

## PARISH OF ST OLAVE WITH ST GILES, YORK

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council –

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm

### MINUTES

**In attendance:** Rev Liz Hassall (Chair), Helen Button, Roger Button, Rev Nicky Gladstone, Doreen Gurrey, Helen Jones (from 9pm only), Ruth Sillar, Christine Stanton, John Stanton, Paul Towers

**Apologies for Absence:** Frances Brock, Jacqui Edwards, Margaret Eyre, Janet Fox, Jane Lockley, Ben Pugh, Buff Reid, Helen Robb.

The meeting opened in prayer

1. Appointment of clerk for meeting. As Helen Jones was arriving late, Nicky Gladstone agreed to act as clerk for the meeting.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 were approved.
3. Matters arising:
  - 3.1. Admin Support  
Liz advised that she has an appointment soon with an HR specialist to discuss the finer points of hiring admin support.
  - 3.2. Ash tree felling/replacement  
Buff will report back on this.  

**Action: Buff Reid**
  - 3.3. Vision Survey – report had been circulated  
The meeting offered thanks to Helen Jones for the enormous amount of work she has put into this.

It was noted that children's work had suffered particularly during the pandemic for a number of reasons, and many people had expressed the hope that more would be done in this area. However it was heartening to note that at least 8 respondents to the Vision Survey had shown an interest in children's work. The next step will be to ask these people to identify themselves and given them the opportunity to undertake some training.

Liz asked everyone to study the results of the vision survey in more depth before the next meeting.

**Action: All**

### 3.4. Church Hall – damage to plaster / damp

No action has yet been taken, and it was noted that this is becoming more urgent.

**Action: Buff Reid**

4. Correspondence of Decisions prior to meeting  
None had been received.

5. Correspondence for the Attention of the PCC  
None had been received.

6. Appointment of officers post APCM

#### Vice Chair

Ben Pugh agreed to continue.

#### Secretary

Vacant

#### Treasurer

Christine Stanton agreed to continue, but advised that the PCC should attempt to identify someone to replace her.

#### Sidespersons

*note that the full list was not available at the meeting, and has been confirmed subsequent to the meeting itself*

The following had agreed to continue:

Jacqui Edwards, Doreen Gurrey, Anne Hall, Helen Jones, Ann Mackrory, Gail Murden, Gill Pace, Christine Stanton, MikeThunder, Paul Towers, Nina Wilson

Malcolm Smart and Maureen Steel have now stood down as sidespersons, and were thanked for their years of service.

Suggestions were made as to possibilities to fill the role of PCC Secretary. In the absence of a secretary, correspondence (largely by email) would be handled via churchwardens, and a clerk would be appointed on a meeting by meeting basis.

The question arose as to who held responsibility for health and safety; it was felt that churchwardens would handle this. The health and safety policy may need to be reviewed and updated.

**Action: Churchwardens.**

Thanks were expressed to Helen Jones for her work as PCC Secretary over the past year.

7. Worship / Covid restrictions

Since the last meeting, restrictions have been eased quite significantly. Sunday services are almost back to normal, with the exception of a few measures, including that the choir are not singing an introit at the back of church, as this area is still being kept as a more covid-safe space. Similarly, the Gospel is being read from the chancel

steps rather than the centre of the church, and the elements are still not being brought to the altar from the back of church.

Circulation of the collection plate has not yet re-started, but it was felt that this could restart with immediate effect.

**Action: Paul Towers.**

It was noted that there have been some teething problems with people returning to their seats following communion, due to changing sides to receive / avoid the common cup. This week people would be invited to go forward to communion starting at the back of church, as an experiment.

A concern had been raised that fewer and fewer people are wearing masks in church, and this was discussed. It was felt to be a reflection of the attitude in wider society, and the feeling was that the church did not have a mandate to challenge this. Those in the altar party and those administering communion are still asked to wear masks.

It was further noted that the area around coffee at the end of the service is quite congested, and sidespeople will be encouraged to ask people to move slightly further away once they have their coffee.

## 8. Social Events

### 8.1. Jubilee Picnic

This has now been announced, and a poster is on display. Volunteers are needed to help with setting up and on the day.

### 8.2. Fun Run

Helen Jones had circulated a proposal outlining details of this, which is intended to be a fundraising event, an activity to build up our own church community, and potentially also an outreach event. The meeting agreed to this in principle, but requested more details before making a firm commitment. Concerns were raised over possible costs, insurance, and the level of liaison with the council needed. It was felt that September, as originally proposed, would be too early to hold this event but that with more detailed planning it could take place later, possibly in the spring.

**Action: Helen Jones**

## 9. New Sound System for St Olave

Concern had been raised at previous meetings that not enough was known about what was involved in the new sound system to make a properly informed decision. Ben has now obtained three different quotes, which will now go to the standing committee for detailed consideration. Their suggested quote would then be brought to PCC for further debate. All were in favour of this.

**Action: Ben Pugh and Standing Committee**

## 10. Items from Priest in Charge

There were none.

#### 11. Report from Go Green Working Group

A report had been circulated to members by Helen Robb. Highlights included:

- forthcoming Zoom meeting with Liz Carrington (the Deacon of St Luke's, who hold the Silver Eco church award), 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Contact with City of York Council to highlight the need for a green waste collection in our parish, and to discuss partnership working
- Meeting with the Diocesan Advisor to discuss eco options for the 'buildings category' of eco church.

#### 12. Safeguarding

A report had been circulated by Mike Thunder, Safeguarding Officer. This noted that some PCC members were now due to renew their checks, and this was in progress. Volunteers to chaperone the junior choir had come forward. A template for risk assessments for activities had been drawn up, and Mike would give assistance to anyone needing to complete this for an activity.

The meeting expressed gratitude to Mike for taking on this role.

#### 13. Treasurer's Report

The report was circulated to members. It was noted that compared to last year, planned giving and cash are up and dividends are now slowly increasing, although Justgiving is now much lower. Expenditure was as expected, although salaries had increased.

Account signatories had been reviewed, and it had been agreed that the CAF Bank account should have one further churchwarden as signatory. Roger Button was proposed for this (proposed by Christine Stanton, seconded by Paul Towers, unanimously agreed).

#### 14. Churchwardens Report

In Buff's absence, Roger shared a report from her on the work she had done on the interpretation project. Buff had been in touch with the Diocese and an experienced consultant, Esther Lockwood, who had quoted £1,600 for detailed work including parish-wide consultation, surveys etc.

It was noted that this was potentially a very large project, and that this level of ground-work would be needed if there was any chance of a successful HLF bid, which was the longer-term plan. Liz noted that the overall aim was a better experience for both visitors and congregation, serving both our heritage and our mission, joining with the green agenda and also including improvements such as accessibility and heating. It was noted that rolling much into one project was the only feasible way for a church to get HLF funding.

The PCC felt that more information and detail were needed, especially about the details of the quote and what it would cover, before it could approve this step. Buff would be asked to provide a written report by email to enable a decision to be made by the PCC online.

**Action: Buff Reid**

15. Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod had not met since the last meeting.

16. Date of next meeting

It was reported that Liz now had an unavoidable clash on 20<sup>th</sup> July, and it was agreed that the next meeting should be moved to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

17. Report of the meeting for the congregation

It was agreed that items to be reported to the congregation in the weekly online newsletter would be:

- Short financial report
- Brief overview of the Church improvement project
- Outline proposal for Fun run
- Note that there have been three proposals for a new Sound System, being discussed by Standing Committee
- Reintroducing the collection and a one-way system for communion.
- Report of appointment of officers and sidespeople, with note that we are inviting interest in the posts of treasurer and secretary