

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at the church on 21 October 2019 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies for absence: Henry Syrett

The meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes 12.8.19 Accepted and signed; Annexe A to be amended to preserve anonymity in the public copy.

Matters Arising

a) Grave Extension – the Chancellor will ask one final time once we have got the contact details from Diane.

b) Ride and Stride 14.9.19 – the Syrett family had taken part but there had been no visitors to Wicken.

c) British Gas – monthly bills now being received.

d) War Memorial – Wicken Village Community helped with the upkeep of the memorial. Marcus would refer this to the Parish Council to clarify with whom the final responsibility lies. Noted that the Imperial Wargraves Commission's policy is that of benign neglect.

Correspondence Received

Marcus had received a Planning Consultation Notice from SNC re Listed Building Consent for a new rooflight on the inner slope of the west facing butterfly roof. This would not be visible from the church.

Agreed: no objection.

Curate's Report

Most of Sue's report would be covered under other items. Diane's sabbatical was nearly over. Sue would be on holiday next week. There would be no service in Wicken on 27 October but Revd Arthur Hughes will lead a Benefice Holy Communion at Cosgrove at 11am.

Worship/Mission

a) Pet Service - highly successful and would be well worth repeating, perhaps once a year.

b) Harvest Festival – Sue said that, although we had agreed to make more of such festivals, it was disappointing that the church had not been decorated as agreed at the previous meeting, attendance had been lower than hoped and it would have been welcoming to provide coffee following the service.

Agreed: next time we would form a committee to plan the event;

Tish to thank John for kindly delivering the produce to Ridgeway Care Home in Towcester.

c) Remembrance Sunday 10.11.19 – Monty would lead the service. Dennis had kindly volunteered to do the flowers. Celina would order wreaths from the Royal British Legion on behalf of the PCC and the PC. Refreshments would be served after the service.

d) Sound System – the briefing would be held **after Wicken Praise on 17.11.19** (24.11.19 was only a fallback date).

Fundraising/Social/Outreach

a) Harvest Supper – despite initial doubts that there would be sufficient numbers to be worth doing, this had become a quite well-attended and most enjoyable event. Unfortunately damage to the hall

ceiling had meant a last-minute move to the Sports Club. The Club had been very helpful in accommodating us.

Agreed: to thank all those who had worked to make the evening a success.

b) Christmas and New Year Services

15.12.19 6pm – Service of 9 Lessons and Carols (Richard): last year's support of a charity had been well-received and there was discussion about which one to support this time. Proposed by Marcus, seconded by Charlotte and

Agreed: to donate proceeds to Riding for the Disabled (RDA), Tish to liaise with a friend who volunteers at Puxley re some of the publicity and attendance;
to invite singers - Charlotte's friend, Margaret's grand-daughter and Lucy's son (Celina to ask Lucy);

Publicity – local vets, RDA, flyer (Celina to ask Annie to produce), local paper, in usual Christmas card listing Christmas services, village FB page (Sue);

Charlotte to investigate recipe for mulled wine and Celina to provide + glasses and cheese straws;
All to bring mince pies;

Charlotte to check possibility of borrowing a trailer and bringing her Shetland pony;

Sue to talk to Richard about adapting last year's service and to book organist if necessary.

22.12.19 9.30am – HC (Sue)

24.12.19 3pm – Christingle (Sue): oranges to be partly-prepared in advance (Tish, Margaret and helper/s) for completion at beginning of service. Sue to check re organist.

25.12.19 9.30am - HC (Sue): Sue to check re organist.

29.12.19 11am – Patronal Festival (Diane/Monty): refreshments after service.

c) Fundraising – to date we had held no gift day. This would not be appropriate at the Carol Service so, after discussion

Agreed: in principle to hold a spring event/gift day, to be planned at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The various accounts were tabled and discussed (attached)

a) Accounts YTD 2019 – It had not yet been possible to repay the £2000 transferred to the current account from the fabric fund as a temporary measure. It would be repaid as soon as possible.

There were no invoices outstanding.

b) Average Sunday Attendances (ASA) – attendances were still low on many occasions and recently there had been just one attendee at Morning Prayer. This was, of course, the case in many other communities but some had found ways to improve the church's appeal. Sue suggested we should all reflect upon the question "How are we a blessing to our village?" and consider how we could demonstrate that the church makes a difference, even if only in small ways. Several people already supported vulnerable individuals in the village, but there might be others means of outreach, even if this did not directly boost attendance in the short term.

c) Parish Share – deferred to later in the meeting but then no time. Subsequently

Agreed: consider at next meeting.

d) School House – most fortunately, the recent fire in the kitchen had happened while the family were awake so no one was in danger and the damage had been minimised. An electrical report had been made on the dishwasher where it started, indicating that overheating had been caused by a blocked wastepipe. The insurance claim for all the repairs and replacements had been made with an excess of only £25.

Agreed: to thank Celina for sorting this out so quickly.

e) Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) – VAT refund claims for heating, lighting, architect's fees and the flooring were in hand, with the potential to boost the current account.

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

Fabric

a) Memorial Plaque – deferred pending Diane’s return

b) Church Path – the DAC’s response had been received in mid-September and circulated shortly afterwards. It indicated that the DAC were not in favour of the York stone. They suggested resin-bonded gravel with steel edgings between “dipped cobble run off channels”. This needed clarification.

Agreed: Tish to ring the office on Friday to ask for clarification and, if possible, to get agreement in principle to go ahead as described, should the explanation prove acceptable to the PCC

c) Kitchen and Toilet – the siting and nature of both were discussed.

Agreed: defer to next meeting.

d) Guttering – no progress

e) Chancel Ceiling – no progress

f) Trees – an objection had been raised but we did not know how the complainant now wished to proceed. Five new trees would be planted, probably in December.

Agreed: Tish to chase progress on faculty.

g) Door curtain

Although agreed in principle at the last meeting,

Agreed: to monitor the effectiveness of the new heating over the winter and to try again to fit effective draught excluder, bearing in mind that potential heat loss was a factor overall.

Safeguarding – nothing to report

Opening Rota November 10 – January 5

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| 27.10.19 | NO SERVICE | |
| 3.11.19 | BENEFICE SERVICE YARDLEY GOBION | |
| 10.11.19 | Marcus and Tish | Remembrance Sunday 10.45am Refreshments |
| 17.11.19 | Celina | WP + refreshments AUDIO BRIEFING |
| 24.11.19 | Margaret | HC |
| 1.12.19 | Tish | MP |
| 8.12.19 | BENEFICE SERVICE POTTERSPURY | |
| 15.12.19 | ALL | 9 L&C 6pm + refreshments |
| 22.12.19 | Marcus | HC |
| 24.12.19 | Tish | Christingle 3pm |
| 25.12.19 | Marcus/Tish | HC |
| 29.12.19 | Marcus/Celina | Patronal 11.00 + refreshments |
| 5.1.20 | Celina | MP |

AOB

a) Heating - The church felt cold but the heating had not yet been turned up for the winter. It was hoped that we could be shown how to boost it manually for events outside the usual timetable.

b) Cedar Wood Carving – Michael Prendergrast had offered to Sue to carve a cross from a piece of ex-churchyard cedar wood.

Agreed: to accept this kind offer.

c) Membership – Margaret said that she would be resigning from the end of the year, having “done her bit” on the PCC. She would continue to help out with services and events.

Agreed: we would all miss Margaret at the meetings and thanked her very much for her service.

Meetings and Events

9.12.19 PCC 7pm at the church

24.2.20 PCC 7pm at the church

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm

Signed:..... Date:.....