

# Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 at 7.30 pm in Church House

## Present

Clergy: Helen Peters, Tracey Jones (TJ)

Lay Reader: David Tester

Churchwardens: Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins

Elected: Janet Booth, Clare Godfrey (Lay Chair for this meeting), Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley (Brian left the meeting at 8.30 pm), Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, Mark Sherrington, Christopher Tyrer

Secretary: Susan Brice

Roger Grant was present to give his safeguarding update.

## **1. Opening Worship**

Helen and then Clare prayed from the PCC Handbook to open the meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

Mike Hill

## **3. Minutes of the meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Both sets of minutes were signed and approved without amendments.

## **4. Parish Safeguarding**

Roger first wanted to inform the committee that he had taken over the church cycle ride that used to be led by John Holmes. Money raised will go to the National Churches Trust.

A Parish Safeguarding document had been circulated to the PCC and Hughenden is in good stead with the necessary requirements.

Roger asked for PCC agreement for registering to take part in Safeguarding Sunday on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Agreement was given with the proviso that this would be discussed with Keith on his return.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

(This was moved to an earlier point in the agenda, than previously planned.)

Brian had already circulated his report and statement of accounts.

We have just completed a major project in The Bell Tower repair. This seemed like an appropriate point to look at our financial position. Once we have reclaimed all grant monies and VAT, we should have something like £50,000 in the Current Account on top of the money in the CCLA Deposit Account of just under £190,000. However, if we look at our Income and Expenditure excluding grants, legacies and Capital Expenditure (i.e. including

budgeted Repair and Maintenance), we look likely to have an annual shortfall of Income versus Expenditure of over £50,000.

Questions were asked about our Parish Share which now stands at £81,257 per year. There was an agreement that we were morally obligated to pay this in full.

Discussion took place about whether congregational pledges for the Bell Tower should possibly be put towards the lighting project.

It was agreed that the Standing Committee need to consider the deficit situation and report back at the next meeting and also that they should think about green issues in relation to our lighting problems.

Brian left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

## **6. Youth worker update**

There was general agreement that we need to employ a youth worker. Helen said that the possibility had been accepted of appointing someone who could grow into the role. It was also noted that the fewer hours that are offered, the fewer people are likely to apply.

Discussion took place with regard to creating a specific fund for financing a youth worker.

Also, it was agreed that Diocesan funds would be investigated. It was said that employing a youth worker could be seen as part of the church's vision and thus financed as part of that.

Both Antony and Christopher said that a leap of faith was required and that we should move forward accordingly.

Ben and Helen agreed to look at the hours that might be appropriate for the youth worker and report to the Standing Committee.

## **7. Vision process and update**

Susan and Frank have looked at this and the documents were then circulated.

Frank pointed out that the two task groups should be pro-active rather than being simply discussion groups and should aim to link the church and the community.

It was felt that Helen should lead the outreach group and Keith the church group.

Frank asked that the PCC try to think of names of people who might possibly be approached to be facilitators and group members, particularly younger people.

It was agreed that progress could be made with the group Helen would lead whilst recognising that moving forward with Keith's group would largely need to wait until his return.

## **8. Mission**

David asked the PCC to approve 4 charities for our Christmas giving. They are the Ukraine, Ebenezer Children's Centre, Wycombe Homeless Connection and Wycombe Women's Aid.

These were all accepted.

Discussion took place about cash giving within church, the advantages and disadvantages. No decisions were made that would change the present situation.

Our Harvest giving would be made to the One Can Trust and Phil Hynard would talk about this in church on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

David asked that his report be referred to for details of mission and charitable giving in 2023.

## **9. Clergy Matters**

Helen asked for Lighthouse to be remembered in prayer. She also reported that three ladies who did not attend church had told her that they enjoyed watching the live streamed services.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September will have eco themes running through the services. Helen and TJ will lead them.

A new oak bench in the churchyard has been donated to replace a rotting one. It has not been placed where originally agreed due to the difficulty of uneven and sloping ground. Some concerns were voiced about the bench, specifically about the Freemasons insignia and the Churchwardens agreed to look into this situation. TJ commented that for the bench to remain in the churchyard a faculty would be required.

Both Antony and Mark said that their daughters would be willing to be involved in eco church.

## **10. Churchwardens' matters**

Frank commented that the Churchwardens were having regular meetings with Helen and TJ to keep in touch during the sabbatical. He also confirmed to the committee that the double signature financial process had been fully applied throughout the bell tower project.

There will be a Q&A day for Alpha on 21<sup>st</sup> September and it will officially begin on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

The High Leigh weekend on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October now has about 30 people on the list.

Frank concluded by saying that the community choir was running successfully and they were grateful for the use of the church.

## **11. Matters not arising on the agenda**

Christopher said that there was a plan to reprint the numerous service booklets and that Jane, as leader of the communications committee, would liaise with Ben Brice.

TJ told the PCC that the Diocesan Synod had given permission for associate ministers to receive a fee for weddings and funerals.

Thanks was offered to the Thompson family for their hospitality on the day of the barbecue.

The need for more people on all the volunteer rotas was voiced and discussion took place on how to encourage people.

## **12. Electoral Roll**

Nothing to report.

### **13.AOB**

Helen kindly agreed to provide refreshments at the September meeting.

### **ACTIONS**

- **Standing Committee to consider the financial deficit situation and eco issues with regard to the lighting project.**
- **Ben and Helen agreed to look at the number of hours that might be required of a youth worker and to report back to the Standing Committee.**
- **PCC members to email Frank with any possible names of people who might be asked to be part of the two vision groups.**

Susan Brice (PCC secretary)

24<sup>th</sup> July 2022