

Lancaster Christ Church PCC Minutes 16th December 2020

Name	Initials	Present	Apologies
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	
Jacqueline Park	JP	X	

Item	Topic	Who is leading
1	Opening Prayers	CB
2	Apologies for Absence – none	CB
3	Declaration of AOB. – none	CB
4	Minutes of the meeting on the 18 th November accepted as accurate.	CB
5	<p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid Update – We are open for Christmas services, although in a slightly different format, with special stewarding arrangements. We do not yet know if any further restrictions will be placed after the 27th December. Christmas Eve Midnight service needs specific stewarding, usually ad-hoc by J&AD, JLi and JB have offered to steward this and the Crib Service - CYFCC Update and Proposal (see notes) – Many grant applications had been submitted and most not able to help with funding this post. However, the Ripley Trust has agreed to fund £5,000 and CB will make an application to the Gregson Trust for a further £5,000, as this Trust has a mission to reach out to families. We are using £5,000 of the LICF each year, this is being flagged up as we are struggling to pay our Parish Share. Does the PCC support using LICF and applying to the Gregson Trust? – All agreed. If the Gregson Trust approves the grant application, the plan is to advertise early Jan 21 with a proposed start date just after Easter. Posts for two years initially, hopefully long-term funding to be found by then. The PCC are all happy with that timeframe. -Fundraising -The main feature has been the 12 Day online make and bake sale, which raised interest outside of our normal congregation but most money came in when we had stalls in the hall and then in church last week. Still selling after the Sunday services next week then will stand it down. To date over £600 raised. The PCC record a big thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this successful. 	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>JB</p>

	<p>Bonus ball still trying to recruit regular players, we need most number buying before we can start the weekly competition. We are hopeful that being able to meet face to face may help encourage players. We may need to reduce the numbers in play so that we can get going soon if we can't recruit.</p> <p>Ecclesiastical offered a free toolkit, "Fundraising in a box", a practical guide to fundraising especially for churches and a helpline via their fundraising hub. I received this box Monday 14th Dec. It has some templates and posters that can be used along with hints and tips including: creating a plan, how to find donors and engage your community, applying for grants (although Rev Carol seems to have this well covered), and saying thank you! These are skills that we need as a PCC. How best can we make use of this?</p> <p>Christmas Raffle £430 of tickets are out for sale with £220 received so far. Will push at this services on Sunday 20th Dec, up until the time of the draw at the Christingle service/ Advent windows but not as a fundraiser this year Christingle service 20th December, funds to the Children's Society</p> <p>CB to set date for next fundraising meeting in New Year.</p> <p>Long list of potential events to run as social/ fundraisers as and when restrictions deem this safe. Auction of talents, Vintage Tea Party, BBQ, Garden Party, Clothes sale/swaps, More Crafts, Treasure Hunts maybe the Great Christ Church Bake off? Etc</p> <p>- Use of the Hall and cleaning contract update – The use if the hall is restricted with the current restrictions but there are some enquiries about future use of 2 mornings per week for a fitness class. This will be reviewed after Christmas. JS pointed out that the rates for hire of the hall have not changed for 8 years and asked to agree a new tariff with the PCC. It was agreed that £18 for the first hour (this would cover the admin, set-up and cleaning costs) and then £9 for each subsequent hour or part hour (this covers the heating, lighting and other consumable costs). The PCC agreed and JS will test the market with these prices. It was also agreed to review the hall fees on an annual basis. Next review December 2021 for the 2022 season.</p>	JS
6	<p>Building Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QI repairs - Hall Roof - update on fundraising and repairs, PT has received a verbal quote on the cost of materials, CB has asked that this is submitted as a written quote. CB has applied to the Wilson Trust and this item will be added to the next Fundraising meeting. 	PT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees - update on pruning works. As this is not urgent or an emergency, the PCC agreed to defer this work until we can afford to cover the costs. - Boiler repairs, and Hall Boiler – One of the Church boilers has had the pump replaced and the battery wiring on the timer repaired. Costs of this work £886. Three quotes have now been received for replacement of the Hall Boiler, PT will ask one of the contractors to update their quote to a higher KW. The PCC agreed to let the Standing Committee decide how to proceed with the quotes, 	
7	<p>Eco Church Update – Report below Eco group last met on 8th December and will meet again on 12th January 21.</p> <p>FAIR TRADE: Margaret has placed two Fair trade leaflets at the back of church, Carina Redmore still has goods at her home to sell.</p> <p>PILGRIMAGE TO NET ZERO WEBINAR.</p> <p>This was a 1-hour long event outlining the context and purpose of the A Rocha Eco church organised by the Dioceses of Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, and Manchester. A total 103 participants registered of which 19 were from Blackburn diocese. The keynote speaker was Andy Atkins CEO of A Rocha who emphasised the role that churches could play to help a green recovery. Two other speakers, Rev Grace Thomas of St James Church Moss Side Manchester, and Revd Canon Fiona Chantry from St James church, Audlem Cheshire, gave examples of how Eco church works in an urban and a rural context respectively. Before the Revd Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton closed the meeting, he said his role was to energise people to become eco warriors, to educate people and get them to engage with the realities of the climate emergency and embed climate concerns into mainstream worship as an essential not an added extra.</p> <p>Margaret and Joyce had joined the event and found it interesting and inspiring. It was heartening to know that the Church of England and the NW Dioceses were taking determined steps towards carbon reduction. It was suggested that the congregation be made aware of this verbally and in the newsletter.</p> <p>The following link includes contributions from different churches of which Christchurch is one. https://padlet.com/faiths4change/pilgrimage-tonetzero</p> <p>CHURCH REOPENING. The eco poster for December has been produced by Liz and stamp recycling box is in place. A swop box for unwanted Christmas presents will be available after Christmas. The book stall will also be reinstated after Christmas.</p> <p>CLIMATE SUNDAY: The A Rocha website includes suggestions for sermons, prayers, readings and music which could form part of a Climate Sunday service. This can happen any time from now until COP 26 conference next November but there seemed to be a bias to it being during Creation season. It was thought that perhaps the eco group could plan a separate event maybe including Sunday</p>	Joyce L

school children, once the youth/education officer is appointed and is able to take up the role. It was also suggested that the Eco warriors from Christ church school could do something in church to illustrate what they have been doing.

FUTURE THEMES: A Rocha UK Wild Christian initiative included the 'Climate Coalitions 'pledges at home' this month. This was thought appropriate for a New Year theme and will initially focus on food and the food industry which contributes significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions. It was acknowledged that although we are inevitably returning to topics dealt with before, this can help to reinforce the point being made and also be a trigger to others who may respond to the different context being emphasised. To learn more on this see <https://theclimatcoalition.org/pledge-at-home>

PANORAMA PROGRAMME ON EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS: a few of the group had watched this programme which included examples of flooding, fire and coastal erosion. For those who had missed it, it was available on BBC iPlayer. <https://deframe-dia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/08/bbc-panorama-documentary-on-extreme-weather-and-climate-change-in-the-uk/>

BLANKETS FOR SYRIA: Several of the group and members of the congregation were knitting squares which would be crocheted together to make blankets.

PRAYER FOR JANUARY'S POSTER: It was decided that the closing prayer taken from the 'Climate Coalition' would be included on the January poster.

Creator God, we thank you for your generosity in providing abundant food from fields and forests, sea and farms, factories and kitchens. Thank you for the joy and pleasure of preparing, eating and sharing meals.

But we know that our food choices can cause harm to your creation and our global neighbours as we consume more than we need, waste what others could be eating and create unnecessary rubbish. Give us wisdom as we decide what to eat, where to shop, what to grow and how to dispose of our waste. Help us to live more simply, to act justly and to love mercy.

We ask this in the name of our Saviour and Sustainer, Jesus Christ, Amen.

8	<p>Finance, including Parish Share update and CCPS Library funding – The final payment of the Parish Share £6500 has been paid, ((£1500 of this was enabled by additional contributions from the Call to Give initiative). Historic arrears will be discussed at the Diocese next year, Christ Church has paid as much as we could manage.</p> <p>The Report from School on use of the Nile Street Trust funding had been circulated prior to the meeting. The total grant was for 3 distinctive areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -1 - Music Tuition for 2019-20 - 2 - Library provision - 3 - 2nd phase of Music Tuition <p>Cheques for Phase 1 were paid when the Music tuition was in place and when quotes for the libraries were created, this was slower progress than intended due to COVID, but then Phase 2 payment was made. Phase 3 has not restarted since the lockdown in March 20. This means that the school still has a significant balance of funds not yet used by the school, and there does not seem to be any immediate prospect of the music tuition starting due to COVID.</p> <p>The report does not show the benefits of the activities in school. JS asked if the school could be asked to describe the difference in terms of impact on the children between having music tuition and not, e.g. What changes have the school noticed? An evaluation of the activity is needed/ AN will ask for a further update and future plans, with an evaluation at an appropriate point.</p>	AN
8b	<p>Proposal regarding funeral collections. Collections taken in church at funerals legally belong to the PCC and have to be accounted for by the PCC. Previous practice has been that funeral directors have brought their own collection boxes and taken cash off site. Therefore, the Church does not have an audit trail for these monies. The proposal is that all monies collected in church at funerals is kept by the church. This is a change to previous arrangements. The PCC is happy to support the return to proper practice that plate collections being made in church should be retained by Christ Church. Any other donations that mourners wish to give to another charity should be made directly or through the funeral directors as Christ Church will not handle these. This would help streamline giving in church and brings us into line with national church regulations.</p>	
9	<p>Mission and Outreach- our 4-year vision CB led the PCC through a SWOT analysis of our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. These are summarized below:</p> <p>Strengths – Community – Welcoming, inclusive and caring especially during the pandemic. We’ve maintained the groups/courses throughout. We’ve kept very strong, open, caring and held together. Strengthened relationships and bonds. Formed new groups (Fundraising), Widened the groups through using technology, but recognize this can exclude some who do not have access. There is an increase in activities taking place from what was in place before. An</p>	CB

	<p>increased presence in the community. The Night Shelter has always been a fundamental strength in the community, whilst it might need to be different in the new year, it is still an important badge/service for those that find themselves in difficult circumstances. Two examples of our outreach are the Night Shelter and the work with Refugees, giving and helping by members of our congregation. School links and uniformed organisations.</p> <p>Weaknesses - School links and uniformed organisations: these should be a source of future church members. These are areas to strengthen and develop and are currently under nourished. Over the past years we have had good work and leaders, an Excellent Sunday School, Teenage Groups – we need strong coordinators in these areas. Covid has held back progress. Part of the issue is that we have been dependent on far too few people, we need more to get on board! We are doing a lot at present but by the same people – Why are we not better able to get other people to take other roles?</p> <p>Opportunities – We need to widen the areas that we reach out to - develop links with, previously we have had links with Community shops and cooking links in Ridge and Newton areas, We need to get alongside the communities – asking how can we be of service. We also need to include the numerous more recently built housing areas.</p> <p>Threats – Social and Community involvement – we have had some returnees but not all, some have dropped off our Radar! Finance – can we afford our buildings and can we use them differently?</p> <p>Rev Carol is to ask the congregation for their sense of opportunities to see Christ Church grow. Plan to create a questionnaire for everyone at the APCM – What do they do for church? Are there any roles they might like to take up – What do they need for their own faith and spiritual growth? Suggested a day in the life of Record what happens, do this around the APCM – encourage people to step up into some of the official roles. Technology, what would be useful?</p>	
10	Vision 2026 – Call to Pray and Give: people that donated were very generous and just under £1500 was raised (including Gift Aid). The Diocese is rolling out its V26 plan and the ECO initiative is core to this. Whalley Abbey has been closed for a while and is being reconfigured into a Community, residential and dispersed.	JS
11	Safeguarding – No issues	Jane L
12	Prayer and Worship update – the current pattern of services seemed to be working	CB
13	Night Shelter Report – from Jan Norbury - We are still exceptionally quiet. We've had several nights with no guests, some with just one	JN CB

and some with two visitors. Our busiest night so far has been 4 people.

Two of these guests are housed although one chap lives long term with no electricity in his flat (in Morecambe) but doesn't complain to the letting agent as he fears eviction even though his rent is being paid. We are gently prodding him to get legal advice about this through Edward Street.

The other chap is now at St. Winifred's in Morecambe while the council try to find somewhere for him.

I went through to West End Impact last week. They have at least 2 people sleeping out in tents and accessing support during the day. Tracey, who runs Impact, said that normally these people would have 'migrated across to Lancaster' to access the Night Shelter. She said the need for overnight shelter is still very real. The following morning after my visit another body was found in Morecambe just around the corner from where I'd had the conversation with Tracey. A body found in a sleeping bag just by the playground near the Battery. Apparently it was a woman but we don't know any other details.

Other important developments - both Travelodge Morecambe and Lancaster are now closed.

I informed Phil Moore from LDHAS. Apparently the Floating Support didn't even know about the pending closure!

So, the overnight emergency accommodation offered by the council is

- not easily accessible after 9pm
- now only available at The Station Hotel Lancaster, St. Winifred's or the Lothersdale in Morecambe
- also, no cooking facilities are provided and food parcels offered are only 'kettle packs' i.e. Pot Noodles!

From the information gathering I've done so far it seems that there is a lot of support such as hot food provision and community cafes etc across Lancaster and Morecambe but the elephant in the living room is the lack of accessible emergency overnight shelter.

Strange times indeed. We have so far logged 4 situations where the council has been contacted by individuals in need of somewhere to sleep for the night, but nothing has been offered for a variety of reasons. Fortunately, we've had very mild weather so far, but the reality is that there are people still sleeping out and as it gets colder, we may have to re-think a more effective plan and if that means re-opening in our original format even if we can only offer a very limited number of beds and have to put in place 'covid safe facilities' following the advice given for Night Shelters nationally. It may well be that we can only offer shelter to a maximum of 2 to 4 guests.

Phil has offered us some pop-up sleeping pods which would provide more physical separation within the hall. Other ideas we've touched on is to find another venue NOT at the top of a very long hill from town or to somehow go mobile and offer outreach support.

For me the bottom line is that people are still sleeping out and people are dying - whether it's from the cold or from taking drugs to escape the misery. We know that our night shelter has kept many people alive...literally...through the winter over many years and this year, more than any, people really need help.

Carol attended the virtual Homelessness Forum last Thursday. When the question was raised about emergency overnight shelter being inaccessible after 9pm Sharon from the Housing Team claimed that this was not the case. She still advised us to use the out of hours number despite so far having no success with this.

One or two of our regular volunteers have decided to step down due to the lack of guests at the Drop-In but they are happy to return should demand increase or we decide to go back to opening overnight. Mostly the other volunteers have been enjoying attending as for many it is one of their few social connections.

I've had a think about our discussion on reopening/ offering overnights in the new year. On reflection I think it would be a good idea to limit overnight numbers to just 2 people. My reasons for this being

- we can easily meet 'covid safe' guidelines - individual toilet/ washing facilities, distancing etc
- we are simply there to pick up any emergency overnight need where people have 'slipped through the council net' or, to quote the housing team, where individuals have 'burned all their bridges'.
- we are not seen by those already with B&B places as an 'alternative option' due to our very minimal capacity and the sleep pods
- we can still run safely with a skeleton team (we do have fewer volunteers than usual)
- we will still appear to be 'working in partnership' with the council/ other services and only provide overnight shelter when no other provision is offered.
- if or when demand increases, we can then decide whether we increase capacity to 3 or 4

It just seems sensible to start from this point and see how things progress from there. I'm still waiting for some feedback from Phil as to who might consider using the shelter overnight should we go ahead in the new year.

Latest update - on Monday the council refused to offer any overnight accommodation to an older gentleman.

	<p>He'd been evicted from Oak Tree House following an altercation. The council stated he had 'burned all his bridges'. We don't know any details. He has been temporarily offered the use of someone's sofa.</p> <p>- Planning for the future and fundraising. Grants totaling almost £7,000 have been sourced. However, we need to plan for future years when the Francis C Scott funding tails off. Immediate issues which are reflected in Jan's report are the homeless that are falling through the net and missing out on accommodation. The NS coordinators are to be asked for a detailed Risk Assessment to cover the emergency admission of 1 or 2 overnight sleepers if absolutely needed, using the Sleeping pods which are issued for individual usage only. The PCC accepted the proposal in principle but need to understand the circumstances, responsibility levels and safeguarding requirements in the risk assessment before any go ahead can be given. As the NS will be closed between 23rd Dec and 4th Jan 21 an extraordinary meeting or urgent email process will be called to allow the PCC to review and discuss the safety aspects before being asked to vote on the emergency procedures.</p>	
14	<p>AOB - Communion Assistants for 2021 – Olwyne Thompson to be added to the list.</p> <p>- Diocesan Conference lay nominee for the parish (18-21/10/21) PCC members were asked to think about this, Pat Allen had attended the last conference in 2018,</p> <p>- Asda Vouchers project – This had been included in notice sheets to raise money for families in the parish struggling with food over the Christmas period. The local clergy and school staff at Primary schools had said this was still a problem. Cindy Rigney, Area Dean appealed at Over Wyresdale Church and they raised £450, Christ Church has collected at the weekend (amount not yet known). The money is used to purchase Asda Vouchers and will be given to families in need. These will go through the church accounts as agreed at Standing Committee. Some 80 Vouchers have been taken by CB to school to distribute to the correct families. School will be requested to provide receipts for the Vouchers.</p>	CB
15	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th January 2021 7.30pm Standing Committee: 4th January 2021 at 1pm</p>	
16	<p>Compline for those who wish to stay: https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-contemporary-wednesday-16-december-2020</p>	CB