

## Parish of Sutton with Seaford Parochial Church Council

### Minutes of the PCC meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church

**Present:** Rev'd James Hollingsworth (JH), Rev'd Lucy Hollingsworth (LHo), Anna Grimble (AG), Stefan Bracher (SBr), Bob Carrington (BC), Joanne Lalla (JLal), Stephanie Baker (SBa), Liz Morgan-Jones (LMJ), Bob Rice (BR), Julia Lawson (JLaw), Fred Bass (FB), Michael Holmes (MH).

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** JH welcomed all the meeting
2. **Prayer:** JH read 1 Samuel 1, Tell out my Soul was sung and the meeting opened in prayer.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – Rev'd Derreck Lee Philpot (DLP), Paul Waller (PW), Bridget Anderson (BA), Lisa Hazel (LHa), Nicola Ferguson (NF), Janet Kent (JK), Lucy Borthwick (LB), Kim Cuthbert (KC).
4. **Our Parish – Key Issues:**
  - a. **St Leonard's Hall sale:**

No progress on planning permission for the hall, the architect is chasing this up with the planning officer. The view of the conservation officer is needed.
  - b. **Building project:**

The likely value of the hall is £400k and planned work in St Leonard's should cost £360k plus fees at 10% not including VAT which may be recoverable. Architect, Andrew Goodwin to be 'nudged' about approaching the Victorian Society, English Heritage, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings etc. There is likely to be feedback in April. A second article will go in Seaford Scene, the first was well received.

BA had sent a question: Is the exterior door from the extension necessary, could space be better used for storage? A: Best to request permission for door and decide later.

BC commented that while the change to the building is physical there is also emotional and spiritual change going on in everyone which some may be struggling with. There are a lot of positive views but also much misunderstanding and misinformation in both the Church and the town. Hopefully this will be addressed by the Seaford Scene article
  - c. **Children and Youth Team:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes.

The youth group for 5-7year olds has increased to 28. Donations have covered the cost of new equipment, photos of this are on facebook. The focus of this group is more about building relationships rather than scripture based. The downside to the success of the group is the need for more volunteers across the board. The changes to the garden at St Luke's are still being planned, donations have been received towards it and some issues regarding access and safety identified.

Glow Group (Sunday School) started at St Luke's to provide for children during the 9.30 service.

BC commented on the growth in the last 18 months after the 3 years of pandemic. Prayer is needed for the gift of faith for children and volunteers
  - d. **APCM:** The full annual report will be sent to SBa to circulate to PCC for proof reading.

5. **Approval of minutes of PCC held on 19<sup>th</sup> January:** Agreed and signed

6. **Matters Arising:**

- a. **Grant for kitchen and toilet:** The first deadline is 30/3/2023 and the second 9/5/23. MH will check questionnaire for procedure.

7. **Statutory Items:**

- a. **Safeguarding:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes.  
Ruth Saunders and SBr have been communicating with Colin Perkins (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) about the lack of face to face training. There was no reply. SBr will try again. Many Churches have a problem with exclusively on line training. JH as Rural Dean will discuss with the Archdeacon and suggested copying emails to Kim Nash, secretary to Colin Perkins. In the meantime Ruth Saunders is helping people who find the online course difficult.
- b. **Health and Safety:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes.
- c. **Finance:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes. Questions should be emailed to PW. The end of year accounts are almost complete. PW has written an article for the magazine.  
PW sent a question re pay rises this year.

**Proposal: Standing Committee be empowered to decide this. Proposed by Revd James Hollingsworth, seconded by Fred Bass, unanimous.**

PCC acknowledged Pail Waller's good financial management and records its thanks to him.

8. **Fabric:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes. MH thanked PCC and church members for their prayers and good wishes while Christine has been unwell.

**St Luke's:** now has new gates and the fence around St Luke's house has been repaired and replaced where necessary. Shelves have been installed in the office store cupboard and other minor carpentry jobs done. Spare keys to locked cupboards are needed stored in the office, the kitchen or a key safe.

**St Leonard's:** the chancel lighting will be replaced with the hire of a high reach machine at £1800 per day. Other jobs needing high reach should be done at the same time. The heating is repaired, thanks to FB for organising this. Work on the tower should start in April. MH will now pursue available grants and the repair of the Good Shepherd window. There have been generous donations towards the tower and windows. PCC recorded thanks to Michael Holmes for managing fabric issues.

9. **Reports**

- a. **Mission Support:** A report was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes. There will be information stalls at Open Church on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Possible changes to the MST notice board was discussed.
- b. **Pastoral Care:** No change from last meeting other than Brian Millar is overseeing care homes and Barry Ranger home communions.
- c. **Deanery Synod:** A report including the Church of England's Doctrine of Marriage was circulated ahead of the meeting and is appended to the minutes. General Synod will

vote in July on Gay Blessings. It is unlikely that PCCs will have any say on this for individual churches as it will be dependent entirely on the conscience of the incumbent clergy.

#### **10. Future Events:**

- a. **APCM:** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023
- b. **Priesting of Damien Brennan and Janice Bartholomew:** Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> at St John Meads. There will be a collection for a gift for Damien.
- c. **Coronation:**
  - i. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7pm: Vigil
  - ii. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May: tbc. No event in Church but Messy Church as usual
  - iii. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May: Usual services in the morning. 6pm Civic Service with Mayor invited. Possibly a bring and share lunch at St Luke's
  - iv. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Volunteer Day, Miranda Bearns-Lowles has organised an event on Martello Fields, the church will have a stall.
- d. **Vicar's Sabbatical:** JH will be on sabbatical in June, July and August this year and is preparing cover for services etc.

#### **11. AOB:**

- a. **St Leonard's Letter box:** There is a letter box on the Lych Gate and a post code has been applied for, this will enable us to register for bin collections with LDC.

#### **12. Actions:**

- a. JH and SBa circulate APCM report for proof reading.
- b. JH to confirm where Damien's and Janice's Priesting will be.
- a) Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> May tbc