

## **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN**

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at Wicken House on 4 February 2019 at 7pm

Present: Rev Sue Stanley (Chair), Rev Diane Whittaker, Marcus Rixon, Celina Francklin, Margaret Williams and Tish Gordon-Lee.

Apologies for absence from Charlotte Yorke-Long and Henry Syrett

### **Minutes 3.12.18 and 10.1.19 Accepted and signed**

#### **Matters Arising 3.12.18**

a) **Guttering** – Diane had emailed the Diocesan Architect re the name of the cast iron guttering substitute, which is cheaper and less prone to theft. She would be applying for the required Faculty, and at the same time would seek advice on the advisability of rerouting away from the diagonal. Celina had obtained a quotation of £468 inclusive (using cast iron guttering).

**Agreed:** work to be paid for from the Fabric Fund

b) **Trees** – Diane had emailed the DAC secretary for the Faculty request to be included in their next meeting at the end of March.

**Agreed:** work to be funded from the Charity account.

#### **Correspondence Received**

a) **Mission Initiatives** – Tish had received an email from the Diocese on behalf of Revd Canon Sarah Brown, Canon Missioner of Peterborough Cathedral.

**Agreed:** Tish to circulate the email to the PCC and to put it on the next agenda.

b) **2019 AGMs** – Tish had received a letter from the Diocese about procedures to be followed before and after the AGM - more this year. This included a reminder about the full revision of the Electoral Roll. Everyone needed to complete a new form, of which copies had been tabled and would also be placed in church. Tish would obtain and display the necessary notice for the required period.

#### **Rector's/Curate's Report**

Covered elsewhere.

#### **Worship/Mission**

a) **Wicken Praise** – still going well, though all agreed we must use only very well-known hymns. However, there were still many families in the village who did not attend and we needed to find ways to tempt them in.

**Agreed:** Celina and Sue to talk to Olivia Syrett (whose three boys always attend) to find ways to encourage other families whom she knows, also to think about Mothering Sunday;

Tish to email Wickids a reminder.

#### **b) Christmas Services and Patronal Festival**

Very successful with record attendances.

c) **Church Closure** – the church would have to be closed for health and safety reasons from 25.2.19 for about four weeks, while the asbestos removal, heating and lighting works were undertaken. (The legal notice about the lighting had been posted on the notice board and the work would not begin before its expiry.) The wooden floor-polishing (which did not require a closure) would take two weeks from 1.4.19, after which we would have about a week to get the church cleaned for Easter. A baptism arranged for 2pm on 24.3.19 could probably be managed even if the works overran and the bell-ringing at 10.00-12.00am on 30.3.19 would also be unaffected unless there was a problem with tower lighting at that late stage. Ideally the usual services on 3,10,17 and 24 March would be held in the Hall. The Bishop's permission had already been granted.

Agreed: Celina to ask Adrian (Phoenix Rising) for use of the Hall with a donation for heating and lighting;

Marcus to place a notice about the closure and alternative venue on the church board;

A plaque acknowledging the generous donations made to provide the existing lighting to be put up in the church;

Sue and Tish to post items on Facebook and the village website;

Tish to see if it can go into the next *Wicken News*.

**d) Mothering Sunday** – as agreed at the EGM, we should make more of this service as a means of encouraging people to come to church. It would be a short service along the lines of Wicken Praise, with the church decorated and small posies for the mums and grannies. Refreshments to be served afterwards.

Agreed: Celina, Tish and Charlotte (if available) to prepare the posies on 30.3.19 at 3pm at Celina's. Tish to bring three bunches of daffodils, Celina to provide raffia and greenery from the garden.

**e) Easter** – this would be a family Holy Communion with an Easter egg hunt after the service. Further details to be discussed at the next meeting.

Agreed: Celina to buy the eggs;

to distribute an Easter card giving service details in the week beginning 18.3.19.

**f) Ascension Day** (30.5.19 commemorated on Sunday 2.6.19) – deferred to next meeting.

### **Fundraising/Social/Outreach**

Currently covered by the various services and hospitality.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The various accounts were tabled and discussed (attached)

**a) Accounts 2018**

**b) Parish Share** – the balance had not been paid. Marcus would liaise with the Diocese to check if it could still be paid for last year's Share.

**c) Schoolhouse**

**d) Accounts YTD 2019**

**e) Collections and Attendance** – it was worrying that collections were down on previous years, though attendances were not. It cost £16,348.49 per year simply to keep the church up and running. We needed to remind parishioners of this uncomfortable fact and to preach stewardship in church

Agreed: to thank Marcus for his continuing hard and time-consuming work as treasurer.

### **Fabric**

**a) Kitchen and Toilet** – Diane, Celina, Margaret and Marcus would meet the Diocesan Architect in March to look at options for both projects. (Diane to book.) Marcus would email the existing plans to the PCC to refresh our memories. Tish suggested that an "eco" toilet such as those used in remote areas of the USA might be suitable and would investigate further.

**Agreed:** to draw up a detailed proposal in order to request matched funding from the Solar Fund.

**b) Path** – Diane would ask the Architect's advice about using both the cobbles and Breedon, with one as the edging for the other. Before laying the path, the services necessary for the kitchen and toilet would be run underneath. The paving stones by the lychgate would need repositioning at the same time as they are becoming a hazard.

Agreed: funding kindly provided from JACT fund.

c) **Quinquennial update** – the one outstanding item, oiling the vestry door, will be undertaken as soon as possible.

d) **Door Curtain** – to be undertaken in the autumn.

e) **School House Boiler** – the estimate from Yardley Heating was thought to be reasonable at £4944.00 for the boiler and £422.40 for the (legally required) 11 radiator valves.

**Agreed:** To proceed with the work

### **Safeguarding**

Noted that the policy must be formally adopted once more at the AGM

### **Church Opening 10.2.19 – 5.5.19**

**Agreed:**

Funeral 11.2.19 – Celina to arrange flowers, Marcus and Margaret to open.

10.2.19	Ordinary	HC	CHURCH	Celina	
17.2.19		WP		Marcus and Tish	<b>R</b>
24.2.19		HC		Margaret	
3.3.19		MP	HALL	Celina	
10.3.19	Lent	HC		Tish	
17.3.19		WP		Celina and Marcus	<b>R</b>
24.3.19		HC (Baptism pm)		Margaret	
31.3.19		M Sun WP	CHURCH(?)	Celina	<b>R</b>
7.4.19		MP		Marcus	
14.4.19		HC Palm Sun		Celina	
21.4.19	Easter	Easter FHC		Tish	<b>EEH</b>
28.4.19		HC		Margaret	
5.5.19		MP		Celina	

### **AOB**

a) **Stools from School House** – Marcus to give John Marchant access so as to check them for woodworm.

b) **Grave Extension** – now in the hands of the Diocesan Solicitors who would inform Diane of any progress. Previous communications all remained unanswered.

### **Meetings and Events**

8.4.19 APCM and PCC 7pm in the church – publicity in *Wicken News*, Facebook and village website

3.6.19 PCC 7pm at Wicken House

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date: