



*S J. Stavrou*

Monday 30th March 2020

## MINUTES

### PCC Meeting

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.30pm

*In the church*

1. **Mass** (Lady Chapel)

2. **Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Fr. S Stavrou, Fr. M Calderbank, A Puddifoot, A. Turton, J. Bennett-Powell, J. Russell, M. Kreling, L. Hackett-Brown, L. Barnes, F. Appleby, C. Law, S. Livingstone, P. Keightley, E. Stanier, G. Curran. **Apologies:** B. Summers, D. Poulton, A. Childs.

3. **Minutes of Last Meetings and Matters Arising**

- a) PCC – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. agreed with minor amendments after being proposed by GC and seconded by MK and signed by SS. The vision group have yet to arrange a date for their meeting but will do so.
- b) SC – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Noted by the PCC.

4. **Reaffirming inclusivity and diversity – draft statement for approval**

We discussed a paper previously circulated by the Vicar relating to the recent House of Bishops 'Pastoral Statement'. The presenting matter for the pastoral statement was the introduction of opposite-sex civil partnerships, but it re-capped on a great deal of existing policy relating to same-sex couples and those in different personal circumstances (e.g. single, divorced etc). There has been great deal of public criticism of the statement's content, but also its tone, which was widely regarded as unwelcoming. As St Michael's was a member of the organization Inclusive Church, Fr S proposed that we make a short statement intended to reaffirm our existing commitment to inclusivity to help counteract the negative impression the pastoral statement. The discussion included the following points:

- What was the best term relating to sexuality? LGBT? LGBT+ LGBTQIA? Fr S was asked to investigate. (Subsequently Fr S recommended LGBT+ was in most common usage)
- Some people wondered whether it was necessary to mention specific groups or just reaffirm in a more general way. The sentiment of the meeting was in favour of mentioning the groups affected by the 'Pastoral Statement'. However, it was agreed to insert the word 'everyone' in the statement.
- CL said that the late arrival of Fr S' paper meant that he had not had time to read it, other agreed. It was decided to undertake the vote on the amended statement by email (as now allowed under the 2020 CRR) with PCC members responding by the following Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

The statement as amended, to be voted on read:

*For many years, Saint Michael & All Angels, Barnes, has been a member of Inclusive Church and is committed to Gospel-values of inclusivity and diversity as expressed in the ministry and life of Jesus Christ. At this time, we reaffirm our*

**Mission** – declares our purpose

St Michael's: A church for all ages. A faith for all people. A place for everyone.

**Vision** – expresses our objectives

St Michael's is seeking to be the spiritual heart of the neighbourhood; creating a community of faith, of hope, and of belief in the power of God's love. Come and join us.

**Values** – shares our beliefs

Holy: A celebration of worship in the beauty of holiness.

Active: Reaching out to our communities.

Open: Welcoming and engaging.



*welcome to everyone, including all LGBT+ people and those living in a variety of personal circumstances whether married, divorced, single or partnered, as an expression of the love of God for all people.*

Following the meeting 12 members of the PCC voted in favour of the statement with 2 voting against. The statement was therefore adopted by the PCC. Those voting against expressed a desire for a different wording rather than against the sentiment of the statement itself.

## **5. Finance**

(8.30)

- a) Finance Update (JR): JR explained that the church finances were in a stronger position than last year. The accounts are with the auditors at the moment and those of the last quarter of 2019 being finalised but she could report that planned giving has increased slightly, that donations and fundraising had further increased church income, that costs were stable, that the income from the church hall and community centre were earning well, and therefore our deficit was thus decreasing.
- b) Budget Approval (JR): JR talked through a budget for 2020 and asked for approval of the budget. This was proposed by CL and seconded by GC, and approved by all others present.
- c) BMF Concert Budget (JB-P): JBP had circulated the proposed budget for Bach's B minor mass and this was noted. The PCC were happy with the proposed budget and pleased to hear that tickets were already selling well.
- d) Recommendation of Goodbox products for electronic giving: The PCC agreed to purchase a machine for church for contactless payments for casual donations and a calculator/card reader for events. We felt we needed more information on the church collection plate before being able to purchase this.
- e) Fundraising – Parish Quiz Update (LH-B): LHB reported we have 8 tables for the church quiz on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. We'd like 10.
- f) Church Hire Rate: We agreed to put the hourly charge up to £50 per hour from £25 to match other venues and to cover expenses of heating, lighting and so on. There would be no differential charging for summer/winter.
- g) The PCC agreed the following resolution in line with previous years. 'The value of 41 Elm bank Gardens has been reviewed and, in the interest of saving costs of revaluation, the PCC had made an assessment of the investment property as at 31 December 2019 and believed the current valuation of £800,000 to be appropriate. Proposed by LHB and seconded by CL.

## **6. Safeguarding**

- a) Welcome to Camilla Harries: Camilla Tillyard/Harries attended for this item. Camilla is a lawyer and a parishioner. She is taking over from LB who we thanked for her work these past three years. SS will introduce her to the congregation next Sunday at the 10am mass. Also the notices about our policy will be replaced with her photo in display areas in the church.
- b) Renewal of Safeguarding Policy (LB): We renewed our safeguarding policy, proposed by LHB, seconded by SL, and unanimously agreed. LB pointed out that PCC members are the eyes and ears of the church and the need to report anything untoward. The policy relates not just to children but to vulnerable people. *LB will send a link to some brief online training that PCC members are encouraged to undertake online – it takes only 30 minutes.*

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## 7. Church Hall Project

- a) Feedback: Fr S reported on the positive feedback from the project plans.
- b) The PCC discussed the continued suitability of Net Zero in the light of changes to their ownership and the direction that their company was now taking. JR was requested to speak to them with regard to understanding how much it would cost to obtain the physical plans for the building.

## 8. Parish Office

- a) Approval of new contract – still to be drawn up and brought to the PCC next time.

## 9. AOB and Date of Next Meeting

- PCC Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> March
- ES passed on some letters to LHB for the parish office from the diocese regarding training and the parish pledge.
- The Vicar outlined the plans to celebrate Martin Neary's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in March.
- JBP reported that the sale of the old grand piano has raised £800.

10. **Concluding Prayer:** The meeting ended with The Grace.

E.S.

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