

## PARISH OF ST OLAVE WITH ST GILES, YORK

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022, 7.30pm

### MINUTES

**In attendance:** Rev Liz Hassall (Chair), Helen Button, Roger Button, Margaret Eyre, Rev Nicky Gladstone, Jane Lockley, Ben Pugh, Buff Reid, Paul Towers

The meeting opened with prayer.

1. Appointment of clerk for the meeting (in the absence of Helen Jones): Nicky Gladstone
2. Apologies for absence: Frances Brock, Jacqui Edwards, Janet Fox, Doreen Gurrey, Helen Jones, Helen Robb, Ruth Sillar, Christine Stanton, John Stanton,
3. The minutes of the meeting in July 2022 were approved.
4. Matters arising:

4.0 Years Mind list. A document will be drawn up explaining the new policy.

**Action: Jane Lockley**

4.1. Safeguarding. Mike Thunder's report was accepted with thanks. Not all members have yet undertaken the training regarding domestic abuse, those struggling to access the training online are encouraged to speak to Mike. We have "levelled up" on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, and have now reached Level Two. Thanks to Mike Thunder for all his work. There is a safeguarding week in November.

4.2. Admin support. An appointment has been made, this will be formally announced as soon as possible. The person will begin working in early October. Liz thanked Ben and Buff for all their work on the appointment process.

4.3. Ash tree. We remain on the list held by the Museum Gardens. Some pruning of a chestnut tree in the Museum Gardens overhanging the St Olave side will be carried out. Regarding the stump of the ash tree, it will be necessary to speak to the Archdeacon once she is back in post.

**Action: Buff Reid**

4.4. Vision Survey. Helen has been unable to attend recent meetings due to the demands of her ordination training so has not been able to report back on the congregational survey. Alternative times will be sought to enable Helen to report back. The survey of the wider community has had a pleasing number of responses, which will be passed to Esther Lockwood after the "York Unlocked" weekend in October. The QR codes for the website and the survey will be displayed in church from this coming weekend.

Thanks were expressed to all those who spent time in church facilitating the survey, and it was felt that a system of informal welcomers could be useful over the summer months in

the future.

4.5.

Consideration was given to payment for the Vision Survey. A bequest had been made (by Tony Hunt) for missional purposes, and it was felt that this project was an appropriate use of those funds. All in favour.

4.6. Sound System. Ben had approached both companies whose quotes were of interest, to ask them to refine their quotes in the light of our budget.

Replacement parts for the lavalier microphones have been ordered. Although these will eventually be replaced by the new system, the current equipment has become unusable. Fundraising should now be put in place. Helen Robb has done some research on this, and has offered to make a start on applications. This will require a sub-group, including Helen Robb and Jane Lockley, and drawing on expertise from the wider congregation.

**Action: Ben Pugh**

5. Correspondence of decisions prior to meeting:

None.

6. Correspondence for the attention of the PCC:

None.

7. Worship / Covid restrictions.

Everything seems to be working well, no concerns were raised. A guide on practicalities of the service will be re-written to put visitors at ease and keep people up to date with our current procedures. As well as the current system of receiving Communion, people will also be reminded that it is possible to donate via the card machine at the back of church. This information will be displayed in each of the pews.

**Action: Jane Lockley**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the Harvest celebrations in church, donations will be given to Carecent. Envelopes will be provided, all donations via the card machine will also be donated to Carecent – Christine will be notified of this. A notice will be placed in the newsletter.

**Action: Rev Liz Hassall (newsletter)**

**Jane Lockley (to notify CS)**

Discussion was held on exchanging the Peace during the service. It was felt that it would be a shame never to re-instate physical contact during the Peace, however some members of the congregation would still be uncomfortable with this at the moment. All were encouraged to speak to others in the St Olave community in an attempt to gauge opinion.

**Action: All**

A concert has been cancelled due to the low temperature in the building last January, and it was felt that ventilation levels are sufficient without keeping the doors open for concerts. NB doors should still be unlocked, due to fire safety considerations.

In terms of Sunday services, Keith will be consulted as to whether the door in the Transfiguration Chapel should still be kept open.

**Action: Buff Reid**

8. Social Events. A coordinator for social events is still needed, if anyone can identify someone to take over from Ruth, they are encouraged to let Liz know. It was suggested that this might form a small part of the new administrator's job, however what is most important is the generation of ideas for social events.
9. Items from Priest in Charge. Liz invited comments from the PCC on how things are going. It was felt that the Congregational Vision Survey might yield helpful suggestions. People are very willing to help, however ideas are few and far between. It is now beginning to feel like things are properly returning to "normal" which suggests that it is a good time to attract new people to roles such as the serving team, or to address our work with young people and families. The York Unlocked weekend may provide an opportunity to re-connect with those who have drifted away during Covid.

The "Voices from the Pews" evenings have been a great success. A second season is in the pipeline. It may also be possible to run a series of more "high-profile" speakers, using money from Tony Hunt's fund.

A baptism family has conveyed their thanks to Liz for the warmth of the welcome that they have received at St Olave's.

Liz notified the PCC that she has applied for a period of 3 months' study leave, part of which will be spent researching similar towns and cities to York, and investigating good missional practice in those places. The exact dates are not yet known, but mid- to late- 2023 is most likely.

10. Green Working Group. Since the last meeting, the Bronze Eco Church award has been achieved. It is hoped that there will be a fuller report for the next meeting, detailing how we are moving forward with our Green agenda and how this will be communicated to the congregation. Much of the work will centre on the church building, and this will require funding and appropriate diocesan support.

**Action: Nicky Gladstone**

11. Treasurer's Report. Christine had circulated a report together with a spreadsheet detailing recent financial activity. The meeting received these with grateful thanks to Christine.
12. Freewill offer: It is now the moment to decide the level of our freewill offer for 2023. The Diocese have asked that freewill offers be re-instated to pre-Covid levels. The other three parishes in the group have raised their offers. The meeting agreed a revised freewill offer from St Olave of £52K. Support will be sought from the Diocesan Generous Giving team, and themed sermons will be given, in order to encourage the congregation to respond positively. Proposed: Ben Pugh, Seconded: Jane Lockley, all in favour.
13. Churchwardens' Report. A new flagpole is needed, quotes will be sought.

**Action: Buff Reid**

Lightbulbs. Some discussion was held on replacement of lightbulbs All three of the companies approached advise that in order to achieve this, they need to know the fittings used and the

way the lights are controlled through the dimmer system. However, it has not yet been possible to locate the Operation and Maintenance Manual for the system. Investigations continue, and it is hoped to have more information by the next meeting.

Dilapidations survey for 29 Marygate. Purcell, our tenants, have given notice to quit in November. A buildings surveyor has been asked to undertake a Dilapidations Survey after which the Priest in Charge, Churchwardens and Trustees can decide what to do with the vacant building. As an interim measure, money will be loaned to the Marygate fund from the Church General Fund to pay for the survey.

14. Deanery Synod Report.

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

15. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, to allow Helen Jones to attend.

16. Summary of meeting for distribution to congregation. Jane Lockley has kindly offered to produce this for the Newsletter.

**Action: Jane Lockley**

17. Any Other Business. The flower arrangers had held their annual meeting. The supplies of oasis will be run out and no more purchased. The budget had been cut from £400 to £300, but it was not known why. In the meantime, artificial flowers were being used alongside fresh flowers. It was suggested that the flower arrangers be given an allocation of £100 to cover the purchase of some good quality artificial flowers.

The meeting closed with prayer at c9.30pm