

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD IN CHURCH
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2020 AT 8.00pm IN CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE 7.30 pm EUCHARIST**

Present: Chris Gadd (Churchwarden)(Chair), John Hood (Churchwarden), Fr Colin Lawlor, Barbie Lloyd (Deanery Synod), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Lesley Handy, Marian Haughton, Malcolm Brewer, Sara Pask, Lisa Toft, Mo Peters, Anne Morgan, Jane Cook (Secretary)

			<u>ACTION</u>
		Opening Prayer – Chris read the Leading your Church into Growth Prayer.	
1.		Apologies for absence: Sandra Hewett, Ian Gibson Dawn Trimby (Treasurer) – not in attendance as agreed	
2.		Minutes of last PCC meeting on 17th December The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.	
3.		Matters Arising	
		<u>Page 1, Item 3</u> – Choir and Band – Chris has had a brief conversation with Don but this is still ongoing. <u>Page 1, Item 3</u> – Safeguarding – this is on the agenda. <u>Page 1, Item 3</u> – 50 th Anniversary – this is on the agenda.	CG
4.	a)	Charity Treasurer's Report	
		The figures for December as provided by Lynne McNeill, Charity Treasurer, are as follows: £147.99 was collected during December and £121.51 at the Christingle service for The Children's Society.	
	b)	Treasurer's Report	
		There was no Treasurer's report or figures available.	
	c)	Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial Committee Report	
		The minutes of the F&F meeting held on Wednesday 15 th January have already been circulated. John asked for authorisation from the PCC to proceed with a Faculty application in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions to the electrical wiring in the Choir gallery to provide fixed socket outlets for spot lights and other electrical items located at the front, and to install a dedicated fixed wiring connection between the audio system compartment and the microphone receivers also located at the front. These works will not require a full Faculty but do require permission to proceed from the Diocese. • To replace the damaged Paschal candle stand. • To install a fixed Holy Water stoup adjacent to the main entrance doors. • Provision of an external electrical socket at the rear of the church to facilitate mowing in the garden of remembrance. • The provision of blinds to high level windows. • To erect a shelter to the west of the main entrance porch to provide rain protection to mobility scooters during services. This is being offered by a parishioner. Most of the items are being paid for from a very generous legacy we	

		have received. The Faculty for the above was proposed by John Hood, seconded by Malcolm Brewer and agreed unanimously. PCC thanked John for his work on this.	<u>ACTION</u> JH
5.		Other Committee Reports	
	a)	Hall Committee	
		The minutes of the Church Hall Committee held on Wednesday 22 nd January have already been circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malcolm just brought to everyone's attention that we are changing the lock on the church hall door. All regular hirers will need to come in on a specified day in March to change over their key for a new one. Next year the old lock will go back on and the same thing will happen. All the keys will be numbered so it is easier to keep track of who has them. Malcolm reminded Chris that they need to get together to arrange the loan returns. 	MB/CG
	b)	Social and Fundraising Committee	
		The minutes of the Social and Fundraising Committee held on Wednesday 8 th January have already been circulated. Malcolm just wished to highlight the very successful Burns Night held last Saturday with around 55 people attending which raised around £650.	
	c)	Pastoral Committee	
		The minutes of the Pastoral Committee held on Tuesday 20 th January have already been circulated. Anne highlighted Item 2 stating that there is an overlap between Pastoral and Mission. From April Pastoral will concentrate more on the vulnerable, those that need support, Baptism, Confirmation and Wedding preparation and Sunday School and Young People will come under the Mission Sub-Committee.	
	d)	Safeguarding Report	
		The Safeguarding Report from Sonja for this meeting has already been circulated and there was nothing further to raise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane read out the reply from Sonja following the PCC meeting in November. If anyone in the congregation wishes to raise the fact that they have not seen someone in church for a while they can speak to Fr Colin or a member of the Pastoral team. This is also advertised regularly in the Bulletin and there is a notice at the back of church advising who to contact. Mo suggested using the menu boards in the Hall possibly this Sunday to advertise this. Malcolm has checked at home and says he has never received his DBS certificate. Malcolm will contact Sonja to sort this out. 	CG
6.		Deanery Synod Report	
		Not met.	
7.		St George's 50th Anniversary	
		The minutes of the meeting to discuss the 50 th Anniversary year held on Monday 13 th January have already been circulated. The Bishop is coming on the Sunday before the actual anniversary. It was suggested also having a short service on Friday 3 rd April which is the actual anniversary date. We will think about this further. Get together to sort out Sunday 29 th March and follow up on other ideas now PCC have seen the proposals. Lisa asked for Jane Hedges to be added to the list of people to invite.	MB

8.	Mission & Stewardship Committee	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p data-bbox="328 192 770 226"><u>Comments by Fr Colin on 29.1.20</u></p> <p data-bbox="328 226 1270 591">I could never have believed that something which I hoped would be a new and exciting venture for our church would have caused so much trouble. The various comments and emails, some of which contain serious inaccuracies have left me feeling extremely frustrated and angry and they deserve a fulsome response. I would be grateful of the courtesy to allow me to say what I am about to say without interruption, I am happy to respond to any comments or questions afterward. In what I am saying I include the advice given to us yesterday by the Diocese, in particular Archdeacon Gavin, who is Archdeacon of the Meon and Chair of Mission and Discipleship in the Diocese, and Andrew Hargreaves, Deputy Head of Mission, Discipleship and Ministry.</p> <ul data-bbox="328 629 1270 2076" style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not obliged to have a MAP. I thought it would be an effective way, at the beginning of a new era in the life of the parish, of helping us chart a new and exciting way forward. • I was under no obligation to involve the laity in the production of the MAP, or to set up a subcommittee. The reason for me doing this was that I wanted the project to be truly collaborative and one in which anyone who wanted to, lay or ordained, PCC or not could take part. For this reason I set up the two meetings for the parish community on Mission and Stewardship, and asked for volunteers to help form a subcommittee to start thinking this through BUT as the incumbent of Waterlooville under license from the bishop I did not have to. In some ways it would have been much easier and certainly less time consuming if I did it alone, but I was keen that this should be a collaborative process. • The subcommittee meetings were broadly discussions based upon a topic I had given members and the responses that they had been invited to email in about those topics. After each meeting I would write a section of the MAP, some of which contained a theoretical framework and some of which tried to capture the sense of what had been said in the discussions. At the beginning of each meeting members of the committee were invited to respond to what had I had written. At no time did anybody express any objection during the subcommittee meetings. Indeed, the only time negative comments were made was at the PCC meeting in December (by a member of the subcommittee), after the subcommittee itself had approved the text of the MAP to be sent to the PCC. • The Email from Dick and Colin claim that ‘it is obvious that a number of other meetings must have taken place between clergy and churchwardens to draft the MAP.’ It is not obvious because no such meetings ever took place. The text of the MAP is mine and mine alone. • The purpose of the subcommittee was to present a draft MAP to the PCC. Writing minutes would have been extremely difficult because of the nature of the discussions, which were wide ranging. For reasons that are noted below there was no obligation on me to provide minutes to the PCC or to keep them informed, although I did verbally keep PCC updated where there had been a subcommittee meeting. • The suggestion of the email is that I have not properly involved the PCC. I would respond to this by stating that I have gone out of my way to include the PCC and laity in this whole process, over and above what I was legally obliged to do. I have also sent an altered copy of the MAP to the PCC today which has responded to the 	

ACTION

issues highlighted at the last PCC meeting.

- The crux of the matter is (and this was confirmed yesterday by the diocese at a very senior level), there is no legal requirement for PCC approval of the MAP. I could have introduced all of the elements of the MAP without any discussion since Bible classes, Alpha, Lent groups etc are all part of my remit as parish priest. The fact that I chose to involve the laity, that I chose to present the MAP to the PCC, and that I sought its approval is ample evidence that the PCC have been included and involved. I would still like the PCC to approve the MAP because that it important to me, but I am not required to.
- The issues raised in the email in relation to PCC Powers measure 1956 I will leave Chris with his legal expertise to comments on – although give the advice we have received from the diocese there is clearly some misunderstandings.
- I hope that we can find a way forward to move on with this very important piece of work with a united front. At any event the advice from the diocese is that we should press on with the presentation on Sunday.
- The comments made relating to a ‘final text’ do not make sense. Those who have read the MAP will be aware that it states categorically that the MAP is an evolving document which will be revised and updated in the light of experience. There is no such thing as a ‘final text’ it will always be a Work in Progress.
- I should also make the point that the response from the Diocese to our MAP was that they were ‘thrilled’ with it and were ‘grateful’ for the leadership that has gotten us to this point. I say this not in a spirit of arrogance (which I would hope I would never be accused of) but because sometimes it might be helpful to reflect upon the perspective of those who are not immediately involved but who nonetheless have expertise in the area of mission.
- I would like to end by saying that these past few weeks have been an extremely difficult time for me. Having spent many hours working on this over many months I have found myself at a very low ebb, more so than I have ever felt in my 25 years of professional ministry. I feel that my professionalism, integrity and experience as a priest of over 25 years standing are being called into question and this is something I have never experienced before. I found myself being subjected to what I can only describe as bullying, at least that is what it has felt like to me. This has had a significant impact on my wellbeing. I have even considered my future as parish priest of Waterlooville and this is something that I will need to continue to reflect upon in the weeks and months ahead, and in consultation with the Archdeacon and Bishop.

Fr Colin then asked if anyone had any comments/questions on the above. The whole PCC then had a very open and frank discussion on the MAP:

- Everyone said they were excited about the MAP but it was the process that we were objecting to. PCC felt they should have been consulted and minutes should have been written and presented to PCC as happens with all the other sub-committees of the PCC. This has been addressed above.
- The 2 PCC members who are on the sub-committee said they had only been invited to 2 of the 4 meetings held although Fr Colin said they had been invited to all of them. He said these were the only

		<u>ACTION</u>
9.	<p>meetings held and he had written up the MAP after it had been agreed at each meeting and this was presented to the PCC meeting in December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC were sorry that Fr Colin felt bullied but they too felt bullied at the meeting in December when it was felt that the presentation was delivered in quite an aggressive way and although several suggestions of changes were asked for by PCC members the text was not changed and only a table added to the back page. After an email earlier in the week by a PCC member Fr Colin has amended the MAP today to incorporate these changes and circulated it to all members of the PCC who were happy that this had been done. • The PCC were surprised that no mention had been made about the invitations to next Sunday's launch until they arrived through the post to everyone on the Electoral Roll. • Although PCC can see it was done in the right spirit PCC members were unhappy that children/grandchildren had been sent invitations through the post without the explicit permission of their parents. This also applies to people who have not completed a GDPR form or expressly asked not to be contacted and have still received invitations. Had an open discussion taken place beforehand this could have been avoided. <p>It was agreed that it was good to get everything out in the open and have this discussion. As a Committee we should feel comfortable to raise any problems we may have and feel we are being listened to. Fr Colin reiterated that the MAP is a working document which will always be a work in progress and any members of the congregation can at any time suggest changes or additions which will always be discussed. When the Mission sub-committee are discussing a particular area eg Sunday School, Choir etc representatives will be invited along to give their input.</p> <p>Fr Colin said that the presentation of the MAP will go ahead on Sunday as planned and they will be mindful of the way it is delivered. He would like the PCC's agreement to it. Everyone felt happier after the above discussion and PCC agreed unanimously that the launch should go ahead on Sunday with the amended MAP which Fr Colin had sent out today.</p>	
	<p>Update by Fr Colin</p> <p>Just one other thing to report. I have met with Guide leaders with a view to how we may do more with them in the future.</p>	
10.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Palms 	
	<p>Jane had been passed a letter from the company we order our palm crosses from and this year they have introduced a smaller palm cross. John said we have quite a lot left from last year and he has already ordered more for this year. Keep the small crosses in mind to order next year.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop's Lent Appeal 	
	<p>Jane read out a letter received from the Diocese regarding this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal. The focus will be the environment and our care for the planet now, to preserve it for future generations. In addition to requests for donations parishioners will be invited to focus on the issues</p>	

	<p>with a series of actions for each day in Lent.</p> <p>The principal recipient of this year's Lent Appeal will be A Rocha, and specifically their project in Ghana to educate, preserve and reinstate environmental damage that has already occurred. Locally the Sustainability Centre will be one charity that will benefit from the Lent Appeal but the Bishop would welcome suggestions of small or larger charitable groups that work in this diocese for this cause.</p>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name change from Tweenies to St George's Ladies 	
	<p>Approval is being sought to change the name of Tweenies to St George's Ladies with immediate effect. This was agreed unanimously by the PCC and Jane will let Rosemary Monk know.</p>	JC
11.	<p>Date of Next PCC Meeting</p>	
	<p>Monday 24th February at 8.00pm in church following the 7.30pm Eucharist.</p>	ALL
	<p>Closing Prayer There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.</p>	