

# The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Newbury

Parochial Church Council Meeting held **on Zoom** on Tuesday 2 February 2021 beginning at **7.00pm**

**Present:**

**The Revd. Gary Collins – Chair**

**The Revd. Becky Bevan**

**The Revd. Julie Howell – Curate**

**David Oats and Alison Foulkes – Churchwardens**

**Kim Slade – Hon. Treasurer**

**Sam Brown – Secretary**

**Also in attendance:**

**Melanie Brown, Aeron Slade (part), Jennie Marwick-Evans, Olive Maines, Andrew Kingston, Roger O’Callaghan, Stephen Kerry, Margaret Baker, Jeremy Wright, Jennifer Wright (part).**

1	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Welcome</b>	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> , Clive Loveless, Heather Holloway, Ann Dixon, Jennifer Wright (part), Aeron Slade (part).	
3	<b>Correspondence</b> , Clive Loveless updated he was standing down as Deanery Synod Representative (a temporary 6-month appointment), he wished to pass on best regards and wishes to all PCC Members. Fr Gary reciprocated on behalf of the PCC.	
4	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting;</b> The minutes from the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020 Were amended and circulated, approval proposed by Roger O’ Callaghan, and seconded by David Oats <b>Action</b> – Minutes to be published online/church after circulation to PCC.	<b>DO</b>
5	<b>Matters Arising</b> from Previous Minutes. – No matters arising were identified. <b>Action</b> – N/A	
6	<b>March 2020 Minutes.</b> Olive Maines stated that she felt that the minutes should stand as they were signed off previously. David Oats updated that they have worked to produce a set of minutes that reflected the meeting so this could be filed. <b>Action</b> - Fr Gary requested the minutes be reviewed and any comments presented in advance of the next PCC. Intention is to sign off at March’21 meeting.	<b>All</b>
7	<b>Ratifying PCC Working Practice</b> – Fr Gary presented the document. Olive Maines indicated she was much happier with the second version. FR Gary advises this is good practice and thanks to St Georges for their work. Approval proposed by Fr Gary and David Oats seconder.	
	<b>Action</b> – To be added to PCC documentation	<b>DO, AF, PCCsec</b>
8	<b>Vicar’s Report.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on current on-line services and other events (eg number of participants) – Fr Gary updated the PCC on events with lockdown since the last meeting. Average number of visits at services is approx. 150 per week. Midweek events around 40. The illumination of the church on Christmas Eve was a highlight. Tulip handout was well received.</li> <li>Update on situation at St John’s School and other local bodies. Fr Gary met with Keith Harvey (St Nicholas’ School Headteacher) who is temporarily overseeing St John’s School now that Gaynor Zimmerman has retired due to ill health. Fr Gary and Revd. Julie will be running online assemblies for the school soon so that the church can keep in touch with the staff and children.</li> <li>Plans for Lent - available on the website, Tuesday evening will be a Lent Group.</li> </ul>	<b>GC/JH</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on 'buddy' arrangements – Buddy arrangements being updated, thanks to all those involved and good feedback received. Fr Garry expressed a wish that we continue to network over the next few months.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Action</b> – Update all Buddy Rotas, keep track of any missing.	<b>GC</b>
9	<p><b>Financial Report</b> - The Treasurer reiterated some points from the latest financials distributed prior to the PCC Meeting. This includes the end of year results. Also, January 2021 was provided with a forecast for the year of a £18k operating deficit. CCLA Diocese information to be forthcoming so that the accounts can be examined/audited. Growth of Kath Gibbs legacy means we can draw down between £10k-£20k per annum against the growth without touching the original capital. CCLA investments are making a major contribution to our funds. Roger O'Callaghan asked for clarification over the financial forecast for when hire fees are likely to return. The Treasurer is modelling low levels of hire till May, increasing to normal in Winter. Revd Becky Bevan advised that on any projections we won't return to normal levels due to continued covid-19 measures for some time to come.</p>	
	<b>Action</b> – The Treasurer chasing the Diocese for information to enable the finalisation of the accounts.	<b>KS</b>
10	<p><b>Reopening Church</b> – Establishing how this will be decided, factors to consider. Fr Gary updated on how we have overcome challenges but think about how the future will look for St Johns and partnership with St Georges. Fr Gary asked for views on the current church closed position. Whilst Government advice is to stay at home the decision in St Georges is that gathered worship should be reviewed only when the situation changes. This may need to be at an extraordinary meeting prior to the next PCC meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Think about what kind of church we return to 'as it has always been' or 'carry the church forward'. The PCC needs to be aware that the church being shut is not normal and we must think about how we will open up in the future. Revd Becky asked the PCC to consider a positive approach.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
11	<p><b>Progress reports at St. John's.</b> Maintenance and use of church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>iCap</b> Planning Application with West Berks Council, site notices are up for comments.</li> <li><b>Handrails</b> – Measuring and inspection almost complete to ensure handrails are consistent with the current design (all 7 handrails are being implemented).</li> <li><b>Chairs</b> – DAC advised that if we go with their recommendation of a neutral coloured padded seat with a wooden back, then it could go through as an 'A List' option. If we ask for a change of colour then we would need to progress to the Faculty process. If we ask for a padded back as well as seat, then that is unlikely to be approved at Faculty level due to the change in the appearance of the nave. Revd. Becky recommended, and David Oats advised, that the fabric needs to be cleanable (but not vinyl), BB suggested that a neutral colour avoids liturgical clashes throughout the year. 30 chairs to start with. Opinion of the meeting was: Maroon 1, Neutral 12, no preference 1. A view was that if we go down the 'A List' route then permission could be granted within a month.</li> <li><b>St Richard Room/Premises</b> during lockdown – only the Preschool using the building, external fence being replaced at cost to the pre-school. The building is being inspected weekly by David Oats.</li> <li><b>Notice boards</b> - Fr Gary updated the group and provided a sample of what the notice boards could look like and providing a bold strong statement. Quote is in budget; alternative quotes being sourced. Revd. Becky Bevan updated that St Georges have taken the view to suspend all non-essential spend due to the unprecedented times.</li> <li><b>BOM</b>- Fr Gary advised that St Johns is getting great value for money from the office manager.</li> </ul>	<b>GC/DO</b>
	<b>Actions</b> – N/A	<b>GC/KS</b>
12	<b>'Think Tank'</b> – What does a future Church look like? – Fr Gary is still reviewing and having conversations with people to formulate a broader conversation and how we be a church with others in the community.	

	<b>Action – N/A</b>	
13	<p><b>A Green Future</b> – Setting up of a steering group – Fr Gary is formulating an action committee. Fr Gary would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved. We will draw on advice from Phillip Bevan and Bruce Blaine (from St Georges) who have already agreed to join the group in an advisory capacity. Diocese is running several webinars on sustainable initiatives this month.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Anyone interested please approach Fr Gary</p>	<b>ALL</b>
14	<p><b>An Open Future</b> - Inclusive Church / Open Table / LLF – Fr Gary would like to open a conversation, How should St Johns fits into the future. Initiatives could include Living in Love and Faith and/or Open Table. On issues of gender sexuality race and disability, what should both churches do to become truly inclusive churches? Churches that welcome and serve all people.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Fr Gary to send out briefing material and resources for the PCC to consider</p>	<b>GC</b>
15	<p><b>Any other relevant bushiness</b> – There was no other relevant business to record</p> <p><b>Action</b> – N/A</p>	
<p><b>Closing Benediction</b></p> <p><b>The meeting closed at 21:10</b></p>		
	<p><b>Date and time of next meetings</b></p> <p>23/03/21 Standing Committee Meeting. 7pm - 30/03/21 Parochial Church Council Meeting. 7pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting 24/06/21 7pm</p>	