

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 17th November 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), Mike Hill,
Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Mark Sherrington, Christopher Tyrer
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Opening Worship

Prayers were offered by Clare Godfrey

2. Apologies

Keith Johnson, Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp

At this point, when prayers were offered for Keith's health, thanks were also offered to TJ who took over responsibility for the services on Remembrance Sunday at very short notice.

3. Parish Safeguarding

Roger Grant, in his capacity as the parish safeguarding officer, attended the meeting to inform the PCC about the position of safeguarding and the related safer recruitment procedures within the St Michael and All Angels context.

Roger shared some scenarios with the committee, used slides to illustrate different situations and invited comments and questions.

The following documents were unanimously approved by the PCC: Hughenden Parish Safeguarding Policy, Recruitment of Ex- Offenders Policy, Safer Recruitment and People Management process (as laid down by the Church of England), Responding to Concerns and Allegations guidance and Men's Breakfast and Eco-Church which will be added to the list of Church Activities.

Thanks were offered to Roger for the effort and time that he gives to this very important position within the governance of our church.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2022

The minutes were accepted without amendments and signed by Clare Godfrey (as lay chair).

Looking at the actions that were set, Frank informed the PCC that the lighting would not be done by Christmas as the diocese was unexpectedly requiring a full faculty and the time scale would thus be longer than planned. Julia said she had made the necessary applications for swift boxes in the tower and TJ had bought mugs to replace disposable cups. Helen assured the committee that the youth worker job advert had been advertised and Frank said that the work needed to affect changes with the step at the church entrance was in hand.

5. Matters arising not on the agenda

Frank reported that the Masonic bench in the churchyard had been removed and he intended to replace it in the new year with a similar bench dedicated to his late wife.

Brian Clark presented the problem of acquiring a mobility vehicle to the Princes Risborough Rotary Club and the club have donated £650 towards the project. Brian Clark has also offered a generous donation.

Helen will work with Penny Austin and the Friendship morning group so that trials can take place, ensuring we buy the correct sort of vehicle.

6. Treasurer's Report

Brian reported that the Belltower project had cost £121,000 excluding VAT and we had received grants totalling £116,000. Richard Peters was currently completing the whole process. With donations and pledges from the congregation, the Belltower work has cost the church nothing. The people who kindly pledged money will be asked if their donation can be transferred to the lighting project.

Thanks were again given to Brian Clark, Brian Morley, Richard Peters and Christopher Tyrer for ensuring the whole project reached completion.

Brian noted that legacy money had been received from the estate of Len Rickards and also that the whole of the cost of the High Leigh weekend had been paid and accounted for.

At the present time the church had £38,000 in the current account and £190,000 in the savings account. The PCC were told that the parish share had increased by 1% to £81,465.

Giving notes from the Standing Committee, Frank commented on the Gift Day set to happen on Sunday 20th November. It was planned that the donations made would be put towards the cost of the lighting works. It was commented that it was important to ensure all congregations were well informed and everybody knew how to give.

The committee were told that a member of the congregation had offered to pay for an update of the projectors used in the AV system. The generous donation would be able to be gift aided, thus increasing in value by 25%.

Frank agreed he would sort out an acceptable auditor so that we would be observant of the rules at the next APCM.

Mike asked about the reserves policy and after some discussion it was agreed that the Standing Committee would create a policy which left them able to respond to any financial eventuality.

Julia asked for, and received, unanimous approval for paying the Eco Church charity £125.

7. Vision Update

Helen said there was no Vision Report as such but there were reasons to celebrate and our involvement with the local community had greatly increased. The Hughenden Community Choir was very successful, the Toddler Group and Friendship Morning were both thriving and a local councillor now wished to be involved with the social and outreach group.

8. Vicar's Matters

At this point TJ wished to report to the PCC on her immediate future within the St Michael and All Angels community.

"TJ reported that, despite very much wanting to continue serving and worshipping in Hughenden after her Curacy, she has accepted Keith's decision that she should move to a new church as he believes that would be necessary in order to allow for the possibility of another self-supporting curate here.

Following discussions between Bishop Alan and the relevant people at Diocesan level, she will be moving to St Mary's Church, Wexham with a view to finishing her curacy and then serving as Associate Minister.

The timing is yet to be arranged but is likely to be early in 2023. St Mary's PCC have approved the move, as has the Director of Training and of course Bishop Alan.

TJ is currently on compassionate leave until into the New Year, in order to care for a family member. She will therefore need to take the first few months in Wexham to finish her curacy and be 'signed off'.

A date for TJ's licensing at Wexham and her last Sunday here will be announced once it has been agreed with all parties."

9. Churchwardens' Matters

The Churchwardens will sort out a Christmas tree for the back of the church, as arrangements need to change this year.

Julia said she had been working on the sidespersons' rota and had agreed new car parking signs with the National Trust.

There had been 2 meetings of the Eco Church group and it was gratifying to have young people in the group who came with enthusiasm as well as many good ideas.

Julia talked about the need for a heat survey in the church and also told the committee about a plan for communal Christmas cards to be displayed near the font.

10. PCC sub groups

- **Mission**

Discussions had taken place and it was decided that all donations from the card machine would be counted as Christmas charitable collections from the evening of Sunday 18th December (service of 9 lessons and carols) until the end of Christmas Day 25th December.

With regard to cash donations, people will be invited to make cash and cheque donations at services in that period through a retiring collection, using the plate at the back of the church.

A notice will be placed on the card machine during the forthcoming Christmas period to inform prospective donors. Donation options will also be publicised in the services when the charities are brought to the attention of the congregation. These will include giving online through the bank account of the church, annotating the gift 'Christmas collection'.

- **Social and Outreach**

Frank wanted to bring the concert by the Hughenden Singers to the attention of the PCC.

There will be a New Year's Day walk after the one morning service. Timings and arrangements will be decided by Antony.

11. Electoral Roll

Nothing to report.

12. AOB

Thanks were offered to Ben Brice for the display at the back of the church and the Christmas card designs.

TJ noted that it is not a requirement for us to have first aiders at events. However, it would seem to be good practice to work collaboratively with other churches to provide first aid (and other relevant kinds of training) that would be inordinately expensive for us to do alone.

Frank kindly offered to provide refreshments for the January PCC meeting.

Helen closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting finished at 9.57 pm

ACTIONS

- **Frank to sort out an appropriate auditor in time to announce at the APCM in 2023**
- **Standing Committee will create a reserves policy**
- **The Churchwardens will acquire and put up a Christmas tree in the church**
- **Helen will contact Brian Clarke and liaise with him regarding the acquisition of a motorised vehicle**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

23rd November 2022