



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Held on Saturday 18th September 2021, at 10.00 am
in St Mary's Willesborough, Bentley Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent

Present:

Revd Canon Dr. Jeremy Worthen (Chair) (JFW)	Jill Humphreys (JH)
Sally Lees (Vice Chair) (SJL)	Libby Varley LV)
Phil Sibbald (PCC Secretary) (PFSS)	Morag Sharp (MS)
Shirley Leslie (PCC Treasurer) (SEL)	Revd Andrew Brown (AB)
Jerry Fox (Church Warden) (JKF)	Revd Bonnie Appleton
Derek Goodwin (Church Warden) (DG)	Revd Geoff Abasolo - Munnery (GAM)
Alison Gunther (AG)	Sarah Ansell (SA)
Christine Duchemin (CD)	Sophie Carnaby (SC)
James Beck (JB)	Sue Mullan (SM)
Janet Eaves (JE)	

1: WELCOME & OPENING PRAYERS:

JFW welcomed every to the meeting. **Revd Bonnie Appleton, Sophie Carnaby, Christine Duchemin, Janet Eaves** were welcomed to their first PCC meeting since appointment/election. **Morag Sharp** was welcome back to the PCC.

JFW read from Proverbs 2: 1-6 on how to be wise, pay attention, look to God, being faithful. He then led the PCC in a time of prayer/

2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Arthur Waters, Helen West, June Wenborn, Ken Blanshard, Laura Robinson, Lorraine Andrews, Maureen Drury, Revd Cathie Aldis-Saunders and Robert Sharp.

3: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 22ND JULY 2021:

Appendix A had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Item 10 – Scheme of delegation

SJL reported that the outstanding questions had now been rectified and it was now with PFSS to format the document following the acceptance of the Scheme of Delegation at the July PCC Meeting

Item 13 – Any Other Business – Great Chart windows:

Remove the text *plus several hundred to repair five or six windows*. *Approval is sought from the PCC to approve this work.*

PFSS to add the electronic votes that have taken place since the last meeting.

Pending these changes, the PCC accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting

FOR: 15
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 4

Action Points:

- **PFSS to update the changes requested to the minutes.**
- **PFSS to add the electronic votes to the minutes of the July PCC**

- **PFSS to format and add the parish logo to the scheme of delegation.**

4: MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Appendix B had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Item 6 – Standing Committee Membership

JFW reported that this had gone a stage further due to the temporary changes in the leadership at St Mary's Ashford since the last meeting. Following discussions at St Mary, Ashford, it had been agreed that Revd Bonnie Appleton had been proposed to represent St Mary's Ashford on the Standing Committee

This was then put to the vote of the PCC

FOR: 19
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Revd. Bonnie Appleton was duly elected to the Standing Committee.

5: TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT:

Appendix C had been circulated prior to the meeting.

JFW spoke verbally to his report

Updated Developments

- Sophie Carnaby, Parish Mission Enabler was licensed on 1st September
- The process of recruitment of the two team vicars has commenced and the interviews are on Thursday 23rd September.
- A small focus group has met twice on the future of parish communications. However, if people know of anyone who has experience in this field, please let **JFW** know and they can join this group if they wish.
- **Helen West**, has resigned from her role as a parish administrator and finished on Friday 24th September. The parish will miss her but wish her well yet she will still be worshipping at Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst and remains on the PCC as an Ashford Deanery Synod representative. The job advertisement had been published on the parish website and emailed around to neighbouring parishes.

It was asked if the advertisement had been placed on any *free-ad* sites. It had not as of yet, however, it was suggested that if we went too far with *spreading the net* we could get people who would not have the required church knowledge for the role.

JFW agreed that he would speak to all those involved about placing the advert on other sites.

It was also asked if **Revd Caroline Mansley's** retirement should have been mentioned. This had been previously reported at the July PCC meeting and **CM** had been thanked for her service at that meeting.

Changes to Clergy responsibilities:

- **Revd Dawn Stamper** has moved from Christ Church to be based at Kennington from 15th August.
- **Revd Richard Bellamy** has temporarily stepped back from most work in the parish for health reasons, with day to day responsibility for communication and decision making at St Mary's Ashford now with the Interim Ministry Team, comprising the Assistant Church Wardens and **Revd Bonnie Appleton**
- **Revd Bonnie Appleton** was licensed as an Associate Priest in the parish on 11th August (and therefore now joins the PCC), having previously held PTO.
- **Revd Cathie Aldis-Saunders** announced on 5th September that she would be finishing her role at Singleton church from the end of the month – **JFW** will support the church there during this time of transition.

Bishop Rose Deanery Visit:

Rose Hudson Wilkin, The Bishop of Dover, will be visiting the Deanery on Monday 27th September 2021.

As part of her visit to our parish, +Rose will be visiting the inSpire café during the morning and St Francis for a service and reception in the evening. We are looking for members of the PCC to be at both events

The following PCC members volunteered:

inSpire Café visit – SA, JA, DG, AB will attend

St Francis Service – JF, JW, AB, DG, SC, PFSS, JFW

Action Points:

- **JFW to liaise with others re the posting of the Parish Administrator role on other sites.**
- **PFSS to inform CAS and Liz Richardson (Deanery Lay Chair) of the St Francis attendees**

6: MAP: VISION, GOALS, PRIORITIES:

Appendix D had been circulated prior to the meeting.

JFW gave a context and summery review of where we are in the process so far since the PCC gave approval to this document in January 2021. Work has been progressing in various ways of the last 9 months as follows:

- Continued PCC work
- Online Meetings
- Church Audits
- Preaching series
- Regular meetings of the MAP Co-ordination group.

JFW continued by saying that we now need to move from review to discern (Seeking to see where we are being lead and what we want to be in the future).

It was stated that this is not what we are going to do tomorrow or next year, it is about looking where we want to be as a parish in the next three to five years and therefore we can plan what it will take to get there.

Vision/Vision Statement

Based on the five themes and discussions that took place at the Parish Leadership Team away on 1st September, **JFW** suggested the following *draft* Vision Statement:

becoming a family of multigenerational churches centred on Jesus, serving our local communities, and providing opportunities to discover and grow in faith.

The following points were made:

- Far too many words in the statement
- Danger of trying to be too clever
- Perhaps we could use shorter sentences
- Who is the Mission statement for?
 - *The statement is for all members of the churches families to remember and use. Therefore it was suggested that it needs to be half the length.*
- Is this statement for the next five years?
 - *No, it would be the goal for right now.*

Goals:

JFW started by saying that goals need to be challenging but realistic, routed in prayer and not be just a back slapping exercise.

Group discussions then took place based on the questions asked in **JFW's** slides. These were:

- Are these things we really want to be true for people involved in our parish in five years' time?
- Are there other things that are more important?
- Do you have suggestions for improving the wording?

Comments/Feedback?

- Not everyone is good at evangelism.
- We need a Course in Christian Apologetics.
- Relationships – can be friendship, invite to a cream tea, does not mean allow me to give you chapter and verse on the Christianity and the bible.
- We are not building relationships not just via church based activities only, it is through their community, their workplace.
- Wondered where money fits in? It is a chicken egg situation. If we get the goals right, the money will follow.
- We need to inspire people to get involved and get excited about church as well
- How do we get back into schools? Collective Worship/visits etc.
- With an emphasis towards action that would also lead to environmental projects and social justice etc.

Priorities

Looking at the priorities section of the paper, the following questions/comments were made:

- Are there too many priorities? (Church book on How to do MAP say 3-5 maximum)
- We are the largest parish in the C of E, therefore do we have to have a different outlook? Or could the priorities be simplified/merged instead?
- When we are setting five year goals, we need to remember Ashford is like *Milton Keynes on steroids*. We need to build in flexibility.
- We need to get a fix on vision goals and review them annually looking at how things may have shifted.
- Some of the outline priorities. Some of the churches are already doing some of these? Then perhaps look at the priority that they are not doing. The Church communities are very different, and sometimes these priorities could be seen as prescriptive.

Continuing the conversation

We need to challenge each church to *what are you doing towards these goals* and allow creative thinking. Each church does not have to do the same thing. Some of our churches are already doing certain things towards the goals/priorities and we need to encourage collaborative thinking between the churches to learn from each other.

We need to start a dialogue with the LLTS and the wide congregations.

Action Points:

- **All PCC members, LLT Chairs are encouraged to make sure that as many LLT members to the LLT mini-conference on Saturday 23rd October.**
- **PFSS & JFW to work on a reminder email about the day and its contents.**
- **JFW will work with the MAP co-ordination group and Parish Leadership team to get an updated version of Appendix D which will go out prior to 23rd October.**
- **If anyone has any further comments or thoughts, please inform JFW direct.**

7: AGREEMENT WITH THE GREEK COMMUNITY RE CHRIST CHURCH:

Appendix E had been circulated prior to this meeting.

JFW gave a brief background to this agreement between the parish and the Greek Community. It had been approved by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover and the PCC. We now need to get the approval of the PCC on the actual agreement (Appendix E).

Proposed: Andrew Brown
Seconded: Geoff Abasolo-Munnery
FOR: 19
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

The agreement was accepted by the PCC

8: FINANCE UPDATE:

Appendices Fi-Fiii were circulated prior to this meeting

SEL did not want to add anything specifically to the reports already issued. However, she did want to say that we cannot go on *scraping the bottom of the barrel* and we need to be thinking seriously about generosity. We need to rebuild our reserves and be at the point of being able to do what we want rather than having to say no because we can't afford it.

We are not in a good place and we have not been since March 2020. It is going to take a lot of effort and ingenuity. **SEL's** prayer is that they will evolve during the MAP process.

The Scheme of Delegation permits each LLT to have a finance rep. We need to have that team in place sooner rather than later so it becomes a *two-way* conversation process. There is no point in planning centrally if LLTs are not hearing or acting on it.

It was commented and backed up that there is a capacity issue here. We are all exhausted just doing the day-to-day items in churches.

Action Points:

- ***LLTs to appoint a finance representative with Shirley Leslie***
- ***LLTs to report back on activity and meetings three times per year to the PCC***
- ***PCC reps are to feedback PCC meetings/decisions to LLT meetings***
- ***LLTs are to advise PFSS of the dates of their meetings for the team diary***

9: COVID-19 IMPLEMENTING THE NEW RISK ASSESSMENT:

Appendix G was circulated prior to the meeting

It was stated that the Appendix G that had been issued had actually been replaced by a September version of the Generic RA.

Each LLT/Church was reminded that they need to each adopt the generic RA by each venue. LLTs may wish to make other refinements/selections from options on the RA.

Action Points:

- ***Each LLT is to adopt this new RA and submit to PFSS as soon as possible.***
- ***PFSS to get the latest RA on file.***

10: PATTERN OF SERVICES FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER:

Appendix H had been circulated prior to the meeting

Ignite:

In conjunction with the diocesan leadership it has been agreed with the LLT at St Mary's Ashford and the Parish Leadership Team to move the location of Ignite to St Mary's Ashford.

Kingsnorth Services Pattern:

It has been agreed by the LLT of Kingsnorth & Shadoxhurst to propose the following changes to their service patterns. Holy Communion at Shadoxhurst on the first and third Sundays of the month will move from 8.30 to 8 a.m. The current 10 a.m. service at Kingsnorth will move back to 10.30 a.m., with Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. A new service called 'Open House', designed to be accessible to those not familiar with church culture, will take place at 9 a.m., with Holy Communion once a month. On the fifth Sunday, all three congregations will share in a single service of 'Kingsnorth Communion' at 10 a.m.

Zoom/Online Services:

The PCC is asked to support the introduction of a Sunday afternoon Zoom service at 4 pm during October and November, to be reviewed in mid-November, to be the only on-line provision for public worship in the Parish. All streaming of public worship would therefore cease.

Each of these items required a PCC Vote for approval.

Ignite

Proposed: Derek Goodwin
Seconded: Sophie Carnaby
FOR: 18
AGAINST: 1
ABSTAIN: 0

Proposal approved for Ignite to move venue.

Kingsnorth & Shadoxhurst:

Proposed: Christine Duchemin
Seconded: Sarah Ansell
FOR: 19
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Proposed Service patter approved.

New online zoom Sunday afternoon service:

Proposed: JFW
Seconded: JB
FOR: 19
AGAINST: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

New Sunday service via zoom approved.

11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

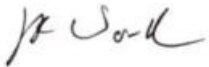
All items stated at today's meeting for LLT to action, need to be communicated to all LLT Chairs

Action Points:

- *PFSS to email all LLT Chairs with the specific LLT requirements raised in today's meeting.*

12: DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 11th November 2021 at 7.30 pm. Venue to be advised.



Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen
Team Rector
11th November 2021