

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at Yew Tree Cottage on 3 December 2018 at 7pm

Present: Rev Diane Whittaker (Chair), Charlotte Yorke-Long, Marcus Rixon, Celina Francklin, Henry Syrett and Tish Gordon-Lee.

Apologies for absence from Sue Stanley and Margaret Williams

PCC Membership

Henry Syrett and Margaret Williams had stood to fill the two vacancies. Margaret was unfortunately unable to attend following surgery to her foot.

Agreed: to co-opt Henry and Margaret to the PCC with pleasure and to welcome Henry to his first meeting; Tish to write to Ian and Rita.

Minutes 8.10.18 Accepted and signed

Matters Arising

Dealt with elsewhere

Correspondence Received

Ecclesiastical Insurance – Marcus had received the latest issue of *Church Matters*.

Rector's/Curate's Report

Diane reported that the fortnightly prayer meeting at the church continued, generally at 10.30am on Monday. She or Sue would put up a notice on the board to publicise it more widely.

Sue's pastoral visits continued to be much appreciated and it had been good to receive news of Sheila Holes.

Gwen Tapp's funeral was to be on Tue 11.12.18 at 1pm. Marcus would act as Verger. Diane would ask Paul Tapp if he would like the bier to be used as it had been made by Gwen's contemporaries, also whether he would like flowers in the church which Dennis had kindly offered to arrange.

Diane was hoping to start a *Christianity Explored* course (based on *Alpha*) next year, possibly in January.

Worship/Mission

a) **Wicken Praise** – going well, no service in December so a reminder would be needed for January onwards.

b) **Remembrance Sunday** – the service had been very well-attended. Use of the microphone outside so that the service could also be heard inside the church had worked perfectly. The Remembrance booklets had been appreciated.

c) Christmas Services and Patronal Festival

9 Lessons and Carols incorporating Singing for Syria 16.12.18, 6pm – the orders of service were about to be printed, Marcus and Tish would fold and staple. Flyers had gone round most of the village. Diane would ask Sue to ensure the service did not run over an hour (though probably unlikely it would) if necessary by cutting verses from hymns or omitting one. Temporary outside lighting would be arranged. Celina would open the hall so that the toilets were available.

Marcus would provide mince pies if possible; if not he would ask all on the PCC to bring a dozen each. He would also count the collection and pass the net proceeds to the Hands Up Foundation. Tish would mention this service at the carol singing around the village/in the pub on 11.12.18 and would put it on the village website.

Furtho 9 Lessons and Carols would be on Thu 20.12.18 at 7pm.

Pop-up Nativity and Family Holy Communion – Sunday 23.11.18 at 9.30 am at St Nic's (no other services in Benefice that day)

Christingle Monday 24.12.18 3pm with Sue – the Christingle preparation would probably be at Margaret's on Fri 21.12.18 – Tish to confirm by email, help very welcome as we would do 40 based on last year's numbers.

Christmas Day – Holy Communion at 9.30am with Sue. Diane to check whether John was playing the organ.

Benefice – 30.12.18 11.00am with Sue, John playing the organ. Refreshments to be served after the service (not mince pies!).

Fundraising/Social/Outreach

Currently covered by the various services and hospitality.

Treasurer's Report

a) **Accounts** – tabled and discussed (attached)

A (duplicate?) bill for church alarm maintenance would be queried. The bill for work to the church clock had yet to be processed.

b) **Schoolhouse** (attached)

Although the account had a satisfactory balance, we would have to replace the boiler at some point. The small trefoil opening in the side of the roof needed to be sealed to prevent squirrels getting in, causing both damage and nuisance.

c) **Collections and Attendance** – see attachments

d) **Parish Share** – Diane explained that the Diocese was in deficit and that failure to pay the share could have serious repercussions for the Benefice once she retired. There was currently a staff vacancy which meant faculties and related paperwork were being seriously delayed. Withholding the share would not speed things up but she would continue to press regularly for outstanding items to be resolved.

Agreed: to pay £750 from the current account and the remaining balance of £3456 from the school house account.

Agreed: to thank Marcus for all his work as treasurer.

Fabric

a) **Tree/Shrub Planting** – the planned walk around the churchyard had been abandoned because of heavy rain. The two unsightly trees in the overcrowded corner of the churchyard were not dying but their removal would help their neighbours to flourish, letting more light in. However, this would need both Diocesan and Council approval.

Agreed: to review the churchyard planting in March (set date at February meeting) and to start the faculty process for removing the trees.

b) **Guttering** – Agreed to begin the faculty process to re-route the guttering on the north east side of the church, replacing the plastic guttering with a lead-substitute material and also to repair the guttering over the south side porch.

c) **Heating** – unfortunately the heaters had been found to contain asbestos. They were not dangerous but the asbestos removal would have to be done by a specialist firm. Estimates for the work were in hand and were likely to add considerably to the cost. Celina would ask the heating engineer to switch the existing heaters back on for the funeral on 11.12.18.

d) **Interior lighting** – faculty paperwork still not received and being chased regularly by Diane. Noted that once received, a notice would have to be posted for 28 days.

e) **Quinquennial update** – Electrical items – not completed, Tish to chase Ian who had agreed to finish tasks outstanding when he resigned; pew heating on right of church now working.

f) **Woodworm** – Diane to ask the Architect's advice

g) **Wooden floor polishing** – to go ahead mid-January, funded from charity account.

h) **Door Curtain** – Fabric had been selected and Charlotte would progress the work, funded from charity account.

Safeguarding

Diane had recently re-sent the URL. Charlotte had already passed the training!

AOB

a) **Church Opening** – Tish apologised for missing this from the agenda

Agreed:

6.1.19	Marcus
13.1.19	Tish
20.1.19 (WICKEN PRAISE)	Henry and Marcus
27.1.19	Celina
3.2.19	Celina

Remaining dates Feb-March to be agreed at February meeting.

b) **Ascension Day** – attendance at this year's service had been very low; at the time it had been acknowledged that this was partly because it was a normal working day. Next year it would fall on 30 May which was half-term and the children from Akeley Wood absent.

Agreed: move the service to Sunday 2 June with part held at the Gospel Elm.

c) **Pew News** – Marcus kindly volunteered to copy the weekly sheet as the current arrangements were awkward and inconvenient.

Meetings and Events

4.2.19 PCC 7pm at Wicken House

8.4.19 APCM and PCC 7pm in the church.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.10pm

Signed:

Date: