

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 16th September 2021 at 7.30 pm (held in Church House)

Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters
Lay Reader: David Tester
Churchwardens: Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins
Elected: Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Keith welcomed everyone and opened in prayer

2. Apologies

Christopher Tyrer, Ben Sharp, Clare Godfrey, Tracey Jones (TJ)

At this point Keith informed the PCC of the resignation of James Gamon.

3. Parish Safeguarding

Roger Grant joined the meeting to update the committee on safeguarding within the parish.

He said that he planned to have everything in place by Christmas, including an audit of the situation. This would be worked on by Keith and Roger in December.

Keith proposed adopting the diocesan policy for safeguarding and this was unanimously agreed.

Roger noted that he had found PSO meetings with those from other dioceses to be particularly useful.

The Oxford diocese is investing more and more money into this sector, with historic cases making up much of the casework.

A copy of our safeguarding policy will be displayed in the porch, together with contact details for Roger.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2021

The minutes were accepted without amendments.

It was noted that welcomers can be added at any time. Queries about this should be addressed to Julia Grant.

5. Matters arising not on the agenda

After discussion it was agreed to add information about those who had left legacies to the page in Outlook that notes marriages and deaths.

Information about the giving of legacies could be put on the website.

Policies should be reviewed by the end of the year.

6. Treasurer's Report

Brian reported that the position with grants for the Belltower was still very much unknown and he reiterated the need to protect our reserves.

Moving ahead with the building work was entirely dependent on the grants and Brian confirmed that grants would not be given if work had already begun.

It is possible that work may go ahead this winter if the grants come through, otherwise it will happen next spring/summer.

Frank said that he had sent a report to Outlook to inform people about the Belltower situation.

7. Vision group update

The community card went out to the parish in August but there has been a poor response. Keith has asked the congregations to talk to friends and neighbours about the cards and hopefully to elicit some feedback.

The vision group will meet in October and present their thoughts and findings to the PCC in November.

8. Back to Church

Keith commented that the releasing of covid restrictions was difficult for some and we needed to encourage people to return to church. He noted that the midweek communion service was proving popular and the 8.00 Sunday service had not been abolished but was currently 'on ice.'

The situation would be reconsidered in January and the PCC agreed to this proposal.

Thinking about the time of the family service, there was a consensus that 11.00 was preferable to 10.45, giving everyone more time to set up and also easing the car parking situation.

The idea of having a joint coffee time between the 2 morning services was mooted, including inviting anyone in the vicinity for a free coffee. Some reservations were voiced but it was agreed to trial this on the first Sunday of November with the Social and Outreach team being responsible for refreshments.

Brian proposed that a joint coffee time took place and Frank seconded this.

The PCC voted as follows: 4 in favour, 1 against and there were 3 abstentions.

Keith asked the PCC to consider the concept of virtual worshippers and to come to the November meeting ready to discuss how to encourage people to return to church in person.

At the present time we would continue to live stream 1 weekly service, avoiding communions. On the first and third Sunday, the 11.00 service will be filmed and on the second and fourth Sundays the 9.00 matins service will be recorded. This situation will be discussed again at the November meeting. The PCC unanimously agreed to this set up.

Concerns were voiced that the people involved in both the 9.00 and the 11.00 music felt uncomfortable being filmed and recorded and it was asked that after a short time these films were taken down. The members thought this was a reasonable request that could be acted upon. The musicians explained that they were there to lead and support worship and not to put on a performance.

Keith commented that the idea of inviting vulnerable people within the parish to lunch or tea had been a huge success. He remarked that inviting people personally had been very powerful.

9. Vicar's matters

Keith recently met with a councillor: Peter Gieler. He was interested in the Time to Talk initiative and told Keith that whilst he was not allowed to give money to anything with a religious basis, he could do so under the umbrella of mental health.

The church will be getting a notice to be displayed that confirms that we have some commonwealth war graves.

Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 3rd October with gifts being offered to the One Can Trust.

A list of suitable items will be circulated. The church contact for One Can Trust is Lynn Watterston.

The PCC approved the plans for our harvest giving.

Helen told the PCC about **Living in Love and Faith**. This has emanated from the Archbishop of Canterbury and has been endorsed by the Oxford diocese. There is a 5-week course to be run at St James's Downley about the issues of gender and sexuality. The aim is to encourage conversation, where you can hear opposing views and ask questions and understand what it means to disagree well. This project needs to be completed by April.

Ben and Richard have created a policy for live streaming in the church. They suggest paying the operator of the equipment £60 and the PCC then thought it appropriate to also have a charge of £40 which would go into church funds.

It was agreed that decisions would be made in November when all such fees will be discussed.

Lastly, it was also noted that the PCC should carefully consider the issue of employing children and also of filming them.

10. Churchwardens' matters

The state of Disraeli's grave was discussed and also the concern of the National Trust over this matter. It is obviously in need of the attention of a stonemason and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the National Trust to see if some agreement could be found to share the cost of repair.

The inspection by the Deanery Lay Chair has recently taken place. Julia reported that Graham Slocombe had wanted to see the log book and the PCC minutes book, neither of which were available. (The minutes are all on the Church website under PCC.) Healso commented that the certificate of insurance should be displayed. Outside the church he was concerned about the state of some of the graves which were not in keeping with the graveyard regulations.

Frank raised the matter of the card machine just inside the church door. It was unanimously agreed that the amounts one could donate would be changed and raised to: £5, £10 and £25.

Frank showed the PCC the new Alpha posters that would be displayed for the course beginning this autumn and also brought to the committee's attention Christian cruises that were now available.

11. PCC subgroups

On behalf of the social and outreach committee, Frank reported that a play about Disraeli would take place in church on the 20th and the 27th of November. He intended that the whole community would be invited.

Helen spoke for the youth and children's group, stating that the Harvest service on 3rd October would also be the last service for Bex. She would be given a small gift and a cheque to thank her for her work and dedication over the last 9 years.

Helen commented that the list of children she had supplied in her report to the PCC, was a reasonable number but that the challenge was one of communication.

Keith thanked Helen for all her work on Ice Cream Sunday and for her willingness to shoulder extra responsibility for children and youth as Bex leaves us.

12. Electoral Roll

Arthur stated that there was nothing to report.

13. AOB

A leaf blower has been given to the church

Keith closed in prayer and the meeting ended at 10.01 pm.

ACTIONS

- **Vision group to present findings to PCC in November.**
- **Social and outreach group to facilitate joint coffee on Sunday 7th November.**
- **Churchwardens to liaise with National Trust regarding the finances needed to repair Disraeli's grave.**
- **Certificate of insurance to be found and displayed. Brian? Frank?**
- **Keith, Julia and Arthur to sort out graves that are breaking the regulations.**
- **Frank to change monetary amounts on card machine.**
- **PCC members to review policies by the end of this year.**

Susan Brice (PCC secretary)
17th September 2021