



# DEEPING ST JAMES PRIORY CHURCH

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via Zoom video conferencing

**Present:** Rev. Mark Williams(MW) (Chair), Niccy Fisher (NF) , Caroline Herron (CH), Nick Drewett (ND), Simon Marshall (SiM), Revd Sonia Marshall (SoM), Victoria Worthington (VW), Vicky Billyard (VB), Lisa Goodchild (LG), Philip Astle (PA), Kate Drewett (KD), Johanna Jones (Secretary).

**Apologies for Absence** were received from: -

**Absence recorded for:** Barry Fisher.

NB: Ted Fisk (TF) joined the meeting at 8.10pm.

The meeting opened with prayers and began at 7.32pm.

<b>20.71</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting:</b></p> <p><b>a. Corrections:</b>          20.63 Fabric account is £2316.          20.66 KD <b>will</b> contact Swine’s Meadow.          20.65 A discussion was had around the various charities supported by the Priory Church and who Mission Matters decides to support.          With the above corrections made, the minutes were <b>approved</b>.</p> <p><b>b. Publication:</b> was <b>agreed</b>. JJ to send a copy of the minutes to John Worthington for publication on the website. MW will put a link to the minutes on the church Facebook page.</p> <p><b>c. Matters Arising:</b>          Oak Tree- CH has received confirmation of a grant from the Parish Council of approx. £2500 and SiM confirmed this is now in the Church Hall bank account. Double gates to allow tree maintenance in the future may be required, adding around £100 to the price, to balance the costs it was agreed to remove the balls on the top of the railings, thus reducing the cost by around £100. It was agreed to check with Burghley to see if they are required. SiM was keen to thank the Parish Council publically for the grant, perhaps in the Priory News. PA also suggested using “I’d Rather be in Deeping” publication to reach a wider audience. It was <b>agreed</b> to do an official thank you when the final decision is made as to where the piles will go in to the ground. <b>ALL MEMBERS PLEASE TO REMEMBER THIS FOR A FUTURE DATE.</b></p> <p>Chancel Ceiling – CH has a price of £3463.20 from CML to put x4 coats of heritage appropriate paint on the ceiling, including cleaning and vacuuming all woodwork and their own mobile scaffold tower. PA asked if the light bulbs could be changed at the same time. ND noted that 2/3 of the lights aren’t working and are difficult to replace. ND will follow up getting a quote for the work with Procurement Direct. CH noted two more quotes are needed for the ceiling work and that a Faculty or Part Faculty may be required.</p>	<p>JJ MW</p> <p>CH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ND CH</p>
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<b>20.72</b>	<p><b>Treasurers Report:</b>  Current account £6775, including £1814 monies from mission, weddings and Eco-Church. Free balance £4961  Reserve account (deposit) £17, (investment) £20008, total of £20025  Fabric account (deposit) £ 2476, (investment) £ 10137, total of £12613  Organ account (deposit) £3015, (investment) £ 3907 , total of £6922  Chancel Fund £15970</p> <p>Parish Share: 2020 request was £51706 and a total of £30000 was paid by the end of 2020 thereby underpaying by over £21000.  A request for £51706 has been received for 2021, exceeding our total income. The current formula is based on the population of the parish and additional socio-economic factors. SiM prepared contribution comparisons per head with other local churches. Our contribution works out at £994 per person, Crowland Abbey was £763. SiM also noted that St George’s in Stamford had an income of £373000 in 2019, whereas we had an income in the same year of £80000 (including selling investments). NF informed the meeting that underfunding is a problem for many parishes and the Diocese. A current proposal of using pastoral negotiators/covenant pastors to visit parishes and negotiate Parish Shares will be discussed at Synod in April and may supersede current arrangements. MW reassured the meeting that in the meantime we will continue to give what we have whilst outlining what has been done in the past to fulfil our obligations. SiM emphasised he was keen to be transparent with Lincoln regarding our situation. MW asked SiM to put together a document explaining where we are and why which will be put to the Standing Committee. This was <b>agreed</b>.</p> <p><b>Accounts: TF joined the meeting at this point.</b>  The accounts had been provided to all members prior to the meeting.  p1 Income was down by £9700 in 2020 largely due to loss of income from events and services. Planned Giving was slightly up.  p2 Church activities down by£7000 due to lockdown.  p3 Church running costs are reduced due to lockdown.  NF noted that despite the effects of the pandemic the pledged income has remained constant which is of great credit to all involved. MW agreed and will write a special thank you to highlight this fact in his regular email letters. MW and Ch thanked SiM for his diligence in preparing the accounts . This was supported by all PCC members.</p> <p>Charity Registration Application: All PCC members except BF have confirmed that they have read the Safeguarding Guidance, this is now preventing submission of the application. SiM asked if he could go ahead</p>	<p><b>SiM</b> <b>MW</b></p>

	<p>without the final confirmation. MW will contact BF himself but until then it was <b>agreed</b> not to send in the application.</p> <p>SiM had an email further discussing the use of card machines and the use of a “button” on the website to allow donations. 1.9% is taken in commission.</p> <p>A seminar is to be held and MW asked the Standing Committee if any members would be able to attend. It was <b>agreed</b> in principle.</p> <p>MW noted that the church should be kept at a minimum temperature of 13 degrees to protect the fabric of the building. ND noted that the current setting is 8 degrees. It was <b>agreed</b> ND will reset the thermostat and take the meter readings at the beginning and end of the trial period (proposed to be 2-3 weeks).</p>	<p><b>MW</b></p> <p><b>MW</b></p> <p><b>ND</b></p>
<b>20.73</b>	<p><b>Covid 19 Update:</b></p> <p>MW reported that the Diocese has supported our decision noting that at least half of churches are closed. MW and SoM have had support from parish members on the pastoral phone calls. MW asked all members to pray for all affected by the pandemic but particularly for all working in schools.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>20.74</b>	<p><b>Report from Teams:</b></p> <p>No update as the Teams have not met since the last PCC Meeting.</p>	
<b>20.75</b>	<p><b>Eco- Church:</b></p> <p>ND will compose a letter to the occupants of The Priory to inform them that the area at the rear of church is to be re-wilded, and also to discuss the ivy on the church window.</p> <p>TF thanked KD for taking on the role of Eco-Church.</p>	
<b>20.76</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding Update:</b></p> <p>The policy was up for review in December and all PCC members had been asked to review it prior to tonight’s meeting. TF will update the date on the website after any comments from members. TF reminded all leaders of childrens’ groups to complete the paperwork before re-starting. MW noted that on p7 the note regarding “LEPs”(Local Ecumenical Partnerships) needed removing as it is not relevant to our arrangements. No other comments were raised. Once updated TF will send the new version to John Worthington for the website. TF asked all members to continue to familiarise themselves with the document so that policy meets practice.</p> <p>A Code of Conduct is required for the Charity Commission Application, SiM agreed to research if a pro-forma document exists which could then be adjusted to be appropriate for The Priory Church.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>TF</b></p> <p><b>TF</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>SiM</b></p>
<b>20.77</b>	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <p>VW asked if a Sunday could be allocated to Leprosy Mission which has been supported historically. MW <b>agreed</b> to this and VW will investigate what the Mission Committee can put together. PA and MW thanked VW for all the work achieved by Mission Matters and asked that thanks be passed on to</p>	<b>VW</b>

	<p>the Committee.</p> <p>MW asked who collects the statistics on attendance and mission and how it is done. CH normally does this but is currently unable to log on and is awaiting a response regarding this. MW will circulate the link for everyone to look at should they want to.</p> <p>ND noted that his contact email is: <a href="mailto:nick.drewett@btinternet.com">nick.drewett@btinternet.com</a></p> <p>NF informed members that a draft of the document “Resourcing a Sustainable Church” from the Bishops will be available to parishes by the end of February 2021 and feedback is required by 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The Synod will then discuss all information received by 17<sup>th</sup> April. NF urged members to be part of the feedback process and proposed a meeting to take place after the 9<sup>th</sup> and before the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It was <b>agreed</b> to hold a Zoom call on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. MW will forward the email to everyone.</p> <p>MW informed the meeting that JJ will continue her duties as PCC Secretary until April. Martin Jones has offered to fill the role should that be acceptable to MW and members, and following an agreeable discussion with MW. MW thanked JJ for her work and MJ for his offer, he will ring MJ in the week commencing February 1<sup>st</sup> for a chat.</p>	<p><b>VW</b></p> <p><b>MW</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL/JJ</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>MW</b></p> <p><b>MW</b></p>
<b>20.78</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 7.30pm by Zoom.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
	<p><b>The Meeting Closed at 9.07 pm with thanks to all members for their continued work and support.</b></p> <p>NB: The Standing Committee agreed to meet to discuss various issues on : 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am.</p>	