



All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 23 March 2020,
19.30 by Zoom Video Conference**

	Present	Action
	Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Karen Killick, Kathie Lambert, John Littlehailes, Scott Linnett, Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Ian Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, and David Warren. <u>Chair:</u> John Lambert. Observing, Jonathan Backhouse.	
1	Opening Reflections and Prayers Martin Howard spoke about the opportunity we have to use this time to talk to others, and perhaps to build relationships with others we do not know well. To check on them from time to time. We now have different ways to communicate with each other, with families and so on. More time for prayer, more time to read the Bible. There is a challenge for each of us: what are we going to do so that we become stronger rather than weaker. It is a worrying time for us all, we must keep remembering that God is with us all the time. While there is a challenge (Jeremiah 29 v 11: <i>"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"</i>) God will get us through this He is there with us, as is the church, we can support each other in prayer as well as in practical ways. Martin said this is a difficult time for all of us but we must consider what we can do to be stronger as a church and as individuals. He prayed thanks that we can meet virtually, bringing to God the needs of the church, and knowing that He is always with us.	
2	Apologies for Absence, and Declaration of Conflicts of Interest Apologies had been received from Lawrence Gnanaraj from John Taylor and from Nicola Wrightson. Richard Spratt declared a conflict of interest in item 10, (Mission Giving), as did Debbie Bunford and Pamela Rushton for the same item.	
3	Approval of Minutes of meeting 17 February 2020 These minutes were agreed, all in favour with one abstention.	John Littlehailes
4	Correspondence None.	
5	Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on Agenda) None.	
6	Financial Update Kathie Lambert spoke to the circulated note. Giving is down for various reasons. She has found some givers have not given envelopes, and there has been some effect from the Covid-19 virus. The solar panel income is down: it seems that they own us £1,676. Craig is pursuing this. The cleaning and waste disposal item is over budget because a payment has been made	

	<p>for the coming year. The Vicarage expenses seem to have no budget but there is a budget for the water rates, which will be lower this year. The fund in memory of Donna now contains £840: donations have ceased, so the money will be given to Stuart and the family. Any further donations will, of course, be sent on. Given the present situation countrywide no special presentation will be possible, but John Lambert will put a note onto Facebook. Margaret said that a significant number of Parishes are in difficulty because of the Covid-19, and that while we have some loans outstanding, we are better off than many. Karen Killick said that the tenant in 558b has lost his income, so no rental will come in for some months. He has been reassured that for the moment he need not pay us. While there is difficulty communicating with the whole church, there is proposed an email group for those not on Facebook: Sandra has this in hand. John Lambert prayed for the church, the Diocese and country as many will move, with the Nation, into debt. We pray for all who are worried about the future and for each of us feeling vulnerable. He prayed for wise management during the crisis.</p>	
7	<p>Safeguarding Report Nicola Wrightson reported (via John Littlehailes) no significant item in Safeguarding. She thanked Lucy Falcus for her efforts in setting up training for some members of the PCC: unhappily, this has been cancelled due to the growing Corvid-19 crisis. Paul has been approached by people seeking help, which will continue: many more will be vulnerable, and we need to be even more aware of Safeguarding issues. Margaret pointed out that there are already issues arising elsewhere with community organisations and unregulated groups giving rise to safeguarding issues. She said that the Catalyst group is acting in this respect for the Council.</p>	
8	<p>Wardens' Update Karen Killick repeated that the tenant in 558b is being helped. The door discussed at the last meeting has been replaced, and she had no other important issue to bring to the meeting. Peter Lankford has been active working on the door, and will have other tasks ahead but any suggestions as to tasks for him would be helpful. The cleaners have limited work to do. John Lambert has received a letter from the Bishop extending dates for APCM etc. until the end of October. PCC therefore could be in position until end October, depending on when the revised date for APCM will be, though some, including the treasurer, may resign during this period.</p>	
9	<p>Staff Management Team Debbie Bunford said that Shiromi starts in her new role at the end of the month. John said that Sandra has relations with symptoms of Covid19, and she is self-isolating. She has no symptoms to date, and she is working from home. She has been compiling a handbook for the Administration task. She has also been putting together a buddy system across the church, and she has been identifying those most at risk in the church. Shiromi has now finished her previous job, and John has spent significant time discussing</p>	

	<p>with her the website, which she will be working on updating it regularly. She will be spending four mornings next week learning more about what is to be done. Caroline Davis is going home: her parents are worrying about her. She may come back, depending on what is possible, and how her own plans pan out. The PCC expressed their gratitude for the time she has spent with us, which has provided such a valuable resource for our young people. Staff appraisals are not yet completed, but now must be done remotely. John has been very impressed by work done remotely by Jan, Kathryn, Katy, Caroline and their teams.</p> <p>A query was raised about those entering and exiting the church building and use of hand washing and sanitising. Karen Killick observed that she has been wearing gloves and using handwashing while in the church. There is hand gel around the building, and Peter is sanitising all hard surfaces daily. Concern was expressed that some people have been using the building for meetings. John understands that this has now finished.</p>	
10	<p>Mission Support</p> <p>John Littlehailes introduced the paper produced by the Mission Giving Group. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Lucy Falcus, “That the PCC accept the Mission Giving Group’s recommendations.” Seconded by Kathie Lambert. Passed with three abstentions.</p>	
11	<p>MDT and Role of Receptionist</p> <p>John Lambert talked to the paper Sandra produced. The MDT was in favour, but felt that she should be careful about bringing lots of people in when the Centre was already crowded. Scott expressed concern about the travelling expenses, and generally about the expenses involved: we shall have to live within our means, and he asked for more specifically about the Diocesan micro grants. There are two tranches of £500 to be applied for; we shall now keep this in mind for the second half of the year. It was agreed that the Staff Management Team should be involved in the discussions with Sandra: it will be a while before the debate is concluded. The PCC was broadly in agreement with the proposal, but there are some issues to be resolved (among them the handling of phone answering and the issue of financing and the micro grants) and a clear proposal is needed: Sandra is to consult with the Ministry Development Team and the Staff Management Team.</p>	
12	<p>Deanery Synod Report</p> <p>Lucy Falcus reported that there had been three agenda items at the recent meeting. A reminder about the elections to Deanery Synod (a discussion overtaken by events: now is not the time). A General Synod report was given: significantly, a vote was passed committing the church to becoming ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030. Thirdly, a paper discussed the issue raised at the last PCC meeting about future targets and how to achieve them. This included helpful input from the Diocese. The Synod agreed to delay meeting again until they can meet face to face.</p> <p>John Lambert and Kathie Lambert left the meeting at this point.</p>	
13	<p>Archdeacon’s visit</p>	

	Unhappily the Archdeacon was unable to join us, but in his absence Margaret Vaughan talked about the process last time we were in this position, and the requirements of the recruitment process. The letter to the PCC from Kathryn Belmont on behalf of the Staff Team was discussed, but further progress must await the Archdeacon's input.	
14	AOB. Karen Killick volunteered to lead the period of reflection and prayer at the next full meeting (perhaps to be held on Monday 20 April 2020) since there will be no APCM until later in the year. The meeting finished with prayer led by Paul Arnold.	