

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7.30 pm (held by zoom)

Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters, Tracey Jones (TJ)
Churchwardens: Julia Grant
Elected: Clare Godfrey, Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon,
Ben Sharp, Christopher Tyrer
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Keith welcomed everyone and opened in prayer.

Then he played 'In Christ Alone'.

2. Discipleship Training Centre Presentation

Keith welcomed Charlotte Lawson from the Discipleship Training Centre. Charlotte said that the vision of the Centre was to create stronger links between churches and schools, hopefully moving towards there being more young families in church and more young leaders in the wider church. At present Charlotte is working within the Wycombe Deanery.

The idea is for a young person aged between 18 and 24 to have a 12-hour-a-week (unpaid) placement within a particular church. There would also be one day of teaching each week in Marlow. This would consist of practical theology, prayer, leadership and life skills, time and money management. It also provides a link with other trainees and gives the opportunity for pastoral support. It is up to each church to decide exactly what they require.

Accommodation should be offered and this makes any recruitment package more attractive. A line manager needs to be appointed and a different person to be a mentor. The DTC also links with the national programme run by New Wine, which has 16 hubs around the country. Trainees would take part in a leadership conference and a summer gathering leading onto an optional mission trip, possibly abroad.

The project is funded by a diocesan grant and finance from the Wycombe Deanery. The placement church offers £500 towards the costs, although they can choose to give more. Charlotte encouraged everyone to consider for whom this might be the right course at this time.

Keith thanked Charlotte and asked for an indication of the timescale for decisions. The PCC were told that they really need to decide within the next six weeks if they wish to move forward with this project.

3. Apologies

David Tester, Frank Hawkins

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 16th November and 30th November 2021

Both sets of minutes were seen to be accurate and were accepted by the PCC.

5. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

It was noted that the necessary photos of Roger Grant and Helen Peters had been put up alongside the safeguarding information.

6. Treasurer's Report including Standing Committee

Brian wanted thanks noted to Mike Morgan who continues to be a great help and support in financial matters. Brian reported a surplus for last year of £19,000 and noted that it had not been necessary to ask the congregation for money as the grant funding had been forthcoming.

The National Churches Trust is now paying for 90% of the Bell tower project as well as providing money for the restoration of the Disraeli grave. If it is appropriate, we will return funding to the National Churches Trust, enabling us to build a relationship of trust with this charity whom we may well wish to approach again.

A discussion took place about the state and possible repair of the Disraeli regalia in the chancel. It was noted that it was last restored about 30 years ago and a useful contact might be St. Georges Chapel, Windsor.

The Christmas charities: Shelter, MAF and One Can were each sent £250. There was no Standing Committee report.

7. Vision Group Update

Keith reported that Anne Dean and Richard Peters had both stepped down from the Vision Group. A meeting had been held recently and the group were praying over the outcomes. Another meeting was scheduled for 25th January and Keith hoped that there would be something positive to share with the PCC very soon.

8. Bell Tower Update

Richard Peters joined the meeting and said that a video had been made to show the progress that had taken place within the Bell tower. This had been circulated within the church community. Richard reported that the restoration work was on track to be completed by the end of March and the repair of Disraeli's grave by the end of June.

Keith thanked Richard for all his work on this project.

9. Vicar's Matters

A foundation governor who is a practising Christian and has financial skills is needed at Great Kingshill Combined School. They would be part of the Foundation Committee led by Keith.

PCC fees are set annually with statutory fees set by the General Synod and others set locally i.e. verger, organist, choir, bell ringers, heating and audio-visual. Keith said that the General Synod were increasing fees by 3½ percent and suggested that we should do the same. This action was proposed by Christopher and seconded by Ben.

Discussion followed about how the PCC should charge for the use of the audio-visual equipment. It was agreed to see what other local churches did in this situation and in the meantime to offer the possibility of live streaming to weddings and funerals by special arrangement, noting that were also safeguarding issues to be considered.

Keith told the committee that he would be on sabbatical during the months of July, August and September, including a trip to Southern India to visit the link diocese of Oxford. He assured everyone that matters within the church would be carefully planned beforehand and that Helen and TJ would not be overwhelmed with work.

On the subject of live-streaming, we are filming no more than one service a week shared between the two morning services.

TJ asked about the situation regarding mask wearing in church, particularly following the imminent change in legal advice from the government. There was an agreement that mask wearing by the congregation would still be recommended but that it would be recognised that this would now be a personal choice.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia advised the PCC that the War Graves Commission plaque could be put inside the gate, within the church grounds. She asked the committee to sanction this and proposed the motion. Christopher seconded this and the vote was unanimous.

Julia went on to say that Mike Hill had been asked by the Deanery to become its Eco Advocate and Eco Church would be the mechanism for doing this within our own church. Julia commented that she had done an initial assessment on the Eco Church website and it was obvious we had a long way to go. A small working party could be set up to address the eco goals. The remit was wide and we need to set an agenda.

Lastly Julia commented that the rotas were struggling, particularly for sides people and welcomers. TJ noted that Youth serve could become involved with this on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month when the young people were not in their own teaching groups.

11. PCC subgroups

- **Health and Safety Update**

Antony had already sent out the relevant documents to PCC members. He needed approval for the statement of Health and Safety Policy and for the Local organisations and arrangements document. Christopher proposed agreement and Mike Hill seconded.

The committee were told that an electrical safety report for the church had been received but that remedial work was needed in Church House.

On the subject of the defibrillator, it was agreed that we would not move forward with this at the present time. Keith did comment that possibly this was something that a member of the congregation might like to sponsor.

- **Mission Update**

David Tester was not present at this meeting but asked that these points be raised. When the welcome board is put up then the Mission group will take over the large board at the back of the church for their displays. The communications group are happy with this decision.

Growing Hope is the mission focus for this quarter. Doctor Naomi Graham will be speaking about this charity and its aims at the two morning services on Sunday 6th February. It was noted that there would be a fundraising gala dinner in aid of Growing Hope on 2nd April. David is requesting direct financial support for Growing Hope as the PCC do for Love Wycombe, Lighthouse and WYFC. It was agreed that David and Keith would meet to discuss this before the March meetings.

- **Social and Outreach**

Antony said that the committee had received the social and outreach information and the proposed calendar of events. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was discussed and how church events might segue into community activities. It was agreed that anything the church did should be outward looking, seeking involvement with the rest of the parish.

The official opening of the Belltower and the resetting up of Friends of Hughenden Church were both thoughts that were briefly mooted but not at this stage fully discussed.

12. Safeguarding

At this point Roger Grant joined the meeting (please see report attached). Keith expressed his thanks to Roger for all the time and effort he was putting into this role.

13. Electoral Roll

Nothing to report.

14. AOB

The March meeting dates were amended thus: PCC meeting Thursday 3rd March at 7.30 pm and APCM on Sunday 13th March.

The meeting finished at 10.15 pm, Mike Hill having been asked by Keith to close in prayer.

ACTIONS

- **Frank and Keith to approach a possible speaker for the parish weekend in October 2022 and to report to the PCC in March.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

21st January 2021