

**Haslemere PCC**

**Minutes of the meeting held at the Link**

**on Monday 17 July 2023 at 7:30pm**

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| **Present** |  |
| Chris Bessant | Rector (Chair) |
| Andrew Culshaw  Geraldine Lambrechts |  |
| John Harvey  Bridget Leary | Minute taker |
| Cathy Moore | Safeguarding |
| Richard Parker  Debbie Peet  David Sewell  David Simmons |  |

Apologies:

Rev’d Chris reminded all members to kindly forward their apologies in advance of the meeting

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Rev’d Chris.

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|  | **Agenda item** | **Action** |
| 1. | **Apologies for Absence:** Gareth David, Hamish Donaldson, Simon Ingram, Justin Manley-Cooper, Geoff Martin, Alistair Morgan, Katie Morgan (PCC Secretary) Andrew Silk & Stephen Vaughan |  |
| 2. | **Minutes of meetings and Matters Arising from May 2023**  Minutes approved. | Re P4, item 9: CB will get in touch with the Commonwealth WG Commission re arranging some appropriate signage |
| 3. | **Rector’s Report and Updates**   1. Justin Licensing and Status   Justin’s curacy is now officially completed, and he has been relicensed as an SSM (self-supporting minister) will now be known as an *Associate Minister.* He may be deployed to another parish at some future date. CB noted that SSMs are becoming increasingly common in the CofE.   1. School Governance / Chair of Governors:   Bryony Atkinson is stepping down as Chair of Governors this week, but she will remain as a governor until April. CB indicated that he will not be the new Chair.   1. Archdeacon’s Visitation   Geoff Martin, Gareth David and Rector Chris attended the visitation on behalf of the Parish, and the Parish Vision was discussed. All the church’s documentation etc was checked (safety certs etc), and all was agreed to be in order. He indicated that some other churches in the Deanery are also developing a Parish Vision, which may be useful to liaise with as our own Vision is developed.  d. Foundations in Ministry  The Diocese are shortly to launch a *Lay ministry training programme.* This will be a 2 year programme open to lay people, which may cover themes such as being a church warden, being a church treasurer, taking on leadership and administration roles in the parish, etc. Each cohort will start with a one year foundation programme, then the 2nd year will be to develop specific interests and skills. The programme will take a light touch approach, in contrast to other programmes that are more time heavy, and typically have quite a few formal assessments etc. Start date will be September 2023, with 35 places on offer for the whole Diocese. Sophie Bessant will be joining the programme, and possibly Andrew Gregory   1. Organ scholarship.   No response so far from schools / colleges that have been contacted. However, one parent enquired if her daughter (age 15, from St Catherines, Guildford) has asked if her daughter can participate in services from time to time, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh activities. Clive Osgood has now met her, and there may be opportunities for her to come along to services. Clive’s tuition fee will be paid from the Religious Education Fund, and a donation from a parishioner will also contribute to the costs. The costs will be around £1000 per year. The young person has already played at an evensong service, and feedback was good.   1. Rev’d Chris attending retreat.   Chris has a 4 day retreat at the end of August, in Dartmoor.   1. Rev’d Chris availability in early August.   Sophie Bessant will be going into hospital in early August, possibly for around a week, so CB may be unavailable on some days at that time. |  |
| 4. | **Children and Families**  Most of the groups are now starting to close for the summer holidays. All groups have made good progress and have been successful. CB is aware that there are sometimes quite a few demands on their time, which need to carefully managed, and requests for outside events should be fed through the Parish Office. CB has had a 1:1 with Verity to discuss these issues, so that workloads can be managed more effectively next term.  First steps – the children enjoyed the farm visit this morning. Numbers are often quite high, sometimes around 40. The volunteers find this quite tiring sometimes, especially older members of the team. Finances were also discussed, but not everyone is willing to make a donation although they may be able to do so. It is not thought that charging for sessions will not be a good idea, as some families may cease to come. It may be that a sign-up sheet could be introduced. The Religious Education Fund continues to support First Steps. CM noted that the CofE is now the largest provider of children’s activities in the UK. |  |
| 5. | **Legacy Finance – update from David Sewell.**  David attended a series of talks / workshops on parish fundraising, and presented a useful paper which gave the PCC an overview of the main topics. There were several great examples of how we might consider increasing parish giving, e.g. by encouraging regular inflationary rises rather than keeping to a set sum each month.  A particular point to note is to suggest to parishioners how such payments might be made, and how we can address the wording of parishioners’ wills. The Diocese has an online will-writing service , Farewill, which offers advice.  AC – the church often receives small residual gifts.  Discussion re awareness raising – Geraldine asked about publicity, and where people can find out where to find advice.  It was agreed that it would be good for the Parish to have some publicity around this topic. See Appendix 6 of David’s paper ‘Parish Fundraising Webinars’ for some useful suggestions that can be taken forward in the future.  AC – 10% of this parish give 90% of the funds. Do we need to have a discussion around this situation? Can we encourage others to give a little more money?  CB – do we need to have some education around where donations/ legacies to the Parish actually go?  CM – gifts can also include our time, care etc, it shouldn’t just be financial giving. | **Action TBC**  ***David Sewell, Rosalind Reece, Liz Cook, Richard Parker, & Geoff Martin (?)* to be asked to set up a small sub group, to consider some of the recommendations in DS’s paper. They can then bring back some suggestions to a future PCC meeting.** |
| 6. | Parish Vision  c/f to next PCC, due to low numbers in attendance.  CM queried if we are collecting any feedback from the Parish website, and CB said that traffic to the site is regularly reviewed. Perhaps we can have some external people to review our pages? It would be good to have some reviews of what’s being read and what isn’t, rather than just a numerical report of how people have visited our site.  BL suggested that some A level or college students may be able to do this. | CB to present a review of the Parish website at the next PCC meeting. |
| 7. | **Gardening Calendar** - Policy Reviews and Planned Items   1. Safeguarding Self Audit – CM: *this item is* *no longer applicable*   b. Financial Exposure Authorities  AC to discuss the FEAs at the next PCC meeting. | PCC members are asked to please read the FEA reports before the next PCC meeting in September. |
| 8. | **Regular Reports**  *Reports to be issued prior to meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the person named. Reports will be discussed only if there are decisions to be taken.*   1. The Link Reimagined: AC / CM / DP   Update from AC – some concerns re the speed that Waverley Planning are processing applications at the moment.  AC, CM and DP are working hard on moving the application and plans forward.  Funding applications are going to the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Your Fund Surrey and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund.  AC – CIL funding may be tricky, but we are still hopeful.  DP – we have now completed our discussions with most of the target stakeholders, but we still have some work to do. Everyone we have contacted so far agrees that the Link is well located for the developments that we are proposing.  Possible clubs and users are already being discussed, e.g. Haslemere Fellowship (addiction support); Lego Club ( for autistic children). GL reports that there are some enthusiastic enquiries about when the refurbishment may be ready.  AC – Haslemere Town Council & John Robini are supportive of our plans.   1. St Christopher’s Team: CM   Final display of altar designs has been shown, St C’s will now contact the Diocese. CM will ask Chris Lemarr to show the diagrams one more time, at the 8:00am service on 6th August.   1. Children and Families: GL 2. Safeguarding: CM   An increasing number of safeguarding cases were reported to the Diocese last year. The range of cases is quite wide and does not just relate to childcare. Vulnerable adults also need to be considered ( e.g., coercive control; bullying behaviour; county lines networks). Cathy explained the importance of have some advertising materials in view (e.g., on the back of a toilet door / on a notice board / on our Parish website). CM says that the Diocese is encouraging the PCC to consider what a ‘healthy relationship’ looks like, and how we can better support those in need.  RP said that it will be good to be aware of what our clubs / organisations already do (e.g. Crossways Counselling / Lego Club).  CM – asked for **approval for the list of activities (CHECK) for** children and vulnerable adults. Approved by PCC members.  CM – reminded all PCC members that their training needs to be up to date.  No DBS checks will be carried out at the moment, as the PCC has no statutory authority to do this.   1. Finance: AC 2. Parish Fundraising: KM   Fish and Chip Night & Quiz arranged for October 21st at St Christopher’s   1. Fabric Committee: AC   h. School Update: CB | CM will print out a signposting leaflet with details of local support organisations ( e.g. for mental health issues / addiction / domestic abuse etc). CM to discuss with Kari.  CM to liaise with Debbie Peat & Jane Slevin re an article for the Link Magazine**.**  Enhanced DBS and safeguarding training checks will be discussed by CM at the September PCC meeting. For September agenda.  REMINDER:  All PCC members – please check that your online training has now been completed. There are still several people who need to do this. |
| 9. | **AOB**   1. Website Update - to be carried forward to September PCC meeting 2. Diocesan Synod : Richard Parker appointed to Diocesan Synod, and has now attended his first meeting, which was focused on finance in 23-24, and clergy pay rises. AC – Diocesan finances are in a fairly good shape. It is not clear how inflation will impact on the financial situation over the next year or so. AC believes that the parish share may rise next year. Some rural parishes have significant drops in their congregations, which will also impact on the future finances of the Diocese. |  |
| 10. | **Dates of 2023 meetings**  PCC: 18th September, 20th November.  SC: 4th September 2023 |  |
| 11. | **Closing prayer, Meeting closed at 9:50pm** |  |



