

HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH KENDAL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Thursday 5th August 2021

7:30pm via Zoom



Present: David Aspinall, Norma Bates (in the chair), Joan Carnaffin, Dick Forsyth, Ashley Henderson, Liz Lockwood, Beverley Moore, Amanda Nicholson (PCC Secretary), Anita Peat, Janet Thompson, Anne Underwood, Ann West, Sam Willacy and Dot Yates.

1. Prayers

Ashley opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Kate Wright and Helen Platts. Norma explained that it had been agreed at previous meeting that Sam Willacy would be asked whether he wished to be co-opted on the PCC. He had agreed and so he joined the meeting.

3. Minutes of PCC meeting of 30 June 2021

With three minor changes, the circulated minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from minutes - 30 June 2021 PCC

Item 13.1 at PCC of 30th June had suggested a discussion on volunteering at the next PCC meeting. It was agreed to defer this to the September meeting. The Wardens /Ministry team agrees to prepare ideas to inform a discussion/ It was noted that Bev written an article about volunteering for Parish Life which had been well-received.

ACTION: Amanda/Norma to add to September agenda. Church wardens and Ministry to prepare for discussion.

5. Worship and Ministry

Ashley had circulated notes from the ministry team (MT) meeting. The key points were

- Rota for services is covered to end of Sept.
- MT happy to follow PCC guidance about covid secure measures.
- Singing to continue with masks.
- Communion to continue in one kind only for now. Ian is exploring alternatives.
- 10th October – will be first service after Shanthi's installation. MT will consult with her about her role. first Norwich Girls School choir due to visit.
- Online services to be discussed.
- Possibility of a face-to-face Alpha group to be discussed with Kendal Ministers.
- Plans for a Wellbeing café
- Dementia area is being redeveloped by Bev and will be renamed the Anna Chaplaincy Hub

6. Evensong

After the re-opening of church after the first lockdown the PCC made the decision not to reinstate Evensong at that point, but this was a suspension not a final decision. It was agreed to defer a decision about the future of Evensong until Shanthi arrives. It was noted that the choir is not back until choir in September.

7. Health and Safety and Covid restrictions (new)

Ann West gave a brief summary of the current guidance which is line with CoE guidelines. There are no mandatory rules.

- masks wearing for main services continued.
- For occasional services (weddings, baptisms) they can be removed once in pews
- social distancing of 1m encouraged.
- Leave pews as they are for now.
- Hand sanitiser remains.
- Ventilation maintained.
- Test & Trace available but not compulsory.
- Play area available for Gathering service.
- Refreshments after services: Ann thinks she has enough volunteers for September start. It was agreed to rial one session of coffee between 9:30 and the Gathering.
- Peace to remain as now – wave.

8. Finance

This item was deferred as Helen is on holiday.

Building Update

i. Repairs to porch and pinnacles.

Dave Aspinall asked for PCC approval to proceed with both the porch roof repairs and the repair of pinnacles on the church roof. The porch has serious problems with dry rot which is in danger of spreading to the main building. Estimates of the cost of the porch repair have been received and the likely cost is in the range of £68,000 to £74,000 plus VAT. Mike Darwell, our architect, has identified three pinnacles which require urgent repairs to prevent further debris falls with an estimated cost £31,000 plus VAT

The motion to approve to proceed with both these works was proposed by Dick Forsyth and seconded by Anita Peat. It was approved unanimously by the PCC.

The porch and pinnacle work needs to be done urgently and funding is a priority. Funds from the Kirkland Trust may be available.

Norma reported that Helen submitted a funding bid to support the work for porch and pinnacles at short notice. It would contribute about £120,000 if successful. Norma noted that many funding bids operate on very short deadlines so that bids need to be prepared and ready to go. The PCC noted that we are spending the money on detailed specifications of the work needed so we can launch these applications at short notice. The PCC thanked Helen for her work on the bid

9. CAP update

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Safeguarding

Janet reported that four people on PCC need to complete safeguarding training. The Welcomers had made good progress in completing online courses. Four people still need face-to-face courses. Janet reminded the PCC that the parish was committed to Safer recruitment policies which involve role descriptions, application forms etc. These needed time to process so helpers could not start immediately.

ACTION: PCC members to complete safeguarding as required.

11. Torchlight – Garden of Delights

The Torchlight festival will be different this year and will be a 3-day event. The church's contribution will be a Garden party on Saturday in front of the Church which is to be organised by Dot.

12. Children's work

Libby has resigned and is now on holiday. Her funding has been grants and children's work will be a priority for Shanthi to review.

Dot raised the issue of the Toddler group which was run by Libby as an employee of the church. It is now to be run by volunteers (Dot, Liz Lockwood and Margaret Wilson who are all DBS checked) . There has been concern about whether it is allowed for them to run the group as some-one with leadership safeguarding training is required. But this training is not currently available. Dot and Liz argued how important it was for this work to continue in September. Liz also expressed concern about the lack of children's activity during services. Norma has asked for advice from the Diocese but has not had a response. Anne Underwood offered to help in the short term as she has the Safeguarding leadership certification. Norma will chase for a response in next week – and contact Dot.

ACTION: Norma to contact Dot and other helpers in the week.

13. Chinese banner

Dick had circulated a briefing paper about the change in plan for the Chinese banner. Dick has recently learnt that banner was considered a memorial to soldiers from the Border Regiment and now thinks it should stay in church with a plaque and background information. It is not considered appropriate to move a war memorial and the Museum of Military Life cannot display the banner. Dick has explained to the Border Regiment and Museum of Military Life that the church is unable to insure the banner as it cannot be replaced. The PCC agreed to this change of plan.

14. Bell ringing

Dick reported a conversation with Kevin from the bell-ringers who have started practising again and making plans to resume ringing for services, in line with guidance from their national associations. PCC reported positive comments on social media about bells ringing on Wednesday 4th which Dick agreed to pass onto Kevin.

15. Concerts

Midday concerts have resumed in church and a Lake District music concert took place last Sunday evening, which was well-organised and successful. The church has a booking in November for Cumbria Festival Chorus, which will consist of a large choir and orchestra plus concert goers. This would not be possible with our current covid 1m

spacing. Norma will arrange to meet with Ian and a church warden to discuss. This booking may need to be cancelled. Janet reported that the Festival chorus also had concerns.

ACTION: Norma and Church warden to contact Festival chorus.

16. Christmas Tree Festival

In theory the church would like to resume Christmas Tree festival this year, but it is a lot of work and volunteers are needed to help. We ran a simplified version last year, with donations to a single charity. The PCC suggested that we do this again this year. There is still a lot of uncertainty about Christmas this year such as whether school services will be returning.

18. Car park

Norma had circulated email and plan about the Environment Agency (EA) plans to commandeer the majority of top car park from September 27th for 6 months. The EA had previously indicated that if our car park needed we would be financially compensated. This does not appear to be the case now with loss of income considered the community contribution. The loss of these parking spaces would have a large financial impact large on church via loss of income to the Kirkland and Parish Hall Trusts and contract parking. This will have a major impact on church life /attendance as many people may chose not to attend if parking is difficult.

The PCC was very concerned about this. It was suggested that the EA could use space in front of Abbot Hall instead but there is a concern about access with a locked gate. It was agreed that the first step was for Norma to write to the EA to confirm the situation and plans for compensation. Due the time-frame she will ask for reply within certain days. Then she would contact the Diocese (Dave Roberts Head of Communications) for advice, and we may need to seek help from the press and Tim Farron.

ACTION: Norma to write to EA to clarify the situation and suggest Abbot Hall as an alternative. Then she will contact Diocese if necessary.

17. Licensing of Priest –in- Charge/ Vicar Designate

Shanthi's installation will be on Tuesday 5th October. No further discussion was needed.

18. AOB

i. Health and safety officer

Beverley asked about whether we had a Health and Safety officer yet. Ashley reported that Andrew is still keen. Ashley will ask when he will be able to start.

ACTION: Ashley to contact Andrew.

Dates of next meetings

- Standing & Finance – 26th August 2021
- PCC – 9th September 2021