

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 28th April 2021 commencing at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom (Covid restrictions in place at the time).

Chair: Rev. Canon P. Reiss (Team Rector).

Secretary: Mr. R.M. Heron.

Opening prayer.

Attendees: Mrs. N. Barlow(C/Warden), Mr. H. Campbell (C/Warden), Mr. S Hobson (C/Warden Emeritus), Mr. R. Battersby(Treasurer), Mr. D. Bonser(Gift Aid Sec.), Rev. M. Bulcock, Mrs. B Arundel, Mrs. K. Bulcock, Mrs. B. Kenny, Mrs. P. Kirk, Mr. A. Mather, Mr. G. Minshull, Mr. D. Smith, Mrs. L. Westhead.

Apologies: Mrs. K. Smith, Mrs. J. Allsop, Mrs. S. Wilson.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021.

These were approved as a true record, proposed Mrs. P.Kirk, seconded Mr. R. Battersby.

2. Matters arising from these minutes.

2.1 Service Pattern. (See details in Team Rector's Report attached.)

Points raised.

Baptisms will continue to be offered at St. James' on Sundays when there is no Service.

Weddings at St. Anne's restricted to 30 attendees.

On-line Services to be continued as they are still popular and reach a lot of people who cannot or do not attend church.

No major changes in restrictions probably until 21st June 2021.

3. Team Rector's Report. (Attached. Copy distributed to members prior to the meeting.)

4. Finance.

4.1 Annual Accounts for 2020. (Copies distributed to members prior to the meeting).

The Treasurer explained that the Accounts showed a considerable drop in income for the churches in 2020 due to Covid restrictions prohibiting the usual income generating events. Income from funerals and weddings was reduced. Thanks to the commitment of church members regular giving was not significantly reduced. Expenses had been kept to a minimum and the Parish Share of £44,000 had been paid in full without drawing on reserves. Key repairs in respect of the fabric at St. Anne's had been completed.

(Details of these items available in the Fabric Report for 2020).

Mr. Battersby answered questions to the satisfaction of the meeting regarding some of some of the details included in the draft accounts. The accounts were formally approved following proposal by Mrs. B. Kenny seconded by Mr. D. Smith and this allowed them to go forward for the Independent Examiner and other essential signatories to finalise, followed by presentation at the forthcoming APCM on 19th May 2021.

4.2 Current state of the church accounts.

1. Current A/c Bank Balance at 31/03/2021 - £18,632.66. Does not take account of an instalment of the Parish Share amounting to £5,000.
2. Deposit A/c Balance at 31/03 2021 - £983.73
3. CCLA Church of England Deposit funds at 31/03/2021 - £132,970.21
4. St. James' Refurbishment Fund at 31/03/2021 - £4,239.46
5. St. Anne's Churchyard A/c at 01/04 2021 - £7,828.03
6. Parish Share total assessment for £2021 - £44,880 Paid - £8,681.60

4.3 On-line Giving. (A comprehensive document giving details of a proposed scheme was circulated to members prior to the meeting).

The scheme entitled SUMUP/Give a Little/Parish Buying was researched by The C/Warden Mrs. N. Barlow and she explained that it would enable a wider number to use on-line giving. The scheme would not replace the present methods but be additional to them. It was also cheaper than PayPal method of on-line giving currently used.

The T/R recommended adoption of the scheme and this was endorsed by the meeting.

5. **APCM and Appointments/Elections.**

5.1 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The date for the meeting is set provisionally for Wednesday evening of the 19th May 2021, and is thought to most likely be on Zoom as restrictions will probably apply. 6 members had completed their 3 yr. term on PCC. Mr. A. Mather and Mrs. S. Wilson have indicated that they are not seeking re-election. The T/R thanked them for their services. Mrs P. Heron also gave notice that she will retire from the position of Safeguarding Officer, and was thanked for her work over several years. A new Safeguarding Officer is required.

5.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021.

The present Examiner, Mr. A. Sydall informed the Treasurer that he would be willing to carry out this duty in 2021 and the meeting approved his offer which will be stated at the APCM. The meeting expressed thanks for the work he had carried out during 2020.

5.3 Electoral Roll.

Application forms are available in church for new additions. No total revision this year.

6. **Fabric.** (Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Copy in separate file).

6.1 Central Heating Boiler at St. Anne's. Mr. Hobson reported that 3 quotations had been received (see Fabric Report) and he **recommended the lowest one with Joule Property Services Ltd. of £45,708.60 inc. VAT. The PCC voted to accept this quotation.** It was stressed that this essential item needs replacement ASAP.

Enquiries were said to still be in progress concerning obtaining a grant towards this expensive item, and it was questioned as to whether a faculty from the DAC would be required. Mr. S.H. to enquire with DAC. It was suggested that a request giving details of the heating situation and asking for donations is placed on the Parish website.

The use of present restricted funds held by the church to contribute to the high cost was also discussed, and it was decided to ascertain the specific details regarding use of these funds. Treasurer agreed to investigate wording involved with the bequests.

6.2 Health and Well Being Grant.

Allotments have been completed and all have been taken.

A suitable ride-on mower has been selected at a cost of £2,349 inc. VAT. Purchase approved following proposal by Mrs. P.Kirk seconded by Mr. G. Minshull. Donation of £200 received from Old Bolts A.F.C. towards mower fund. Secretary to send letter of thanks.

6.3 Garden of Remembrance.

A planting programme is in progress for the centre bed of the Garden and should be finished in the near future. Further revision planned for the future to improve the area.

6.4 Remembrance Plaques.

The T/R reported that he had received several requests from people asking if it would be possible to have a small plaque to commemorate ashes of their loved ones in the Garden. Mr. S. Hobson said it had been considered previously but he was opposed to the idea as it could be difficult to administer. It was also said that it was unlikely to be approved by the Chancellor. The Team Rector would enquire further but the view was that this would not be possible, nor necessarily desirable.

6.5 St. James' Cleaning.

It was reported that the church had not been cleaned regularly and it was agreed that regular cleaning should begin again. Proposed to ask for 2hrs per week on a fortnightly basis to be arranged. Damp continued to be a problem with some areas.

Building issues also reported to be of concern, particularly damp in various places, especially on the stairs

7. Deanery Issues.

The Deanery Synod had met – at the end of May the Deanery of Walmsley will merge to become the new Deanery of Bolton. Parishes have been invited to comment on the use of the Deanery funds, most of which are a windfall amount from the RBS on the moving of the account.

The PCC agreed that, if the deanery was making donations to parishes for mission a bid for £350 – about 50% of the cost of a new large flat-screen tv and stand which could be used at St James for services and for groups. It was understood that the mind of the synod might be to spend the money in a different way.

There was also discussion about future Mission Communities. The general view was that – if the current Team was being “extended” then a Team made up of the four parishes plus Harwood made sense, and possibly Astley Bridge, but a group that extended into Brightmet would be too big to be sensible. There was a strong view that the current Team should not be split as the parishes are working well together and it has taken time to get to this point.

7. A.O.B

7.1 The Team Rector informed the meeting that he had received a request from Mr. S. Maguire to purchase an old Prayer Book which was in the Vestry at St. Anne’s. Enquiries to be made regarding this item.

The meeting closed at 9.35 with the Grace.

Signed.....

Dated.....