

ALL SAINTS' CLAYTON-LE-MOORS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Thursday 14 November at 7:30pm In Church

Present: Revd T Webber (Chair), David Clarke, Linda Vine, Sarah McMinn, Andrew McMinn, Linda Bracewell, John Blysiuk, Julie Blysiuk, Louise Cousins, Jerard Knott, Michael Sudders, Alex Charnley, Adele Helm, Paulette Smith,

In attendance: John Massey

1. **Welcome and opening prayer**

Meeting was opened in prayer by Rev Webber

2. **Apologies for Absence and Declaration of Interests**

Apologies were received from Catherine Corbett, Elaine Lockwood, George Lever, Rev Victor Sohail, Claire Pearson.

Clarification regarding the Declaration of Interests was provided. No such declarations were disclosed.

3. **Primary School**

Mrs Saporita-Clark was unable to attend to give an update on the school. This will be provided to a future meeting.

4. **Minutes of meeting held on 5 September 2024 (attached)**

Proposed by D Clarke, seconded by J Blysiuk; all in favour – minutes approved

5. **Matters Arising**

Only update was to confirm that following Elaine's retirement as safeguarding officer she has provided a lovely thank you note to the PCC.

6. **Communion before Confirmation (Cb4C)**

The recent introductory talk concerning this was attended by some members of both All Saints and Altham PCCs.

Revd Webber explained that the Revd Carol Garner from Oswaldtwistle spoke and explained that the background to the reasoning for their change was a combination of pressure for early communion and drop off in attendance post confirmation. They tried the change and for their congregations it worked well. When a natural group develops they still run a course for confirmation. They also offer ad hoc support. Many of those taking Cb4C are already attending regularly as members of the congregation. Some progress to confirmation. Many stay on as members of the congregation. Have seen an increase in retention due to being used to Cb4C. Generally positive feedback.

Following points were discussed at length in the meeting:

- Important to understand the distinction between confirmation and communion.
- Family links could be nurtured both through the preparation and through celebrating first communion within the Sunday service...
- Confirmation preparation would still be offered, but probably not every year, and not at a set age, but when there was a natural cohort.
- In our current system some of the children are not really ready to make the commitment of confirmation at the age of 11-12. Confirmation a little older but with more meaning would be better.
- We would need to decide what would be the minimum age to prepare children for Cb4C. The nature of the preparation could be deeper if school years 5+ than if younger children were admitted.
- Adults could be admitted to Cb4C but the general expectation would be that they would then seek to be confirmed.
- It is important to strike the balance between a rite of passage and readiness.
- Very important that Confirmation does still take place particularly to allow those baptised as children formally to express their faith in Christ.
- It is anticipated that there will be some children who are naturally ready now and would in any event be welcomed into the next Confirmation class.
- Cb4C is designed for children who are part of the church family and it would be expected that they are attending church regularly before seeking admission to communion.
- Clarification was sought and it was considered what the impact may be if a future potential incumbent did not approve of Cb4C. This was on balance considered unlikely. The policy on Cb4C should be included in any future profile.
- The potential implication of Altham and All Saints taking a different stance was considered. Moving in tandem was best, though Altham had offered to offer a 'trial run' if All Saints' remained uncertain.
- It was considered important that the general congregation are made aware of the change and of the reasoning for it as well as families who will be anticipating confirmation this year.
- Careful thought will be needed about including Friday Praise children in this process and including the sacraments in the life of Friday Praise.
- Some may continue to move directly to confirmation, but would need to be attending church.

The proposal was then put that the PCC agree to the introduction of Communion before Confirmation, from school year five and upwards and this was agreed by the necessary 2/3 of majority (11 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions).

7. Feedback from Ribchester Day – Eco Church ideas

Discussion was held as to the best way to give effect to progress the ideas that came about from the Ribchester day.

It was agreed that this could be given to a small sub-group to develop the eco-elements. Need to determine what aligns with the focus of the parish. To possibly approach those

who are already involved in eco activities at St Christophers. Any award would be a by-product.

It was felt that the best starting point would be to consider further work on the churchyard in collaboration with renewing links with Prospects and resurrecting a gardening team.

8. Harvest Festival

It was recorded that this went really well and the Church looked spectacular. It is noted that this does involve a vast amount of work from those involved in the creation.

9. Scargill Weekend

Unfortunately this had not received a great deal of interest. The question was raised as to whether the right thing was to cancel now? It was noted that the Ribchester Day had been very successful and a wide range of people had been able to participate without a major cost of time or money.

It was determined that the probably correct decision was to cancel. A £500 holding deposit has been paid. It was noted that this may be lost. The outcome would be communicated and further consideration would be made in Vision and Mission committee.

10. Finance

The treasurer presented her report (attached) Salient points included:

- Report now starts with the statutory items.
- Registration with the Charity Commission is now complete. Our registration number is 1210325
- Trustee file is now securely stored at Church.
- L Bracewell will be the super administrator for our online account with the Charity Commission, with J Knott and S McMinn as user administrators. Information will be updated after each APCM, but if trustees details change they must be updated promptly.
- J Knott will be our data protection officer.
- Data Protection Notice will be added to the website. Website Management needs to be picked up and the website developed.
- Our first accounts submission to the Charity Commission is due October 2025.
- Banking information is set out on the Treasurer report.
- It was approved unanimously that L Bracewell had authority to make payments of up to £1000 before requiring a second signature.
- Flower Festival proceeds – donations should be made to River Ribble Trust and Lancashire Wildlife Trust at £500 each. Balance to be retained for church use. This was agreed unanimously (Prop S McMinn, Sec. J Knott).
- Noted that there has been a 5% drop in regular giving. It was suggested that this could be added to the website/newsletter and further education of the congregation regarding the reliance of the church on giving. More frequent blessing of the offertory was also suggested to improve visibility.
- Expenditure from outreach fund approved to Richard Reid at £75 to cover the cost of 3 remembrance wreathes. Also a £245 payment to the Poppy Appeal was approved.

- Charitable Donations were discussed and it was determined that the following donations should be made:
 - School - £1000 – carried by majority
 - Bishops Harvest - £1000
 - The Emily Davison Centre - £1000
 - Age UK Lancashire - £1000
 - Friends of the Holy Land - £1000

11. Safeguarding

Safeguarding documents were received and considered in advance. J Massey's work in preparing this was noted and acknowledged. It was agreed to charge a small group with working through the questions he had asked – consisting of L Vine, John Blysiuk and S McMinn together with John.

Members had been circulated with details of the National Church Safeguarding Audit and were encouraged to complete the survey.

12. Church and churchyard/Fabric committee

The Fire Risk Assessment had been completed. Sides persons would act as fire wardens and dates for training would be confirmed. A fire drill will then be undertaken. Busy services including Christingle and Remembrance are higher risk and there was a particular issue when large numbers exit from the balcony, delaying egress from the nave.

A thorough clean of the pathways (including those connecting with the fire exits) was necessary and S McMinn agreed to find someone able to do this professionally.

First Aid Box auditing will be passed to S Knott, who is used to doing this in her employment. First Aid Training/ Designated First Aiders to be reviewed and implemented.

Exterior lighting is being assessed as to need for improvement.

13. Forthcoming services

- Confirmation 24/11/2024
- Advent Carol Service 08/12/2024
- Christingle 13/12/2024
- Service with Bishop Phillip 15/12/2024
- No 11am service 22/12/2024 – rather 8am Communion, and Lessons and Carols at 6:30pm.
- Benefice Service to take place on 29/12/2024

14. Deanery and Diocese

- Year of prayer for growth and renewal – delegated to Vision and Ethos

15. Meeting dates to be reviewed at next meeting

16. Any Other business

- Toby's role with the diocese has extra work and responsibility but no additional support. It was agreed that the PCC would write to the Diocese and seek consideration of support that may be available.