

Lancaster Christ Church minutes of PCC meeting 16th September 2020

| Name | Initials | Present | Apologies |
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| Carol Backhouse | CB | X | |
| Jacqueline Stamper | JS | X | |
| Paul Thompson | PT | | X |
| Olwyne Thompson | OT | X | |
| Julie Buckley | JB | X | |
| Andrew Neal | AN | X | |
| Joyce Lynch | JL | | X |
| Jane Lippitt | JLi | X | |
| Hilary Thwaytes | HT | | X |
| Vic Parsons | VP | X | |

| Agenda Item | Minutes | Actions |
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| 1 | Opening prayers | CB/All |
| 2 | Apologies for absence PT, JLy, HT | All |
| 3 | AOB – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of interest in Grant application to be discussed later in the meeting, CB & JS current Gregson Trust Trustees, JB as Trustee elect. | CB/JS/JB |
| 4 | Minutes of the meeting held 29 th July 2020 via Zoom were accepted as an accurate record. | CB/All |
| 5 | <p>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gregson Trustees – Bishop Cyril Ashton declined the nomination; Mike Stocks has accepted, and the relevant documentation is being completed. This now completes the complement of Gregson Trust Trustees. COVID19 – Observations. JS the challenge of serving Children’s Church are difficult whilst we cannot safely use the Church building. The Hall is very restricted. We are doing our best to encourage participation in Zoom events, but the problem is using the hall is preventing other activities. Weekly activity sheets are made available in the hall for children to use and take away with them. An additional after school event is planned for Monday 21st September. The mix of on-line and face to face worship is working well and we should continue both. CB has noticed increased funeral bookings through on-line contacts. The 6pm Sunday services offer a range of different types of Prayers, Healing & Wholeness, Celtic Prayer, Benediction, Common prayer etc, Taize services can only recommence when restrictions are lifted. It was agreed to continue with this pattern of worship for the time being. The Weds AM Eucharist will continue, and the Friday AM will recommence when Church is usable. This is currently kept free to ensure our facility has enough quarantine time between uses. Sacristan Role – Many of the essential jobs have been covered by people, but others are needed to set up before services and to clear after services. If anyone can think of people interested please let CB/JS know. | <p>CB/JS</p> <p>CB/All</p> <p>CB</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Youth and Families Coordinator –CB had applied to 8 potential funding bodies over the summer months. To date 5 have declined as they are inundated with more applications than they can accept. A couple more don't meet until October; therefore, it has been decided to defer the post advert until later this year due to COVID restrictions. CB has identified another board to which covers Liverpool and the North West and will seek a grant application from them. CB has also emailed across the Children's Church network to see if anyone is interested in working at Christ church but no takers so far. Volunteers will be needed to work with a coordinator, so we need to recruit them as soon as possible. • Fundraising – a fundraising meeting was held on 14th Sept and a list of ideas were put forward. Some of these can only take place when the restrictions have eased. Others can be worked through now. • To enable a "Bonus Ball" draw to take place weekly we need to apply for a gaming licence. These are annual licences and would cover us for Printed Raffle tickets as well. It was agreed that the £40 fee would be covered by donation. JS, JB & JLi agreed to split the costs between them. JT has agreed to help get the Bonus Ball set up to commence at the beginning of October. A virtual Autumn fair was agreed, produce and craft goods to be made and advertised via Facebook and online. More information about this and other ideas will be published in the weekly newssheets. Watch this space for the announcement of a Christmas Tree festival (possibly 2021), Advent treasure trails, Nativity Treasure trails etc. • Use of the Hall – The rule of 6 does not apply to children's activities in the Hall, therefore Uniformed groups will be able to meet. However, this throws up other organisational issues with ensuring the Hall is thoroughly cleaned down between sessions and the turnaround times between groups. The uniformed organisations are completing their own risk assessments. For others it is the Hirers (PCC) responsibility to ensure to ensure the cleaning takes place. We may need to utilise our current cleaner to assist with this. Additional costs will be sought to be covered or partially covered by the hall users. This is to be via donations. • Night Shelter – it is impossible to run the Night Shelter at present. CB has spoken to Sharon Parkinson, the City Council Housing Officer. The homeless are currently being looked after under the "Everybody In" programme. She has said that she expects the announcement about tightening regulations to be made very soon. We need to consider what else we could offer as a church in the meantime instead of accommodation. Perhaps a welcome centre with food and a chat session, to be considered. Implications for our current contracts are being reviewed. Contact is to be made with the Francis C Scott Trust to let them know our current position. • Heritage open days are Sunday 13th, Weds 16th and Sunday 20th September this year. A steady trickle of visitors has been into church, We agreed that we should do this again next year. • APCM arrangements were discussed. it is proposed to hold the meeting on 18th October following a shortened 10.30 service. The peoples meeting will be held first followed by the formal APCM, electing wardens, PCC members and Synod members. There will be a concurrent | <p>CB</p> <p>CB/JB</p> <p>CB</p> |
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| | ZOOM meeting so that more participants can take part without breaching the COVID restrictions. We will explore the possibility of postal voting in future years in case of other restrictions such as COVID. All reports need to be submitted and produced prior to this date for production of a booklet of reports that can be read prior to the meeting. | |
| 6 | <p>Building Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lightning Conductor was checked as required and it is proposed that we use the same company to review under 3-year contract at 31*% + VAT per year. The PCC approved this. • Trees – The sycamore tree that we had received a complaint about earlier in the year is now in the period of the year that work could commence to trim back. PT will submit a request to the City Council to permit this work as under a TPO. • Ceiling and Roof repairs – the roof was inspected in August. The work outlined by QUADRE is to replace slipped slates externally and to sub-contract the internal specialist ceiling plastering to Concurrant – The internal scaffolding and plastering will cost approximately £20,000 but is being covered by our insurers. However, we are required to take care of all our internal goods whilst this work is being undertaken. CB has submitted a faculty, if deemed List B it may be permitted soon, if not it could take longer. The Archdeacon has also been consulted regarding the sign off for the completed work. We may need to employ our Architect or someone from DAC with appropriate expertise. Concern was raised about the work inside and outside being done simultaneously, we would have expected the external work completing first to ensure the roof was waterproofed before the expensive ceiling repairs are down. We also wish to extend the suggested 12 month guarantee period on the work. The PCC would also like to thank PT for his persistence in chasing up EI in order to get this work done soon. | <p>PT/CB</p> <p>PT</p> <p>PT</p> <p>JS</p> |
| 7 | Memorial bench -List B permission has been given for a memorial bench in memory of Ben Thompson to be installed in the church grounds in the near future. JLi also informed CD of the previous bench that had deteriorated and was to be replaced with this new one. She was happy with the change. | CB |
| 8 | <p>Finance – AN stated that the latest Parish share cheque had been written and was on its way to the diocese. The Diocesan Finance Board had asked how much Parish Share could be paid this year. We have currently paid £15,000 and expect that we should be able to make a further payment to total £20,000 - £22,500. Our normal quarterly payment for this year would be £7,500. This would mean that we should be the equivalent of one quarter's payment being missed. It had been agreed earlier by Standing Committee that the accounts needed to keep £7,500 in the account to ensure we could meet our running costs, wages etc. An application has been developed to the Gregson Trust to ask for our expenditure for the first phase of the Drains work on the inspection chamber issue could be covered. ThePCC agreed that this should be submitted. AN has also researched on-line giving and contactless giving -Card readers. It requires separate accounts to be set up and would cost 2% of the money raised. The benefits would be demonstrable at wedding and christening events in particular. On-line giving can also be set up and this is to be explored for our website, it is also possible to use this on the " A church near you" website with links to gift aid donations.</p> | AN |

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| | JS explained that the diocese was also investigating Parish Giving schemes. Could Standing orders automatically rise by the inflation rate? | |
| 9 | Church opening in winter months, the PCC agreed that we should continue with the current pattern of opening for private prayer. CB will draw up a rota for church sitting during October. | CB |
| 10 | Safeguarding – First Aid training has been booked for Saturday 14 th November. 9:30 – 4:30 | JLi |
| 11 | <p>ECO report provided remotely by JLi</p> <p>Discussions included "the Green recovery of the Economy article in the Guardian on 25th July". There were concerns that the Government is not doing enough but also that there are some positive signs from private companies.</p> <p>Another article provided details on the UK government's funding for a Mozambique gas project and the possible lawsuit it could face because of it. Jackie had read an article entitled 'we are what we eat' and this would contribute to the actions for Harvest.</p> <p>Liz has now produced a poster for display in the hall. She is also including the weekly Eco actions which for September focus on Creation season as follows.</p> <p>6th September: Covid-19 has revealed how closely we are connected with the natural world. During the season of creation go outside, stop, listen, and engage with nature more often.</p> <p>13th September: Value God's creation and those who work the land to provide wholesome food without damaging nature, humanity, and animals.</p> <p>20th September: At the beginning of lockdown God's creation became more evident with cleaner air, louder bird song and brighter stars. Let the Prime Minister know that this is world we want to keep for future generations.</p> <p>27th September: Think how nature has sustained you during recent months and share this experience with someone else. You might inspire them too.</p> <p>The gardening day on 29th August was poorly attended. Please can anyone that is able to do so please consider helping on future gardening days or if more convenient on their own or as a family group.</p> | JLy |
| 12 | Public version of the minutes – anything to amend | |
| 13 | Dates of next meetings, Standing Committee Monday 5 th October 1pm, PCC Wednesday 14th October 7:30pm | |
| 14 | Closing Prayer | |