

The Parish Church of St Mary, Arnold
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting
Held via Zoom on Tuesday 1st June 2021

Attendees: Kirsty Aplin, Chris Baker, Verity Blakemore, Michael Bolton, Margaret Caunt, Andrew Fisher, Kate Lake, Alan Langton, Trevor McElroy, Lisa Middleton, Christine Peet, Maureen Rodgers, David Rodgers, Ian Rosillo, Andrea Sands Ed Sands, Larrie Thompson, Brian West

Margaret opened with Scripture and prayer

1. Apologies

Liz Turley Melissa Watt

2. Who's Who

Everyone took turns introducing themselves to the rest of the PCC

3. Appointment of the Secretary, Treasurer & Electoral Roll Officer

Happy to stand again were:

Secretary: Larrie Thompson

Treasurer: Brian West

Electoral Roll Officer: Michael Bolton

Alan Langton proposed, and Kirsty Aplin seconded that the PCC accept and appointment Larrie Thompson, Brian West & Michael Bolton as Secretary, Treasurer & Electoral Roll Officer respectively – Unanimously approved

4. Minutes of last meeting (4th March 2021) and Matters Arising

Larrie said that we had registered for a Sum-up account and had an on-line giving option

Trevor McElroy proposed, and Andrea Sands seconded that we accept the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record – Unanimously approved

5. Code of Conduct (attached)

Ian explained that this had come from the "PCC Tonight" event some of us attended last week. Though he realised he was most probably "Preaching to the converted" he thought it was good to have them actually written down. Ian talked through the document (attached).

Ian Rosillo proposed, and Alan Langton seconded that we accept the Code of Conduct – Unanimously approved

6. Churchwardens Report

- The Church clock is not working properly – it will cost around £2K to fix it. This is not a current priority
- A new oak door for the Family Centre will be fitted on Thursday 3rd June
- Cadent the gas company are coming every 2 weeks to check for gas leaks. They will be moving the gas pipe shortly. Whilst they were digging up the area outside the Coach House they also found the water meter! They will also be digging up the vicarage garden as part of the gas pipe issue. They will, hopefully, not be charging us for this work.

7. Treasurer's Report

- We currently have £9,400 in the bank.
- We are under paying the Parish Share by £1.5k a month
- We have received 2 grants from the council for £1k & £1.5k – this is confirmed as compensation for loss of rental earnings from the Family Centre
- Our financial situation is tight.
- Larrie to remind people of the Giving Options

8. Vicars Report

- Our Communications Manager, Phil Howcroft, will be leaving on 11th June. He will be looking after his new granddaughter when his daughter returns to work. We will not be advertising for a replacement just yet.
- Church is open again
- We can start taking funerals and weddings in Church again (currently with 30 people)
- Community Kitchen has now done a 4-week cycle, so every team has cooked a meal, thanks to the following St Mary's Teams: Ron & Karen, Andy & Rosie, Trevor & Henny. It has been a promising start and people are really appreciative. The Foodbank are putting flyers in local parcels and are supportive. If people would like to donate any pasta or rice that would be appreciated.

Service Patterns

Currently we still have a dispensation and we are not sure when this will change as the government have yet to confirm the 21st June for removing all restrictions.

Larrie explained that the Standing Committee had taken another look at the service pattern and come up with 3 Options. There had been more options, and some were 'ruthless', but Margaret reigned us in! The previous issue with the Canon Law was around Communion so we are now hoping to trial, for 12 months, an option that involves 2 services. The reasoning behind this is based on reduced congregation numbers and also reduced clergy/readers/assistance to run a wide variety of services.

The standing committee thought these to be the best options, though we are open to suggestions and an 8am wasn't out of the running. However, if there were to be an 8am it would be instead of not as well as one of the 9am services. It was hoped that we could agree on 2 services and then have an additional meeting to discuss the details.

Ian said he personally preferred Option 2 as there was communion every Sunday at 9am and this made it easier for people to remember.

Chris asked if the congregation would be involved in a future meeting. Margaret said this would be OK, however, the PCC would have the vote. We could host a meeting to garner opinion on which services people would prefer as their 2, and we should also be asking people and bringing those opinions to any meeting. However, we had to be careful, as if you asked 200 people you would have 200 different opinions!

Larrie & Margaret also reminded people that we did have a questionnaire last summer (This is what started this process of changing the service patterns) and most people were understanding of having 1 service or a later service time. The majority of people were enjoying the content/style of the Zoom service. People liked having everyone together and missed seeing the children. It would be great if we could have 1 service that bonded everyone together and blended the service. Margaret realises that this isn't possible as some people don't enjoy the service and not everyone was getting what they wanted. Her thoughts are to blend the 2 more traditional services and have communion every week. Then we can try to develop the 1030 service and help introduce new people that might join from, say, Messy Church. We can try different styles like café Church. Margaret would personally prefer option 3, as the Morning prayer Sunday would allow for Baptisms, in fact the + indicates possibly Baptism Sundays at both service times. We would do no more than 2 Baptisms in 1 service. And we need to remember that we are a church with community and parish responsibilities and are here to serve the needs of those outside the church as well as those inside it.

Michael read out the attached "Quote" from the Bishop regarding merging services.

"Bishops Paul & Andy, and Archdeacon Phil Williams are well aware of the restrictions of resources and there is a great case for reducing the number of services but there is now ample evidence, right across the Church of England, that trying to combine service styles into 1 joint service just does not work. It has 2 problems, the 1st is that the congregation becomes 1 in which there is always 1 half that is always ill at ease with the worshipping style that day, but the larger problem is that new visitors sense this unhappiness and such Churches do not tend to grow as well. There is no evidence that having 2 different services on a Sunday leads to a divided Church, providing that there are occasional joint services, and that the whole congregation is involved in fellowship activities which can involve everyone."

Larrie said this is why we had now gone with the 2-service pattern. Margaret agreed that we should be doing joint fellowship activities, and courses like Lent and Advent however, when we put them on some people still don't attend. We could put on suppers and share lunches, but we need people to run them. Fashions and cultures change; things that we put on 20/30 years ago wouldn't work now. We need to try new things, but we need people to set up and help organise them and then we need Church people to attend!

Kate said that trialling it for 12 months seemed a long time. Larrie explained that you really need to trial for 12 months to include all the 'seasons' Christmas, Easter etc. Kate would really like to see an 8am and/or 6pm in the options – that way every member has a service option. They would also have 12 months with an 8am so we could see how well attended it was.

Larrie said that would be one of the reasons for such a long trial. Margaret mentioned that there had been no regular 6pm service, for over a year, even before lockdown. This service was dropped due to low attendance and the fact that 4 services on one day is unnecessary.

Michael asked if we would invite Phil Williams or Tors to a congregation meeting. Margaret thought not, as we have had that meeting, and now we need to move forward. There is no issue now with regards to the Canons in the proposals we were discussing. It will be our role as PCC to make sure we consult the congregations, gather their thoughts and opinions and then make a considered decision. A physical meeting will possibly allow folks who can't access Zoom to attend and participate. (WE can safely accommodate 40 in church)

Larrie Thompson proposed and Michael Bolton seconded, that we trial, for 12 months, a service pattern of 2 services per week with at least one communion every week (1 joint service on 5th Sundays) Unanimously approved

Action: Standing Committee to arrange a date/time for a congregational meeting and a one-off PCC to confirm the actual Service pattern

9. Deanery & Diocesan Report

Parish Share Paper

Background: The Diocese decides how much each Deanery needs to give based on various figures, Experian Wealth ratings etc. The Deanery then decide how to spread to the costs to each Parish. There have been various formulae over the decades, and nothing seems to suit everyone! The Deanery Finance committee put a lot of hard work into looking at the options. Margaret said that the proposed option had been used successfully in Sheffield when she was there.

Larrie Thompson proposed and Ian Rosillo seconded, that we accept the Gedling Deanery's Parish Share proposal – 16 for and 0 against and 2 abstentions - approved

10. AOB

None

11. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 2nd September