall car park to the new children's play area. They are also considering making an offshoot to the first gate (near Reception) of the

primary school. Rev. David Commander showed the meeting a plan of the proposed route to the gate (highlighted) where the drainage ditch is cross hatched in pink. Sarah London from DAC asked us to confirm that the drainage ditch is not part of The Glebe. The PCC unanimously agreed the drainage ditch is not part of The Glebe and Rev. David Commander will liaise with Sarah London.

Quinquennial

David Barnes reported the outside Quinquennial work is now completed. The work in the Rector's Vestry is still being completed after which the internal scaffolding will be removed.

7. 20/20 Update

The 20/20 group had a meeting with John Bailey on 17th January and hope to have a further meeting (by Zoom) with him on 3rd February. They then hope to make a presentation to the PCC at our next meeting (28th March). Paul Hewitt and Richard Stubbings are moving things forward.

8. Primary School update

There are five dates in the diary for the Primary School to visit the church for services as well as two Christingle services this week and a leavers service at the end of the school year. Rev. David Commander has been asked to record a talk for the Year 6 leavers as he will be on sabbatical at the time.

9. Deanery

The minutes dated 1st December had previously been circulated. Rev David Commander had attended and said the speaker talking about Growing Faith in Church, School and Households was very good.

10. AGM

The Secretary reminded the meeting the parish AGM is on Monday 4th April this year. It was suggested the meeting should be held in the Memorial Hall, proposed by Julia Collard, seconded by Charles Trollope and agreed unanimously. David Collard will revise the Electoral Roll.

11. Safeguarding

Ian Malaugh is doing the Leadership two part course.

12. Correspondence

Rope drier for bell ropes

Rod Lebon has informed the PCC that due to the recent damp weather he has made a rope drier as the tail ends of the bell ropes (which absorb the moisture from the air) sometimes need to be dried. This is a simple structure which only uses one light bulb and is only used as necessary. The PCC were happy with this but would like it to be PAT tested.

13. Confidentiality of Proceedings

There were none.

14. Any Other Business

Sanctuary step
The carpet on the step is becoming threadbare. David Barnes will arrange a replacement.
Church outer door lock
The lock on the outer north door is becoming more and more difficult to unlock. David Barnes is liaising with Webbs of Tenterden to sort it out.
Live Streaming
Rev David Commander has been discussing the church live streaming and sound system with John Fowler. He had some spare equipment and has given the church a different mixer and video camera free of charge. This should enable the church to live stream. They just need to acquire a low spec' laptop to make it work. John Fowler also said the cooling fans are not needed so they have been disconnected. Chris Parkinson is to be asked to make some alterations to the existing AV cabinet to fit the new mixer.
Choir
The speakers in the chancel have been turned up as the choir have been unable to hear the services.
Microphones
We need to train several people how to use the microphone system properly during the services and also give anyone using the microphones some basic training.
Beadle Platt
Charlotte and Donald Molesworth use the right of way through Beadle Platt to get to their home and business. Unfortunately the track has become very rough and bumpy with holes. They would like to have the surface scrapped off, levelled and covered with roadstone before compacting the whole surface. This will cost them at least £2,000 and they have asked that the PCC pay £500 of this. The meeting agreed to this and the work will get underway shortly.
Covid regulations
Rev. David Commander told the meeting we are now back to Plan A as the Government is easing restrictions. He asked what he should adopt at communion services and the meeting agreed we should continue with simultaneous administration of the bread and wine.

15. Date and time of next meeting

The next PCC meeting will be on Monday 28th March 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9 pm.

Signed.....Dated.....25th February 2022