

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at Woodpecker Holt on 8 October 2018 at 7pm

Present: Rev Sue Stanley (Chair), Rev Diane Whittaker, Rita Long, Charlotte Yorke-Long, Marcus Rixon, Ian Howett and Tish Gordon-Lee.

Apologies for absence from Celina Francklin

Minutes 20.8.18 Accepted and signed

Matters Arising

Dealt with elsewhere

Correspondence Received

a) **Remembrance Sunday Book** - Diane had received a book for Remembrance Sunday from the Diocesan Mission Team. She would bring it to church on Sunday so we could decide about buying copies for the service on 11 Nov.

b) **Equipped for the Task morning, 13.10.18** - An email received only on 5.10.18 appeared to have been the first notice of this event.

Agreed: Tish to reply accordingly saying that it was unfortunately too short notice for anyone to attend.

Fabric

a) **Tree/Shrub Planting** – possible options were discussed

Agreed: all present on Sunday to meet in churchyard after the service

b) **Guttering** – the guttering immediately behind the bench next to the porch needed urgent attention.

Agreed: Diane to ask the other churches for someone reliable to do the work and Charlotte the same at Greens Norton.

c) **Heating** – the faculty was through and the Solar Farm committee had kindly approved 50% funding.

Agreed – to start the work as soon as the funding was confirmed by the Parish Council.

d) **Interior lighting** – still awaiting further consideration by DAC. The money was already available through the John Armitage Charitable Trust (JACT), of which Celina is a trustee. However, the need for the work and possible repercussions from the community could be reconsidered before its implementation. We would also bear in mind the inconvenience and expense of replacing the existing bulbs.

e) **Door Curtain** – although it had been agreed to replace the old curtain, it had slipped from the agenda and nothing done. The new heating will not remove the draught from the door.

Agreed: Charlotte to get a quote for the work.

f) **Exterior Lighting** – PIR now fitted

g) **Pew seating cushions** – done, with thanks to Charlotte and Celina.

h) **Quinquennial update** –

(i) **Electrical items** – still outstanding, with pew heating on right of church also needing attention.

(ii) **Table tombs** – still investigating possible funding

i) **Tower and Vestry doors** – work virtually complete.

j) **War Memorial** – Fenlon Dunphy had kindly offered to take over the project. Neil Gordon-Lee had investigated the regulations around funding and acceptable repairs.

Agreed: to accept Fenlon's offer with thanks; Marcus to circulate Neil's email and attachments.

k) **Woodworm** – no record in the log book back to 2003, though John Marchant had said the church had been sealed for seven days and thoroughly fumigated about fifteen years ago.

Agreed: Diane to ask the Architect's advice

l) **Wooden floor polishing** – the DAC had rejected the quote and proposal, which Diane had asked Celina to revise. The DAC's view may have been that we were taking on a disproportionate amount

of fabric work as against mission, outreach etc, though the funding would come from the JACT not other accounts. It would be possible to improve the floors without moving the pews.

Agreed: Diane would ask Celina with Charlotte to clarify this in the revised proposal.

m) **Organ** – the shelves in the vestry had been re-jigged to allow access to the back of the organ.

Treasurer's Report

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

Grass-cutting schedule to be revised at the beginning of next year.

b) **Schoolhouse** (below)

c) Collections and Attendance – see attachments

e) **Parish Share** – the direct debit (£500/month) was being paid

Agreed: review outstanding balance at December meeting

d) **Account signatories** – Barclays had declined to help so it was in hand with Lloyd's

Agreed – to thank Marcus

Rector's/Curate's Report

Diane said that the Chancellor had said the unauthorised kerbstones could stay provided they lost their shine and the gravel was replaced with a more suitable colour. However, if these modifications were not carried out, it would all have to be removed. Diane continued to chase the person responsible.

Sue said that she had attended the village barbecue and had set up a "Messy Church" stall. On this and other occasions she had met many more people from the village, though had been unable to make as many formal pastoral visits as she would have liked.

For Hallowe'en she planned to place a pair of Christian pumpkin lights at the lychgate.

Sue would post the harvest events on the Wicken Facebook page.

We now had a baptism at Holy Communion on 25.11.18. Marcus would assist Celina who was opening the church.

Agreed: to thank Diane and Sue for all their help and support.

Safeguarding

Some PCC members had yet to complete the online training . Diane would re-send the URL, with apologies for forgetting to do so after the last meeting.

Worship/Mission

a) **Wicken Praise** – this had been a huge success with a really good attendance. We had yet to purchase mugs so Sue would ask Celina to buy some in time for the next on 21.10.18. The general view was that they should be as inexpensive as possible; the personalised ones would probably not pay for themselves in fundraising, given the lack of success with the tea-towels.

b) **Remembrance Sunday** – Martin Mills, the bugler, had agreed (and was keen) to attend. Marcus would investigate special candles for the service. Celina, Marcus and Tish would do refreshments after the service. John Marchant would read out the names of the Fallen at the War Memorial. All of this part of the service would be relayed into the church by microphone for those unable to stand outside.

c) Christmas Services and Patronal Festival

9 Lessons and Carols 16.12.18, 6pm – to incorporate Singing for Syria, an initiative requested by Lucy Lyon at Dagnall Farm. Sue would confirm with Celina the number of readers required. Lucy would provide refreshments and Sue would let us know what help Lucy would need.

Christingle 24.12.18 3pm – Sue suggested that the Christingles should be partially prepared with tape attached and then completed by the children as part of the service. Diane would check what

supplies were needed and Tish would check the register for the attendance last year, for possible numbers. Other details at next meeting.

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

Christmas Day – Holy Communion at 9.30am

Benefice – 30.12.18 11.00am

We need another set of large print books for some services and another large print *Pew News* each week – Diane/Marcus to arrange.

Fundraising/Social/Outreach

a) **BBQ 2.9.18** – already discussed

b) **Harvest Events** – refreshments to be provided after the service, Sue and Tish to organise. No arrangements had as yet been made to decorate the church but Charlotte would do some flowers on Saturday. Gift envelopes were already being returned to Marcus.

AOB

a) **Marquees** – Wicken Village Community had kindly offered to take over ownership and storage of the marquees, having heard that the previous storage was no longer available and there was nowhere else convenient for them to go.

Agreed: accepted with gratitude

b) **PCC membership** – Ian and Rita tendered their immediate resignations from the PCC. Although asked if they could perhaps defer until the APCM, they felt unable to do so. They would, however, meet the commitments already agreed.

There was then a discussion about the way forward for the PCC and a change of emphasis from fabric items (as evidenced by the agenda) to mission and outreach, including trying to find out why some members of the congregation no longer attended and what might bring them back. It was agreed that we should build on the exciting success of Wicken Praise, when the combination of accessible language, popular hymns and thoughtful inclusion of the children had been significant factors. We would all pray for strength and guidance to build up our church as the heart of the community

Agreed: to record our regret that we were losing Ian and Rita from the PCC and our grateful thanks to them for all they had done, and would continue to do, in the church and the community.

Meetings and Events

3.12.18 PCC 7pm, Yew Tree Cottage

11.2.19 PCC 7pm, venue TBA

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace at 9.50pm

Signed:

Date: