



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in The Court House
on Tuesday 26th February at 8pm

MINUTES

Present: Olivia Davies (minutes), Fr. Tim (chair), Julian Dawson (secretary), Mark Grego, Alan Conway, Carole Dell, Hilary-Elliott, David Northcott, Christopher Green, Pru Murray, John Gerry, Alison McMunn, Astrid Biddle, Tim Hennessey, Caroline Sharman, Penny Abbot

1. Prayers
2. Apologies: Fr Simon, Richard Hackworth, Richard Currie
3. Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business
Fr Tim: St Peter's has a strong emphasis on Holy Week and in order to maintain this during the interregnum he suggests Fr Tom come back and perform the three services of the Triduum. (As school Chaplain he is available). Fr Tim has proposed this idea to him, and he would be delighted to do it. An official invite will need to be sent to him with the offer of accommodation (for him and family). All in favour of it.
4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 22nd January 2019: Approved.
5. Matters Arising: None
6. Standing Committee Reports – Stained glass (to be covered under Buildings Committee)
7. Committee/Group Reports
 - Finance Committee
The question was raised that in planning for deficit, what reserves are available? A definitive answer at the meeting could not be given, but TH said as we will not be paying for a curate and gaining income from All Saints we shouldn't need to dip into reserves.
Fr Tim stressed the importance of completely updating the Electoral Roll (currently excess 300, should be approx. 175)
TH propose the budget, CG seconded – all in favour.
 - Buildings Committee
Lighting scheme is now complete, standing committee agreed to pay final invoice. AM mentioned some lighting amendments need to be made for orchestra performances. This will be discussed in the next Building Committee meeting (27th Feb).
An interim faculty is in place and can start work on stain glass window immediately, CG propose: **The PCC resolves to engage Chapel Studio to undertake the restoration of the stained glass depicting The Good Shepherd in the Longman memorial window in the north aisle of St Peter's church.** AM seconded: all in favour. TH neighbour want to make a donation of c. £100.
 - Pastoral Group
Nothing to report.
 - Courthouse Group
CS requested painting the Courthouse Kitchen and has £100 to put towards it, This can be be done independently of work on the toilets, so CG agreed that this could go ahead.
 - Cowper Society
Management of events in St Peter's s being simplified, with different arrangements in place to make it less onerous for the people in responsibility.
8. Communications Update:
It was agreed that with the size and wealth of St Peter's some charity fundraising must take place but that the difficulty was finding who would be prepared to lead this. Fr Tim will ask the congregation for charity suggestions (one home and one away) with the idea that if a member of the congregation has a vested interest they will be more likely to lead planning for an event.

9. Thinking ahead for the new priest
PCC gathered into small groups equipped with post it notes to discuss vision of the Church, personal qualities they are looking for and the job specification. Feedback summarised below. NB: These were suggestions from all PCC members present therefore some ideas may contradict each other.

What is the vision for the next 5 -10 years?

- Growth of congregation at all ages (particular emphasis on families and young people)
- Greater presence in the wider community
- More varied pattern of worship including music

What are the personal qualities we look for in our new priest?

- Good at encouraging and delegating
- Energetic and charismatic
- Able to convey the relevance of the Christian faith
- Good communicator at multiple levels, including social media
- Good understanding of all aspects of parish's activities
- 'Risk' taker: open to a variety of worship and change.
- Approachable, good sense of humour

What gifts are we looking for in order to help us realise the vision.

- Excellent pastoral care, generosity of time, talents and money
- Engaging preacher and teacher
- Love of St Peter's liturgical and musical traditions
- Cohesion and tolerance
- Maintain our modern, inclusive Catholic tradition
- Ability to engage with families
- Good facilitator of committee meetings
- Ability to mediate with our two Church schools and other town schools

Church wardens are to take these ideas away. There must be engagement with church wardens at All Saints and there must be room for them to have some input.

Fr Tim suggested drawing up a draft Parish profile by next PCC (May 14th). This will need it circulated 5 days before with at least ½ hour to discuss at the meeting. It was decided that Fr Tim would attend the first half of the meeting and the Parish Profile be discussed in the second half when he is not present. He is happy to offer any advice on appropriate wording etc. One of the Church Wardens will chair the meeting when Fr Tim has left.

10. Safeguarding update

Hilary has received an email from Martyn Hedley (Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser) agreeing with her proposal and emphasising the utmost importance of safeguarding within the Church.

HE would like a clearer display of all safeguarding material in the Church, MG suggest tidy up main notice board and include more on there.

At the previous meeting there was concerns the proposal would be problematic for Jon Lee to have 1 to 1 music lessons in the Church but it has been clarified that as he is a member of ISM (incorporated society of musicians) he has completed special safeguarding training and this covers his insurance.

CD flagged up that when picking up elderly people for Sundays Together there is sometimes only 1 other adult in the car however AB confirmed that Community Cars only have 1 adult and HE confirmed that this should not be an issue for the elderly people who attend the event.

HE Proposal: ***As recommended by the diocese our policy is that when small groups of children or vulnerable adults meet there will always be at least 2 adults present. As your safeguarding Officer I would like to remind everyone not to allow themselves to be in a position of vulnerability and to be aware of personal space and boundaries.*** JG seconded. All in favour.

11. Date of Next Meeting – **APCM 14th April; PCC 14th May**

12. Any Other Business

13. The Grace Meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.