



# All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 17 February 2020,  
19.30 at 22 Dunottar Avenue, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0AB

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Lawrence Gnanaraj, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Karen Killick, Kathie Lambert, John Littlehailes, Scott Linnett, Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Margaret Vaughan, and David Warren. <u>Chair:</u> John Lambert. Observing, Holly Falcus and Jonathan Backhouse.	
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening Reflections and Prayers</b> John Littlehailes spoke about the mystery which is God, revealed by some of his attributes, and demonstrably with us through his son. He worried that we, in faith-based certainties might lose the sense of mystery and of the undiscoverable which lies at the centre of our faith. He read two poems and an extract from the Message Bible which bear on the mystery. The PCC then moved to prayer, prayer especially in the light of the general announcement of John Lambert's leaving us in a very few months' time. Prayer of thanks for his time with us, and for all he and Kathie have brought to us, and prayer, too, for their futures.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence, and Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b> Apologies had been received from Paul Arnold, Stuart Levin, Ian Taylor and John Taylor. There was no declaration of a conflict of interest in any agenda item.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of meeting 20 January 2020</b> These minutes were agreed, with two corrections.	<b>John Littlehailes</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> None.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)</b> Karen Killick said that Grants (the cleaners) have been back in touch, asking for a three-month notice period for our stopping our use of their services. This has been given, for the end of April. While their service has undoubtedly improved in the short term, and they have had staff trained (by our supplier) on the use of the Rotowasher, in the light of their previous unreliability and the savings available through pursuing the proposed new arrangement, the PCC saw no good reason to alter the decision to go ahead without them. On the matter of the changes in roles within the PCC, Jonathan Backhouse (present at this meeting) has agreed to take on the task of Secretary to the PCC, and two candidates have offered themselves for the role of Treasurer. This may well allow us to fill both this and the deputy Treasurer roles.	<b>Karen Killick</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Financial Update</b> Kathie Lambert commented on an error caused by a misplaced pair of items. Income and expenditure are broadly on target. Eon, the solar panel providers seem to have missed a three-month period of payment, and	

	<p>Kathie will be following this up. Envelope giving is steadily transferring to the Parish Giving Scheme or to Standing Orders, greatly simplifying at least one of the treasurer's tasks. There is still some confusion about the finances of the children's work, and the use of the subs coming in weekly as though separate from the budgeted money. This has been explained to the Children's and Families' Worker, as has the fact that money cannot be carried forward from one budget to the next year.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding Report</b>  Nicola Wrightson said that she gave thanks that she had nothing to report. She commented that she has been in touch with Beth about training for those whose certificates are due to expire (essentially between June and November). C2 Training (which she understands to be required for PCC members) is no longer possible through the internet; attempts to get group training for the All Saints' PCC have not so far proved successful. Nicola is continuing to research available courses.</p>	<b>Nicola Wrightson</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Wardens' Update</b>  Martin Howard pointed out that the Chancel has been largely cleared out in preparation for the Phase 3 work. There has been some interest expressed in the furniture. The roof space above the Church Office has been tidied and cleaned: more stuff will be cleared out soon. The supplier of the windows for the flats has quoted £550 for the new door: this has been accepted, and the work will be going ahead. Work on the Terrier is well under way: we have three handsome wooden collection plates, now unused, available. If they are unwanted by members of the congregation, they will be offered on the Diocesan website. The loft-ladders into the Tower and into the loft space need to be replaced, and quotes are now being sought for the Tower ladder replacement. The Centre fire alarm system is going to be extended to include the church: a proposal is awaited. The problem of condensation in the flats is close to resolution. A vent has been installed in the chimney flue, and warming the north facing single brick wall seems to have resolved it. Peter Lankford was thanked for the work he has put into this.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>REACH</b>  Richard Spratt gave the PCC an update: due to a delay in the provision of the Baptistry the work will not be totally finished by Easter, though it is thought that there will remain only snagging work to be done. John Belmont has been issuing documentation for the outstanding loans. During the progress of the work the PCC will be regularly updated as to the cash flow situation.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Staff Management Team</b>  Debbie Bunford Said that Sandra Griffiths, offered the choice between the two jobs becoming available has chosen the Reception role. There are already two candidates from within the church for the Administrator role.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Uniformed Organisations: Hall hire rates</b>  Karen Killick introduced the paper she had circulated to the PCC. It is some years since we changed the sums charged to the uniformed organisations</p>	

	<p>for their use of the hall, and we are currently letting the hall (to them) at a loss. In the light of the figures given, it was suggested by Simon Honeywell that they be offered a discounted rate of 60% of the standard rate, this allowing for automatic future change as the rates for the hall, in general, change. It was proposed by Pamela Rushton that the PCC proceeds on this basis. Seconded by Karen Killick. All in Favour.</p>	<p><b>Karen Killick</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>MDT Nominees</b></p> <p>John Lambert thanked the PCC for the forms they had filled in and returned to him: he will now consider prayerfully which of the favoured candidates would best help the MDT. He will then discuss, in confidence, his decisions with a member of the clergy for their views.</p>	<p><b>John Lambert</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Deanery Plan</b></p> <p>Lucy Falcus elaborated on the logic in the four questions directed to Parishes from the Deanery. She pointed out that we would not start from the point at which we find ourselves: for example, there are 23 church buildings within the deanery, with three parishes having 5 churches each! The plan is an attempt to get a grip on all of this; not with the aim of getting rid of buildings, but trying to see where the deanery is headed, and how best to move in the desired direction. The PCC then broke into 4 groups to consider answers to the four questions posed for us by the deanery.</p> <p>Group 1: a drop in the giving as numbers reduced and then recovering. Building work is in hand, and there may well be a further phase of work aimed at making the centre of the church compatible with the new chancel and west end. As to the demographic of the church we have a vision that the young people would become full members of the church, providing power and inspiration to drive us forward in a few years' time.</p> <p>How to achieve these objectives? Sound Biblical teaching, prayer, continuing as a sending church and not, perhaps any further physical extension to the church for some time. Group 2 acknowledged that Group 1 had said much that needed to be said, but added that looking at the congregation demographics they felt that the 10.30 service would dip with the first church plant and then increase, but that at the 9.00 service numbers might decline; they considered that numbers will probably decline because of the age of the congregation. (there was comment that over the past 12 years this group has grown a little: it has certainly not dropped). They felt that if there were a long interregnum this could have a negative impact on the church. Further, if a new incumbent brings a lot of change, this could mean that some leave (But could lead, too, to growth). Prayer is needed.</p> <p>Group 3 added that they would wish to help the 09.00. We could, perhaps look at Timothy Hackworth, bringing people from there to church if needed. Young people may not have a specific affiliation to All Saints' and a change in the Youth leadership could mean a departure of some of them. We need to build up a trained core group ready to lead.</p> <p>Group 4: We have seemingly a natural trend over the past years of an increase in numbers, and if this continues we may have to look at different</p>	

	<p>services to accommodate the numbers. We need to continue looking at other ways of coping with a change of demographic. We must avoid complacency and look outwards into the local community. Lucy thanked the PCC for their help.</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>John Lambert has visited the Archdeacon, and has discussed Paul Arnold's supervision after John's departure. Rick Simpson said he was not clear as to who might pick this up. John suggested some names, and this whole issue will be discussed with the Bishop. David and Jill Munby, a retired clergyman and his wife, have been coming to us for a few weeks. They hope to move into Hartburn. Learning of John's departure, he has offered to help with the parish if he gets permission from the Bishop. (John said that in a gap period: (their present house has been sold) they may be staying with the Lamberts). The clergy couple moving into the Wynyard position will not be moving there until Christmas, and they, too, may be available to help in the meantime. The whole process will be made as short as is compatible with the rules governing it, but we should reasonably hope for a new vicar around the New Year. John Lambert's last day with us will be 7 June, 2020. The Archdeacon will visit the next meeting of the PCC, to lead the second half of the meeting, and to talk with us about all that needs to be done, and how best to set about it. We will need a Parish Profile, describing the church, and the kind of vicar we hope for to fulfil our needs. After this there will be a gap of the order of three months before the adverts could be put out. (John will be going to New Wine and hopes to see again some valuable contacts there, to spread the word of the vacancy.)</p> <p>John Lambert told the PCC that Sarah Peters will be coming home at the end of May to be married at All Saints' to a very nice Romanian man. The next Meeting of the PCC will be on <b>Monday 23 March 2020</b>. Martin Howard has volunteered for the Opening Reflections and Prayers. The meeting finished with the Grace.</p>	<p><b>Martin Howard</b></p>