



All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

From: PCC Secretary & Parish Safeguarding Officer
To: PCC Members
Subject: Minutes for PCC 21st March 2022
Date: 26 April 2022
Status: For information
Classification: Unrestricted

Present	
1. Diane Backhouse (Parish Safeguarding Officer)*	10. Karen Killick (Vice-Chair & Deanery Synod Member)
2. Jonathan Backhouse (PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod Member) *	11. Matt Levinsohn (Chair) *
3. John Belmont (Treasurer) *	12. John Littlehailes
4. Mark Boyes	13. Anne Rolfe (Warden) *
5. Debbie Bunford	14. Pamela Rushton
6. Rob Govier	15. Kevin Storer
7. Simon Honeywell *	16. Margaret Vaughan (Deanery Synod Member)
8. Martin Howard (Warden) *	PLUS: Kathryn Belmont
9. Geoff Jowett	* = Standing Committee

#	Agenda Items
1.	<p>Matt shared thanks from PCC for all work John L, Debbie and Tim had been involved with as they step down from PCC and Martin as Warden as he steps down, but not from PCC.</p> <p>Opening Prayers and Reflection</p> <p>John Littlehailes shared his thoughts on how church has changed over the years. When John first came to All Saints' "it was very different: set in its ways, very often seemed as though it was in the last century. It was middle of the road. We still used the Book of Common Prayer and when we moved away from it distress was caused and some people left. We held fetes to raise money for the fabric, with Doris's white elephant stall.</p> <p>The vicar did most of the stuff through the service, and there was a general sense that this is how things were and why, after all, should we change. It was much more formal but that was the times. There were good things about it. The smaller congregation was very much a fellowship and cared one for another. There were good and bad times but they were shared – people knew what was going on in each other's lives. It was very welcoming for us as a family. It was a smaller congregation with much less focus on mission towards children and young people but they still welcomed them. There was a Youth Centre, now replaced by the much bigger Centre, but there was coffee and tea served there after morning services, and, even then, there was a programme of events for young people organised by members of the congregation. The Youth Centre was used by the Scouts and Brownies who were much more oriented towards the church than now.</p> <p>It was very much inward focused. The changes since those days have been really quite dramatic – an unfolding, a flowering. The church is now much more dynamic and fuller. It is now much more of a joint adventure in our search together for our spiritual lives. There is a focus on the bible and the</p>



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	<p>Great Commission, which gives a sense of purpose to the church, which it didn't possess in the sense of going somewhere; it was previously a maintenance job being done.</p> <p>There have been hairy times during all of this change: at one time we had several successive years running negative budgets, which caused some significant worry, but we resolved that we were given money (and by now we were funded only by the congregation) to use, not to hang onto, we bunged much of our reserves into the gap and we came, eventually, through to the other side. I did say it has been an adventure. Then there have been the church plants which have happened over more recent years and which would have been beyond our imagining in earlier times: it just was not in our mind-set: though All Saints' itself was, of course, a sort of church plant in much earlier days.</p> <p>Perhaps the most wonderful thing to have seen is the flowering of talents that are around as we move towards an all member ministry. It has been a delight seeing people do what they can do – unleashed. We are not all the way yet, though, as there are still some that just want to be here. It has been more significant since COVID as the numbers of volunteers has dropped but that will recover.</p> <p>I have loved my journey here. I love the joyful and purposeful people with whom I have shared and I am looking forward to seeing what happens next. Thanks to you all.</p> <p>Now let's give thanks to God for all he has achieved here, for the leaders whom he sent to help us to find our way towards him, and for ourselves in our continuing journeys of faith.”</p> <p>Matt commented on how he loved that John had seen it all as being a positive journey – such an encouragement – at every stage of the race running well and wanting to see God's kingdom grow.</p> <p>John then described how there has been cohesion of the PCC over the years, even when there were differences of opinion everyone still put their shoulders to the final decision that was made and then moved together.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence, and declarations of interest</p> <p>Jonathan noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Apologies had previously been received from Lucy, Tim and Paul. b) There remains a potential declaration of interest, i.e., Matt Levinsohn as incumbent and his wife as Receptionist.
3.	<p>Approval of minutes of the meeting</p> <p>A copy of the minutes had been forwarded for review, on the G-Drive prior to the PCC Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Simon proposed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting, seconded by Martin. All in favour, apart from John Belmont and Kevin who abstained (ACTION – Jonathan - to forward minutes to Shiromi).
4.	<p>Youth update – Kathryn</p> <p>Kathryn explained that Matt had asked her to spend a bit of time sharing about what they had been doing as a Youth Ministry and then also spend some time looking forwards and sharing about what is to come!</p> <p>Looking Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Looking back at 2021, Kathryn saw it in three thirds! The first third was in lockdown where Youth ministry couldn't be together, the second third was when the world was beginning to open up but there were considerable restrictions and social distancing etc., and the final third was pretty much normal. b) During lockdown the team tried to support our young people as much as they could. This involved weekly Zoom Life Groups and Youth Church, socials on Zoom, regular Doulos meetings, visiting young people on the doorstep and giving them Easter bags filled with



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	<p>resources, doing bible study plans together using the youth version bible app, the team each taking responsibility for communicating with different young people, creating the best social media content that they possibly could. When things opened up a bit Youth ministry met a lot outside as sitting socially distanced with masks on was incredibly awkward. Youth Church in the park was held many times, socials in the vicarage garden, Youth Club outside, met with the young people who were going off to uni to equip them for that and joined in with the New Wine online youth conference called Luminosity. Also a number of Y6 transitional events were held.</p> <p>c) In Summer, they could do more together, however, were unable to go to a summer camp so did their own called Love Your Neighbour. This involved devotionals every morning led by young people, a trip to Alton Towers, a sleepover, prayer walking the community, serving alongside Cultivate Tees Valley, making and delivering gifts to all of our church neighbours, litter picking, eating together and evening meetings with a resident speaker. This gave many opportunities to reconnect with each other and connect with God. It provided much needed time out, without the other distractions of life, to give time to Him. "This was one of the first things we did, which felt somewhat normal, and it was really special."</p> <p>d) From summer onwards the team prayed and thought a lot about what God was saying to them as we all started to come out of the pandemic into more of a sense of normality. "What does it mean for the ministry: what should we take with us, what should we leave behind?" were the questions being asked.</p> <p>e) Kathryn attended a couple of conferences to help her work through this too. A picture that was shared at one of these conferences really stood out to her and she felt God had really spoken through it. "The picture was of a big red helium balloon that rose above everything else. It represented the things of ministry that we tend to place great value on (often above all else), like big events with big numbers. But in the picture the balloon was popped and the shards of balloon were scattered on the floor and the message from God was "don't try to put the pieces together exactly as they were before". Then as the person sharing the vision looked down he spotted a golden nugget and felt that this is what he should pick up. As he picked it up he felt God say, "I am going to do something far less visible but infinitely more valuable". The feeling was that God was leading us into doing things that may be less visible – the numbers may not be so huge, but the value and the fruitfulness would be high. This message kept being repeated – I kept hearing phrases like 'big events are made up of small relationships' and other similar phrases."</p> <p>f) From September Youth Ministry were basically able to do everything (other than schools ministry) that they were doing pre-pandemic – in a normal way (Doulos, LG, restarted Lads Club, mentoring, Youth Club, Youth Church etc.). But a few changes were made based on the vision mentioned:</p> <p>g) Youth Club: Pre-pandemic over 100 young people were attending but behaviour was antisocial, proving to be a very difficult situation and team were very tired. Felt as though team spent time crowd controlling and speaking to parents about behaviour rather than building relationships and sharing faith with young people. Decided to restart with church young people to allow rebuilding of relationships and a sense of family <u>but</u> with a strong invitational culture. It's smaller – 30 young people with 1/3+ coming through invitation. Testimonies of God moving in this area were shared: fruitfulness is exciting.</p> <p>h) Refresh: holding quarterly rather than monthly which has brought a fresh energy from team and young people attending. 10 churches attended last Refresh. Managed to have great national speakers resulting in amazing attendance – possibly too big for the hall now. Have seen young people making commitments and stepping out in prayer responses ready to live out their faith boldly.</p> <p>i) Café Church: holding quarterly - a great, relaxed place for young people to bring friends to a</p>



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	<p>non-threatening environment for those who are freaked out by churches.</p> <p>Looking forwards (and Current)</p> <p>j) Intentional emphasis on smaller discipleship (this is where Youth Ministry will start to think about what's coming in the future too). More mentoring happening than there has been for a very long time. Looking at the reason why we do what we do. Youth team want to help young people become life-long followers of Jesus – this is how we do that. Kathryn shared a video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAoKb11fGMg Aim of discipling relationships is to help people take steps closer to becoming more like Jesus. The team want to help young people reach spiritual maturity and get to the point where they are able to do the same for someone else. "This is 100% what we are all about – nothing more valuable than this."</p> <p>k) There have been 12 new Year 7 young people joining youth.</p> <p>l) Youth Apprenticeships: links older young people with ministries around the church to serve in on 3rd Sunday, giving opportunities to discover their God-given gifts and an opportunity to get to know wider church. They are being mentored in their roles by ministry leaders who are investing in them, e.g. preaching team: 3-4 people currently being invested in: have attended a preaching training session, been linked with a preaching mentor, given preaching opportunities. They meet with their preaching mentor before they speak, get feedback afterwards and see where it leads them.</p> <p>m) Connecting Vision: All sorts of things Youth Ministry wants to be involved with. Reaching young people in our community – Skate Park (Preston Park). There are young people in our local community who are currently not being reached through the new way of doing youth club and there is lots of antisocial behaviour taking place. It is an amazing opportunity and Matt, Rachel and Kathryn feel a strong sense that God is leading us to reach out to these young people.</p> <p>n) 10th May: meeting is planned to share ideas how we can have a positive impact on young people in the area. Inviting many different groups from the community to be involved.</p> <p>o) Mexico: Very soon! Long awaited - 14 from All Saints' going including young adults and young people: serving in a poor community, getting closer to God and away from distractions of everyday life and being a Christian community together.</p> <p>p) Satellites Summer Festival: a new form of festival: 22 are going. Idea is that everyone puts something at the centre of their world (often ourselves) and life makes most sense when we centre it on God. He designed us to spend our lives in orbit around Him – He made us to be Satellites. Youth team are excited for this week away together which will be significant in building relationships in the youth group and focussing on connecting with God.</p> <p>q) Baptisms: 6 young people getting baptised taking a step of faith and commitment (3rd April).</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>r) Were there any interesting responses to handing out gifts in summer? Generally people were really surprised. Most comments came from litter picking: appreciation was shown.</p> <p>s) Importance of discipleship was commented upon and need for in church as well as youth – Matt added that is a high priority for the year as it impacts everything else.</p> <p>t) What is the damage Covid has caused our young people, long-term impact? Many are struggling with their mental health and one-to-one discipleship times can aid sharing of issues and allow for pointing towards ways of helping. A lot of young people have stuck with ministry and remained committed. Wondering if the antisocial behaviour in the community is a result of Covid.</p> <p>u) What do you want most in way of additional resources? What would make a difference to Youth Ministry? Having connections with the Council, Police, other churches, knowing who to contact</p>



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	<p>as they seek to reach out into the community. Abby to stay for another year. Matt added that we are looking to bring people in from other churches in UK to serve if not coming from US, making links with other churches and ideally swapping personnel. Bringing some evangelists to strengthen the team.</p> <p>Matt closed by thanking Kathryn and her team. A short prayer time for Kathryn and Youth Team followed.</p>
	<p>Actions/Update and matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>Matt noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Baptism classes had finished.Life Exhibition has started today (21st) – lots of children hearing about Jesus, asking questions and surprised how lively church can be.Matt is meeting with Peter G to add Pastoral Team plans on to 3-year plan (ACTION Matt).Matt is organising dementia training with Steve A for church (ACTION Matt).Matt to forward the amended Risk Assessment (ACTION Matt).
5.	
	<p>Chair's update</p> <p>Matt noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">In August church will meet in the hall around multi-generational tables, to allow mixing of all generations in the church.COVID & Ukrainian Zoom meeting: 2 – 3pm 22/03: John L attending – update from Government and Diocese regarding Ukrainian situation and what we can offer, e.g. hosting refugees, hosting a once a week event for Ukrainian families to meet together in hall (ACTION John L & Matt).
6.	
	<p>Financial update</p> <p>A copy of the finance documents had been forwarded for review, on the G-Drive prior to the PCC Meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">John proposed acceptance of Final 2021 Accounts, seconded by Jonathan. All in favour.February update was sent round – still quite early to see any pattern - had one off donation in January which will potentially pay off some of our budgeted deficit although we have spent quite a lot on maintenance which will show on March update. There has been some additional monthly giving through the Parish giving scheme.Checked Gas and Electric – we are on a fixed rate until August 2025. Kevin mentioned tariff-standing charge is rising.Parish giving scheme has increased by 7.2 % - individual letters sent but don't have to be accepted.
7.	
	<p>Safeguarding update</p> <p>A copy of the safeguarding report had been forwarded for review, on the G-Drive prior to the PCC Meeting.</p> <p>8. Diane asked if there were any questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Future actions were queried: where are we at with job descriptions and training? Only a couple of job descriptions are outstanding and have gone past requested completion date. Training needed to be completed by 31st Mar, so still time, and approximately 50% have completed Domestic Abuse training and 80% have completed Safer Recruitment and People Management
8.	



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	<p>training (ACTION Diane – email reminder).</p> <p>b) Debbie – asked if we could use Job ROLE not description, to make a distinction between employed staff and volunteer roles (ACTION Diane).</p> <p>Matt thanked Diane for her follow up and support in writing descriptions: has been very helpful.</p>
9.	<p>Living in Love and Faith overview</p> <p>a) Matt gave a copy of the Road Map for LLF and outlined the schedule of events from now to the General Synod, in February 2023. LLF website has materials etc. to use. Margaret explained that it is not a consultation, its helping us to understand where people might be coming from – a listening stage.</p> <p>b) Following a brief discussion and Q&A Matt split the PCC up to discuss, in pairs, possible scenarios that could be faced at All Saints' and then followed a further discussion.</p> <p>c) Matt asked when the PCC would like a session on the subject of LLF before sharing it with church. Decided to run a session in June, then a feedback / revisit in October (ACTION Matt).</p> <p>d) Matt is going to run a session in November for church (ACTION Matt).</p>
10.	<p>Wardens' update</p> <p>Martin noted that:</p> <p>a) Work on the roof has been carried out but additional work has been identified (approx. £500). Investigating whether this will fall under warrantee (Sweetings). It was suggested contacting David Beaumont (ACTION Wardens).</p> <p>b) Some of the work in the flats has been undertaken: heater in hall. There are limited options for the extractor: under investigation prior to redecoration (Peter L) (ACTION Wardens).</p> <p>c) Thanks were given to Jonathan for recent fire safety training – it identified a few issues, which are being actioned over the next week, or two (ACTION Wardens).</p> <p>d) Baptistry was part filled to check for leaks and to see how long it took to fill. A procedure/risk assessment concerning how power is locked off and practicalities/restrictions for sound and worship team is being formulated (ACTION Geoff).</p> <p>e) Two NEST thermostats have been installed – one for the main hall and the other for the foyer, kitchen and youth room.</p> <p>f) DAC meeting (22/03) to confirm choice of architect - we can then action the quinquennial inspection.</p> <p>g) We are still looking for another Warden.</p>
11.	<p>Staff Management</p> <p>Debbie noted that:</p> <p>a) David E has contacted Shiromi regarding Peter's permanent contract (cleaning) as still temporary (ACTION SMT).</p> <p>b) Debbie thanked PCC for support: stepping down from PCC but continuing with SMT until leave area. Agreed SMT will email report prior to future PCC meetings in interim.</p> <p>c) We need more on the SMT: 1/2.</p>
12.	<p>Deanery Synod update</p> <p>In her absence Lucy had forwarded a report to the PCC. No questions were raised.</p>



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13.	<p>Church Report update</p> <p>A copy of the 2021 Annual Church Report had been forwarded for review, on the G-Drive prior to the PCC Meeting.</p> <p>Jonathan explained he and Diane had drafted the Report, with minor amendments and asked for comments. None forthcoming.</p> <p>a) Jonathan proposed acceptance of the Report, John L seconded, all in favour (ACTION Jonathan).</p>
14.	<p>Working Party Update</p> <p>Buildings Group:</p> <p>a) An overview of the work completed so far was shared. Looking to change room at side of church.</p> <p>b) Working party in June to help with the little jobs: make social event involving whole family.</p> <p>Communities Group:</p> <p>c) Meeting with Yarm, Eaglescliffe Parishes contact 22/03 to discuss using the church centre as a pop up for community services to attend and display their activities for community to attend.</p> <p>d) Energy Poverty – above group is running a trial for an energy advice day and it will be suggested, if successful, to run in church centre for the community.</p> <p>e) Through the walking group we are going to link peripheral parishes of Stockton.</p> <p>f) We have an aging population with issues of dementia, therefore a Dementia session is being organised for both church members as a refresher course and for those in the community.</p> <p>Discipleship Group:</p> <p>g) The first SHAPES course ran and has been updated. It will be re-run again in April. Feedback from a participant was shared and it was suggested that follow up after course needs planning. Matt shared he had matched an individual with a mentor as a result.</p> <p>h) PCC were asked: “Do you think life groups are crucial factor in discipleship?” “Hands up if you are in Life group” - all but one raised their hand. There are 90 people in various Life groups, which means nearly 50% of church are in Life groups?</p> <p>i) “How could we promote Life groups more effectively?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was suggested that those who are least likely to be in a Life group are those who feel least confident in their personal faith and may feel threatened in a group where they think there are people who appear really strong in their faith. Perhaps place people of similar faith journey in Life group together with an appropriate leader.• It was mentioned that some people are in Prayer Triplets rather than Life groups.• Matt shared Pastoral Team is contacting anyone in church that is not in Life group, Prayer triplet, etc. Numbers of Life groups and numbers of people in Life groups have increased.• A suggestion was made that people from a variety of Life groups could speak at front of church in a service. <p>j) Next discipleship group shared about setting up / running Exploring Faith groups. Raise leaders in the church rather than relying on Matt to lead them.</p> <p>k) It was mentioned that people feel uncomfortable about praying out loud – a need to develop this. Matt mentioned Rachel L had run ‘Speaking out loud for people who don’t speak out loud’</p>



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	<p>groups previously – will talk about doing some in church.</p> <p>l) A further suggestion was made that there is a need to identify people who are not in groups and direct them to alternatives.</p> <p>Matt thanked everyone for their work in the working parties as it has helped to move the church forward.</p>
15.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) A concern was raised that we have not increased our Vergers fee in nearly ten years. Can we have it as an agenda item next time? Role of Verger was explained: are used for funerals and weddings (ACTION Jonathan).</p> <p>b) PCC were reminded that documents for those wishing to stand for the next PCC, which must be completed and forwarded to Jonathan were in the G Drive. No forms needed for Deanery Synod members and Fit and Proper forms are only needed after election (ACTION All).</p> <p>c) Remove Fit and Proper form from G-Drive as incorrect version (ACTION Jonathan).</p>
-	<p>Close - The meeting finished with the Grace</p>
-	<p>Date of next PCC meeting – following APCM, 24 April 2022</p>