

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Parochial Church Council Meeting held **on Zoom** on Tuesday 30th March 2021 beginning at **7.00pm**

Present:

The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair
The Revd. Julie Howell – Curate – (part)
David Oats and Alison Foulkes – Churchwardens
Kim Slade – Hon. Treasurer
Sam Brown – Secretary

Also in attendance:

Margaret Baker, Melanie Brown, Stephen Kerry, Andrew Kingston, Jennie Marwick-Evans, Jennifer Wright JW, Jeremy Wright JPR.

1	Opening Prayer & Welcome	
2	Apologies for Absence: Aeron Slade, Revd. Julie Howell (part), Not able to join Zoom: Ann Dixon (Fr Gary had been in contact), Heather Holloway. Not present: Roger O'Callaghan	
3	Correspondence received from Trevor Maines, Aeron Slade and Revd. Julie Howell	
4	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 nd February 2021 – <i>circulated</i> – These minutes were recorded and signed as a true accurate record – DO proposed, AF seconded. Signed by Fr Gary.	
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes. All action points were reviewed as completed and the process for distributing draft minutes for review was discussed and agreed.	
6	March 2020 Minute - Correction document. Clive Loveless and Aeron Slade confirmed as not present in the minutes, those not present abstained from voting. DO proposed, JW seconded, signed by Fr Gary.	
7	Minute Signing Jan 2020. Replacement copy dated today, unchanged, DO advised item 15 should be redacted after 'this was discussed' (as voted at the March 2020 meeting). JW proposed and DO seconded, signed by Fr Gary.	
8	Safeguarding Update. Fr Gary advised this will be a regular agenda item. He asked the PCC if there were any safeguarding issues to report and no issues were reported. Fr Gary advised everyone needs basic level safeguarding training (online). Jan Goodenough is the safeguarding officer at St John's and Fr Gary asked if PCC members were happy for him to supply their e-mail addresses to Jan - all consented. Action – All PCC members to undertake basic level safeguarding before next meeting	PCC
9	Deanery Synod – SK provided an overview of the Deanery Synod meeting. He reported there were useful group sessions discussing how churches are coping during the pandemic.	
10	Vicar's Report. – Fr Gary reported St John's has reopened. He hoped for a sustained re-opening. This is opportunity to reset and rethink and face these huge challenges, how do we take a rich and deep tradition and become a living tradition? We have done well handling change; how do we go forward and spread our wings? Seeing 40 people on Sunday (some new to our church) is a positive sign of change. Action – Fr Gary asked the PCC to reflect on how we shape our church for the future	PCC
11	Financial Report – The Treasure updated from the key points and backing data issued prior to the meeting and invited questions from the PCC. The Treasurer provided insight into the operating deficit and the drawdown from reserves, and how the drawdown covered our operating deficit so that the current account bank balances remain in the black. The cost of the chairs and handrail is in the budget and will ultimately be paid for via Good Exchange projects	KS

	(which is a mix of donations and matched funding), but the PCC can pay in the short term with current funds. The Treasurer advised we are doing 'OK'.	
12	<p>Reopening Church – The PCC divided into subgroups and reported back about considering future ideas, what should stay or go? What new innovations may occur? Where should we put our energy?</p> <p>Feedback from the breakout sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas light show was excellent, we should consider a repeat and expand • House groups and potential to foster and share faith, people get to know each other • The value of continuing online services, aware of those who may be online but may not attend church. • Possibly some may find a zoom home group easier to attend. For some elderly people who cannot get to church, online can be so important. Falkland Nursing home valued the online services. • A variety in music, different instruments • Consider how we can get more children into church <p>Fr Gary expressed his wish that St John's is a place for the whole parish, 'this is your church'. Lot of thought around 'mixed economy' churches, and St John's being one of them.</p> <p>We have a similar open Anglo-Catholic tradition to that of St Georges, but we have our own distinctive approach. On a question on the liturgy, Fr Gary reflected on a wish that the liturgy shifts through the seasons. How do we offer to people who want to explore but are not yet ready to commit?</p> <p>Fr Gary thanked everyone for their input in the breakout group discussions.</p>	
13	<p>Progress reports at St. John's. Maintenance and use of church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iCap – 'faculty' vote & potential legal challenge – Planning Approval has been granted for the external doors and porch (Stage 3), next is Stage 4 (architect to draw up detail designs for tender and get Diocese faculty approval). The W. Berks Council received one objection to the Planning Application which was from Revd Trevor Maines. Correspondence had been received concerning a potential and costly legal challenge to the Faculty Application. This was discussed and considered in great depth during the PCC decision to approve the application. • Next, the DAC needs to send a Notification of Advice (NOA) and normally this would come after the detailed plans have been submitted. <p>The recommendation from the DAC, is that the NOA will be sent soon so we can apply for faculty now, and then submit detailed plans later (which would save money if the faculty does not go through). The PCC voted on this approach, with the proposal being to 'Apply for a Full Faculty as soon as we receive the NOA from the DAC', DO proposed, AK seconded, the vote for the proposal, was unanimous.</p> <p>Action - Fr Gary requested that we pray for those impacted by these decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-rails – DO advised we have paid for half; they are on order from the foundry • Chairs – Quote for the chairs expected to go through the good exchange for match funding. Margaret Baker reflected that backs of the chairs are angled; unpadded seats had a dip in the seat and that she found the chairs uncomfortable. Fr Gary advised the chairs are those recommended by the DAC and that we would be going for the padded seat version. MB suggested to get more people to try the chairs out. KS advised we need the chair paperwork to be in order before submitting the good exchange funding application. Fr Gary confirmed we do not need PCC approve at this meeting as this was approved previously. 	<p>PCC</p> <p>GC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice boards – Fr Gary updated that a second quote had been received from another company and was £600 lower than the first. It was suggested that we need to clarify that the quality is not lower from the second company and also to confirm how easy it will be to edit the boards. Fr Gary said that we would wait for a couple of months before ordering. Approval has been made as money is already in the budget and that the renewal of the boards is part of church maintenance and upkeep. • Live Streaming – St Georges are looking to spend between £15k-£20k on live streaming equipment. There is no financial benefit to St Johns in considering ordering any equipment at the same time as St Georges, so we will wait and learn from St George’s experience, as they move forward. 	
14	Greening St John’s –Rev. Julie updated the PCC on the successful first meeting of the Green Group (13 attendees) and this will be followed by a survey to ask, ‘how green are we?’. KS requested that we get a forecast for provisional spending in as soon as possible. Fr Gary reflected that this is a key part of the new initiatives for our church.	JH
15	An Open Future - Inclusive Church / Open Table / LLF – Briefing material sent out to the PCC, part of our process, part of the CoE process and work out how to have a dialogue. Action - Please read the material and reach out to Fr Gary if you would like more information.	PCC
16	St John’s School Connection. Connections are strengthening again through regular Collective Worship. Update – opportunity to become known to the children of St Nicholas and St Johns as the two schools work closer together during a period of Mr Harvey’s ‘executive headship’ and Fr Gary reminded us we have a duty of spiritual care to the schools.	
17	Any other relevant business - No other relevant business JW updated that St John’s ladies fellowship have sent Easter cards to 30 people and we should put together a flyer for the new flats being built on the Bus Station land.	GC
Closing Benediction (meeting closed at 21:05)		
Date and time of next meetings 20.05.21 Standing Committee 7pm 03.06.21 PCC Meeting 7pm 24.06.21 APCM 7pm		