

St Giles' Church West Bridgford
Parochial Church Council Meeting
17th November 2021

Present: Martin Crew, Al Ferraro, Barry Hayman, Jude Hill, Chris Lane, Lee Proudlove, Roger Ottway, Peter Rhodes, Sarah Slack, Neil Sutcliffe, Hilary Walters, Sheila Wheaton.
Also invited: Claire Sheard, Ellen Dann

Minutes

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies: Barry Clarke, Catherine Elliot, Christine Hutchings, Johanna Langheld, Claire Voce,
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October - agreed
4. Matters arising and Standing Committee updates
 - a) £200 donation to the Notts Clergy Widows and Dependants fund agreed
 - b) Replacement dishwasher fitted in the George kitchen £360
 - c) Suggested fundraising by Seniors committee: Lee suggested that we raise money for the memorial fund for Dylan Rich. Roger would consult tomorrow.
 - d) St Giles and Youthworker post (working with St Giles', St Luke's, St Paul's and Lady Bay) has been advertised with interviews planned for December. It is hoped that the successful candidate will take up the post in January. He/she will be employed by St Giles, but money to cover the salary will be transferred from central funds quarterly in advance. This post is fully funded for 5 years; we will make a commitment to fund it thereafter
 - e) Finances: Chris had sent round his report. There were no major changes from last month. He was going to attend a meeting regarding the Parish Share with the Area Dean and Deanery Treasurers on the 18th November and would update them of our financial position.
5. Christmas services

Beer and carols: it was not felt appropriate to hold this in the Stratford Haven this year. We would consider possibly singing carols outside. Lee would check with other local churches.

Carol service(s): we propose to have two services (the same service repeated) on Saturday 18th December at 6.00pm and Sunday 19th at 7.00pm; there would then be no 10.30 service on Sunday 19th. These would require people to sign up and would be capped at 200 people each (which would increase capacity overall as the church when full holds 350). There was some uncertainty about what we would do if people arrived without having signed up; to be confirmed.

Midnight Communion: there will be a service on Christmas Eve.
6. Sustaining Church Life and Ministeries

Claire explained the rotas for the Welcome committees, Coffee, Sound and AV. There were barely enough people to staff these and more volunteers were needed. Sound and AV were not a problem on Sundays but it was difficult to staff them for

weddings and funerals. Claire had been approaching individuals but a more general invitation might bear fruit, in Lee's weekly email, on the monthly bulletin or on Facebook. PCC members were asked to suggest 5 people each.

Ellen explained the situation regarding youth groups, where volunteers are also needed. As well as Sundays, there are meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Parents are the obvious choice and in fact most people who send their children to groups are on the rota, although this tends to be mothers – more fathers would be helpful, especially as role models for the boys. Volunteers do not need to be parents, and some parents prefer to work with groups of a different age from their own children. The church wardens would begin to try to recruit people. Q&A sessions in services might inspire people; we should do this after Christmas.

Lee felt that children's and youth work should be a priority over the other rotas.

7. Appointing a new Rector

Lee explained the process. The incumbent would be appointed by the Bishop. Last time there was a short list of three, who visited for a day and saw the parish, local schools and the rectory; there was also an evening meal with the PCC.

The Bishop has a particular interest in appointments and will be closely involved in the process. Lee expected that it would be a priority to fill this vacancy as St Giles is a strategic church in the diocese; we could expect a fairly short interregnum.

The PCC in conjunction with the Archdeacon needed to produce a Parish Profile. Some examples were circulated and they have also been sent by email. These were of very high quality – it is a competitive market with more vacancies than ordained clergy, so we would need to take great care with this. A template would probably be available from the diocese, and the diocese will sign off the Profile before it is published. Once agreed the post would then be advertised. If no appointment could be made then the Profile would be reviewed and the post would be readvertised.

We would invite the Archdeacon to the January PCC meeting. However we could start work now and should appoint a subcommittee, chaired by the Church Wardens and possibly including non-PCC members; Al and Jude were to create this group. Some sections of the Profile will be easy, but those dealing with, for example, strengths and weaknesses, priorities, etc would need more thought. A PCC away day to work on this was suggested. We would like Lee to list everything that he does, to help with creating the Profile.

We agreed that Lee should step down from chairing PCC meetings after January and we should appoint a Lay Chair. We would meet to do this via Zoom on 1st December at 8.00pm. The PCC might need to meet more frequently and we could co-opt Claire and Ellen.

The AGM in April could be chaired by the Area Dean, a Church Warden or a Lay Chair.

We discussed staffing of services during the interregnum. Only ordained clergy are allowed to officiate at Communion. Rev Peter Watkins would probably be available for some Sundays, and Christopher has agreed to help out in an emergency. Lee would consult Mark Fraser, the Area Dean, to see if he knows other local clergy – curates or retired clergy – whom we could call on. Katie Conley and Alison Place were available to preach. There are no Lay Readers in the congregation. Wednesday communion might be particularly difficult to staff so we may sometimes have to have a Morning Prayer service instead.

8. AOB

- a) We discussed making the churchyard more wildlife friendly. Providing water would be particularly effective and we could also plant some flowering shrubs which would need minimal maintenance. Neil would take this further.
- b) Closing windows in church: suggestions were needed as to how to reach the open windows. We might need to consider employing a caretaker in future, perhaps only for a few hours a week.

Dates of Meetings (normally 3rd Wednesday of every 2nd month)

19th January 2022

16th March 2022

Church AGM April 2022

18th May 2022

20th July 2022

21st September 2022