

St Giles' Church West Bridgford
Parochial Church Council Meeting

16th March 2022

Present: Barry Clarke, Martin Crew, Al Ferraro, Barry Hayman, Jude Hill, Christine Hutchinson, Chris Lane, Johanna Langheld, Roger Ottway, Peter Rhodes, Claire Voce, Hilary Walters

Minutes

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies: Catherine Elliott, Sarah Slack, Sheila Wheaton
3. Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd February 2022 – agreed.
4. Matters arising:
 - a) Can we make the Churchyard more wildlife friendly? In Neil's absence, deferred to next meeting.
 - b) Easter Services: 14th April Maundy Thursday communion 10.45 (replacing the Wednesday communion); 15th April Good Friday Junior Church workshop in the morning; 15th April Tenebrae service at St Giles jointly with St Luke's, led by Mark Fraser 8.00pm; 17th April Easter Sunday 9am Communion, 10.30 Communion (tbc), 6pm Evensong
 - c) Can we move 9am Communion to 9.30? More research needed to see if many people find the early time difficult. Noted that others may find a later 2nd service difficult too.
 - d) Sylvia James' letter: we agreed with Sylvia's point that there does seem to be more of a division between the 9am and the 10.30am congregations. Fewer social events because of Covid was one reason why this had developed. We should tackle this now rather than waiting for new rector. AF would talk to Peter Watkins and Christopher Wheaton to glean ideas. A 'Name Amnesty' had been suggested, where people wear name badges to help people get to know each other. The Consultation survey could provide a stimulus for discussion with other congregation members; PCC to actively reach out and initiate conversations with congregation members. HAW would convey this to Sylvia.
5. Finance
 - a) Current projections for 2022: CL apologised that he hadn't produced an update for this meeting, nor had he yet met with Mark Fraser to discuss the Parish Share. Noted that this needs to be done before the AGM (see below)
 - b) £18,00 legacy – we would hold this in reserve for a major capital project. Lighting in church needs replacing (& is therefore a candidate project) . MC thought this would cost in the region of £40k. We felt that the congregation would respond to an appeal for funds for this, perhaps in September. MC would do a design and elicit 2 or 3 quotes for the work. There was also a

potential problem with the electrics generally; Richard Crawley is in correspondence with the insurers who are asking more detailed questions about electrics, inspections, and outcomes thereof.

- c) Planned giving: although running a Funding Campaign was not normally advised during an interregnum, we agreed that the current financial situation was such that we should do so (the cut to parish share, rising costs, no explicit mention of giving for a while at church). Although the AGM was mainly to report on the previous year, CL would mention the problems we face and make the situation clear to the congregation. CL may also mention that we planned to raise funds for a capital project later in the year (mindful that a successful giving campaign requires a clearly articulated vision & confidence in the delivery of the plan)

There was a wide-ranging discussion on financial matters. Service collections had never raised significant amounts; the Payaz machine was producing similar income. The celebrant should draw the congregation's attention to the machine more often and at services where more donations might be encouraged; we should ensure that the machine is easily accessible after the service.

Other sources of income: three car park spaces were let out, CS would check if other cars were parking there. The hire fees for the Church Hall were in line with the charges made by other similar venues.

We discussed other expenses. We agreed not to invite contributions for coffee before or after services. The contributions to Mission Partners were discussed; unsure how sighted the congregation are about these (though they're in the accounts and usual AGM papers).

We agreed to run a Funding Campaign starting after the AGM (agreed unanimously). We agreed that this should be for running costs not a capital project (agreed unanimously). We did not need a dedicated Finance committee to run this. People could be encouraged to increase their giving by a particular sum or percentage. In future, we could/should consider an annual Funding Campaign. We should draw on the expertise of members of the congregation, many of whom were professional people who might have skills in this area. We should make sure that we offer a clearly articulated vision, as this was typically what people respond to.

Significant extra funding would be needed to afford a locally recruited (and employed) Youth Worker – little more has been heard about the diocesan project about this.

The Parish Share has the potential to be controversial, especially during an interregnum. We should avoid directly linking any reduction in our contribution to the fact that we would have no rector; as a relatively wealthy parish we had a responsibility to support poorer areas. We might need to explain the Parish Share to the wider congregation, who might or might not be enthusiastic about contributing towards it.

6. Salary and duties of the Organist/ Choirmaster

In view of the financial situation we could not afford to commit to much more expense, but we agreed to offer Chris Ebbern an extra £75 per month (£425 per month) to play for one Evensong per month preceded by an extra hour's rehearsal (in favour – 8, against – 1, abstentions – 2). AF to discuss this with Chris. We hoped to regularise Choir practice to two Fridays per month, with dates planned to avoid clashes with the Friday Youth meetings at St Giles (Youth itself has to plan to avoid clashes with All Hallows events).

7. Update on planning for the interregnum and activities of the Profile group: *not discussed at the meeting, but added here for clarity*

i. *Interregnum activities:*

- *Confirming service arrangements and offers of payment to clergy*
- *Updating contracts for paid staff (mostly done by Lee)*
- *Booking location for vision day (See below)*

ii. *Profile group:*

- *Had developed the survey (compliments received about the its clarity)*
- *Is framing the allocation of, & word counts for, the 'factual' parts of the Church Profile.*

PCC should encourage people to respond to the Consultation survey. AF would resend the link in the next weekly email and would also provide a QR code in church. We should highlight it on the Facebook page and website.

8. AOB

Can we respond to the situation in Ukraine? *Not discussed, but too urgent to wait for next meeting. Christian Aid communications & suggestions will be sent with the next St Giles Bulletin. Any other suggestions?*

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

PCC/PG Vision day at Edwalton Parish Church 23rd April 9am – 1pm
Church AGM 24th April 2022

18th May 2022
20th July 2022
21st September 2022

16th November 2022
18th January 2023
15th March 2023