

**Parish of the Resurrection, Alton**

**Meeting of Parochial Church Council – Monday 12th September 2022**

**St. Lawrence Church - 6.00 pm**

**Present:** Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM) Chair, Alan Armstrong (AA), Matthew Bayliss (MB), Angie Briggs (AB), Derek Gurney (DG), Elspeth Mackeggie-Gurney (EMG), Clive Muller (CM), Revd Gordon Randall (GR) & Helen Walters (HW). Late arrivals : Robin Kemp (6.40pm) Lisa Hillan (7.24pm)

**Apologies :** Revd Wendy Burnhams, Tori Hewitt, Sarah Neish, John Vivian

**In attendance:** Sue Hubbard (Minute Secretary)

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|  | **Action** |
|  | **The meeting opened with prayers in particular for the late Queen Elizabeth II.** |  |
|  | **Conflicts of interest**Derek Gurney, Resurrection Furniture |  |
| **1** | **Minutes of the last meeting – extraordinary PCC meeting on 30th August.**Agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. No matters arising. Also agreed to ensure 13/6/22 meeting signed minutes were on file. | SH |
| **2** | **Note:** Items taken in reverse order from agenda for practical reasons.**Finance Report**Meeting of Finance and Admin committee on 25/8/22 had been circulated on 7/9. Particular points stressed:* Policies gradually being up-dated – see minutes from 25/8
* Administrative review was on-going
* Financial statements and bookkeeping. Reported that we still only had financial statements up to 31/5/22, despite efforts of the Bookkeeper. It was hoped that in due course the cloud system would give everyone immediate access to figures. The need for timetables to be set on financial information was stressed. This would be monitored by Admin and Finance, but reported to PCC as required. A special meeting of F and A would be held asap to discuss July Figures.
* Energy contracts had been referred to Ombudsman. There was a lack of information on energy costs that made for difficulties in budgeting.
* Dates for future meeting were fixed (see minutes)

Some discussion on potential energy saving measures included:* Reduction of temperatures in buildings – need to agree what level was optimal, noting in particular organ preservation. Concern expressed about maximum and minimum temperature. Installation of smart meter noted.
* Noted that Parish Centre was taking particular care in monitoring levels and taking actions. PCC would need to ensure that severe reductions in temperature did not result in maintenance costs. MB and AB to feed back to DG on what controls were being used.
* Energy audits. John Hubbard had been asked to re-submit his energy audit undertaken 2 years ago.
* Lighting would be an important part of energy conservation. Currently fittings awaited for St. Lawrence. Noted LEDs at Holybourne. Action required at All Saints (in collaboration with the Butts Church) and Beech.
* Although insufficient information to take decisions, possible Church closures were not off the table, given circa £40k a year additional expenditure on energy.
* Conversations would be taking place with local council and other churches about pooling warm spaces. The pastoral group would be asked to look at this.

Finally, Governance would be put on PCC agenda post-Christmas prior to end of year accounts. | DG andF and A CtteMB/ABAB/SNAMDG |
| **3** | **PCC Groups****Worship and spiritual life.** A recent away day for the Ministry team had considered ensuring how a point of contact for each church would be instituted in the context of the Report “What Makes Churches Grow” by Bob Jackson. (Focal Ministry in POTR report circulated by AM in the summer). Ministry team would work in pairs. Constraint: only 2 substantive/paid members of the Ministry team. **Needs**: team building, education, growth, cover for illness and planning worship across the Parish, e.g. Harvest. **Actions**: Churches to identify particular needs (e.g. All Saints and the Fire Station), identification of individuals who undertake specific roles, communicating with everyone (e.g. noticeboards, magazines, website), Review, Youth discipleship (Dom Clark to work with Martha)Noted that the formal consultation on **BLS** was underway, with their separate PCC, despite cross fertilisation of congregations between 2 parishes. Noted AM has been named in the Pastoral Schem as their incumbent. The relationship was developing.**Community and outreach** – nothing to report**Local Church groups****Church of the Holy Rood**Details had been circulated by HW about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission seeking permission for signs in the graveyard at Holy Rood. No financial implications for Parish. Local Church Group at Holy Rood would decide on location. Noted a QRS code on sign would give details. **APPROVED.****All Saints Church.** The Parish Office move had taken place, with modifications to storage space. Difficulties with telephones were reported.**St. Lawrence Church**The lighting modifications were underway. Externally the pathways had been approved by the DAC. Joint funding between EHDC, Church, Resurrection Furniture and a grant from the School.The proposed re-ordering of the churchyard (east end) including a drought garden with benches was underway. Materials would need to be brought in. **St. Peter’s, Beech** – no report**Executive Group –** had not met due to illness | AM/GRHWAMEMG |
| **4** | **Service Pattern review** An 18-page report had been circulated containing the responses from the review (put together on 31/8/22)The need at the PCC was to (a) consider the responses and trends (b) decide how to analyse the information and (c) decide how to present the information at the Parish Conversation scheduled for 29th September. Specifically noted that we are only 9 months into the new pattern. There had been over 30 responses, presented anonymously. (251 on electoral roll).Each PCC member gave their reaction to the responses, that included:1. Although this appears to be positive, are we trying to be all things to all people and mixing things up too much.
2. It may be that how people feel in terms of their relationship with God is jeopardised. Are we trying to please everyone in one service? There must be a way of providing services at different times in the same church. They must be quality services.
3. Care should be taken not to be judgemental about people and their responses, as we are all at different stages in our religious journey. Our ministry team cannot do it all. The choir is not a separate difficult group. We need to ensure we reach out to children.
4. I hear positive news. The service for the Queen was stunning, the choir brilliant, the people thankful. Altogether terrific.
5. We should reflect that we come to please God, not ourselves. There is a lack of children in the churches. We should be reaching out and encouraging people to discover Jesus. The song at the end would appear to please many people. We are blessed with an amazing choir that we need to make the best of, as it’s integral to it all.
6. The comments are based more on service style rather than the pattern. We should not forget that this came from the workload of the ministry team to find a pattern that was sustainable, which this looks to be. Important to keep sight of our mission as a church and what people want worshipping to look like in 5 years’ time. Mixed ecology may have been pushed too far, so perhaps moving back to something more traditional is preferred. Data should be shared about what has changed, what numbers are attending different service types, so we can see how things are shifting. The Ministry team are doing an excellent job.
7. As people suffered from isolation during Covid, returning to Church is important. Congregations are happy with what is provided. Numbers have stayed constant, but sadly no younger people at All Saints.
8. Congregants seem to be happier to move around Churches than ever before.
9. The service for the Queen should have been an altogether service, as people are now getting used to moving around.
10. The length of services could be shorter, as referenced by a number of people. There was a lot of input about preference for traditional styles of music, although I hear what is being said about offering different styles in different services. Engagement of children is enjoyable. Little need to change a lot of what we do. Perhaps the choir could teach the congregation more songs. Need to have less focus on Sundays – what about the rest of the week, i.e., what has God been doing in your life this week, perhaps in Home groups.
11. Difficult to find a clear pattern. Surprised by the diverse response, but clear we don’t want to mix everything up.

Drawing conclusions:* The need to be clearer on signposting, so that people know where to go for different services. For example, describing a choral evensong to someone who is unclear. A description was needed of services, with approximate timescales.
* The need for another 8.00 am service was mentioned, which could be achieved.
* The service on the first Sunday of the month was important to AM. “The children’s song is the one amongst 20 hymns a month”.
* Quality worship (and music) was important whichever church attended.
* Refreshments perform a valuable function
* The need for quantative data, i.e. number of services, baptisms, funerals held etc.
* Useful to the Ministry team to have some ‘slack’ in the month.
* The music has remained as pre-Covid, (congregations should realise that not all the music is contemporary). Note: the introduction of Common Worship some time ago and what that presents compared to BCP and ASB.

Moving forward in planning Parish Conversation on 29th September:Agreed an analysis of the responses would be done (EMG), then a small group of EMG, RK, AM and HW would be convened to plan/decide on structure. Meeting not to be chaired by AM. Ground rules to be established. | EMGRK/AMHW |
| **5** | **The meeting concluded with prayers at 8.10 pm****Data of next meeting – 11th October 2022** |  |

**SH/13/9/22**