

Parish of St Olave with St Giles, York

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom

Present: Ben Pugh (Churchwarden and Vice-Chair, in the chair), Jane Lockley (Churchwarden), Buff Reid (Churchwarden), Christine Stanton (Treasurer), The Revd Kingsley Boulton, Frances Brock, Helen Button, Roger Button, Jacqui Edwards, Margaret Eyre, Janet Fox, The Revd Nicky Gladstone, Helen Robb, Ruth Sillar, John Stanton, Paul Towers.

The meeting began with prayer led by the Revd Nicky Gladstone.

1. **Apologies for absence**

The Revd Liz Hassall, Chris Acton, Doreen Gurrey, Helen Jones, Gill Pace.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th September 2021 were approved. They will be signed by Liz Hassall at the next meeting.

3. **Plans for worship**

3.1. **Music in worship**

A report by Keith Wright had been circulated. This recommended essentially continuing the current arrangements but with increasing the number of singers particularly for the Christmas services. It was agreed to propose singing the final hymn on Christmas morning outdoors as last year. It is hoped the Carol Service will be livestreamed.

A discussion on choir members who might have concerns about singing raised the issue of members of the congregation who might not be attending services in person or following the online services and how we might identify them. Some may have been in contact with Liz Hassall. Naomi Anderson has also set up a WhatsApp group.
Action: Ruth Sillar to give Jane Lockley a list of those who identify themselves in the chat at the online services.

Particular concern was expressed about children and young people, about which the Standing Committee is aware. There is need for a new plan to address this.

3.2. **Hospitality after services**

Margaret Eyre and Chris Acton had discussed the practicalities of resuming refreshments after the Sunday service in church.

Action: Margaret Eyre and **Chris Acton** to circulate their notes.

A decision will then be made via email.

4. **Matters arising**

4.1. **Vision survey**

To be carried over.

4.2. **Quinquennial report**

This has now been received. There are no priority A items requiring immediate attention, nor any in priority B. However, the report was written 18 months ago.

The recommendations are for renovations and improvements. Issues with the St Giles Room roof have occurred since the report was written.

Action: the **Churchwardens** to follow up issues with the St Giles Room roof.

The full report will be online and the link will be circulated.

Action: **Ben Pugh** to ask Chris Cotton for the invoice.

4.3. Living Christ's Story

To be checked whether Liz Hassall had written something about this for the wider parish.

4.4. Communion assistants

To be checked whether Liz Hassall had sent a list of communion assistants to the Bishop.

4.5. Admin support

There is currently nothing to report as responses from the other PCCs are awaited. Liz Hassall is receiving support four hours a week from the previous administrator.

5. To note: Correspondence of Decisions prior to meeting

None had been made.

6. To receive: Correspondence for the Attention of the PCC

6.1. Legacy of Joan Parker

A legacy of £500 has been received from the estate of Joan Parker to be used for any purpose. This has already been acknowledged with thanks.

7. Eco church

Helen Robb presented a proposal to establish a working group on "green" matters, including but not only the churchyard, and working towards Eco church status. The Revd Nobel, Green Ambassador for the Diocese of York, had spoken at the last Deanery Synod meeting and he will be able to advise.

Action: **Nicky Gladstone** to forward to Helen Robb and Kingsley Boulton the email she had received from Jan Nobel.

It was agreed to form a group which non-PCC members of the congregation who are interested would be invited to join. Helen Robb, Kingsley Boulton, Nicky Gladstone, Frances Brock, Margaret Eyre and Buff Reid agreed to be members of this group. People will be approached but also a request for volunteers would be made in the Friday newsletter and in church. A proposal for double-glazing the church windows was awaited. Collaboration with the York Museums Trust and the wider community would be important. A biodiversity assessment will be carried out in the Spring. The group will also look at the energy footprint tool which needs to be completed with reasonable urgency.

Information about the removal of the ash tree at the front of the church had been included in the Friday newsletter of 12th November. It was noted that the tree should be replaced with something of a more suitable size in due course.

Action: **Helen Robb** to arrange a meeting of the group to decide on an agenda and to think of other members of the congregation who might be invited to join it.

8. Safeguarding

8.1. Training

It is expected that Gill Pace will have been in touch with those requiring to have the required training.

8.2. New safeguarding officer

Positive steps were being taken to appoint a successor to Gill Pace.

9. Items from Priest in Charge

9.1. Advent Course

An online Advent course for the city centre churches together with Central Methodist Church will be held on Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th December at 7 pm. The course will be hosted by Liz on Zoom and will look at the geography of the Holy Land.

10. Treasurer's Report

This had been circulated. We are still in deficit. Work on the ETTY tomb will probably start in the Spring. A replacement for the faulty contactless box had not yet been received.

10.1. Freewill offer for 2022

The Diocese has requested submission of a forecast by the end of November. It was agreed to offer £45,000, the same as this year's offer, in view of the cost of the admin post which will support our priest in charge. There is a need to increase individual giving. It was agreed that a collection at the Sunday service in church would resume on 5th December, with two sidespeople. Clergy leading the services would be asked to mention this and to point out that many people are giving by standing order. It is still planned to invite the Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser Sammi Tooze next year.

10.2. Gift Day

Traditionally this has been held on Advent Sunday, which is not possible this year. It was agreed that it will be held instead on Candlemas, Sunday 30th January 2022.

Action: Christine Stanton to send Liz Hassall last year's letter as the basis for her to write one.

10.3. Reinvesting the yearly bonds

It was agreed that these should be reinvested where recommended.

10.4. Christmas collections

It was agreed that we should focus on just one charity this year.

Action: All to send suggestions of charities with supporting rationale to Ben Pugh who will collate and circulate these.

11. Churchwardens' Report

11.1. New sound system

Three companies have been approached for a quotation for a new sound system with a livestreaming facility. One quotation had been received so far.

11.2. Decoration of church

The decorators have been making good progress. The St Giles Room would be decorated in the new year. The cost of all this work will be charged to the Frank Elliott fund.

11.3. Organ chamber

The organ chamber door was tight and there were signs of water ingress.

11.4. Promoting the church

There needs to be dedicated time at the next meeting to discuss this. A committee should probably be set up.

11.5. Intercessions

Those involved in leading intercessions had recently met to discuss the prayer list and year's mind list. A policy was being drawn up.

11.6. Churchyard cleanup

Thanks were given to all who helped tidy up the churchyard on Saturday 20th November.

12. Deanery Synod Report

This had been circulated.

13. Social Events Planning

Some events had taken place. A series of online talks was proposed.

Action: Ruth Sillar and Helen Robb to suggest subjects for the talks.

This item would be placed higher up the agenda of the next meeting.

14. Schedule of PCC meetings for 2022-23

This would be circulated.

15. Decorations for Christmas

It had been suggested that the decorations might be put up earlier this year.

However, it was agreed that they would be put up as in the past after the service on the Sunday before Christmas. A real tree would be sourced.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 9.25 pm.