Minutes of the meeting of St. Leonard’s Parochial Church Council

Thursday 20th June 2024 – 7:30pm.

Held at St. Leonard’s Church.

1.Opening Prayers:
These were led by Rev. Topham, who chaired the meeting, and asked that those speaking would do so with wisdom, showing your guidance and support. We also prayed for the recovery of Harry & Margaret who were both unwell, for loving support to Jan Prior and the family after the sad loss of Jon and also, to support and guide Nick Maybee and Neil Harvey as they begin their roles as Assistant Wardens working alongside Neill Robb.

2.Attendance:
Rev. Kim Topham [KT], Rev. Richard Newton [RN], Louise McMichael [LMc], Nick Maybee (NM), Neil Harvey (NH), Sarah Eagle (SE), Betty Garbutt (BG), Martin Whittaker [MW], Neill Robb [NR], Alison Lewis [AL], Rose Padmore [RP],

3.Apologies:
Harry Grove [HG], Natalie Baker [NB].

3.Minutes of the previous meeting – 8th February 2023

4.Matters arising:

None

5.Safeguarding:
KT read an email from NB. NB advised of the Parish Dashboard updates that she needed to be completed. We discussed all of the Church and non Church activities that we hold at St Leonards

Church which included, Services for Church and School, Clent Community Choir, Junior Choir, Bell Ringing (training and practising), Grounds and Maintenance, Organ and Music. RP and NH volunteered to assist NB review the current Safeguarding policies and procedures to make sure that they are up to date.

Anyone involved in the recruitment process of any roles within the church needed to complete the Safer Recruitment Training. KT would ask NB to resend the link again to all those that need it.

6.Finance:
It is one month since Jon Prior sadly passed away and NM volunteered to take over the role as Temporary Treasurer for the time being. Everyone present was very grateful to him for doing this.

NM advised that we currently had almost £8000.00 in the bank and that he was keeping up to date with collections that needed to be paid in and any bills that needed to be paid were being done so from the collections cash where possible. NM also confirmed that Anne Harris and Rosemarie Buchan were still a signatory on the account so they would be able to sign any checks for the time being if needed.

NM was keen to get the bank account sorted as soon as possible and to have 4 Signatories and when internet banking is up and running, there would be 2 people to authorise payments, so if one person adds a payment on the other person would need to authorise it. This will give complete transparency and also enable us to have succession planning moving forward.

7.Ministry & Mission:
KT advised that she has kept the services as they were wherever possible but has made a few changes like Harvest and Remembrance.

AL will now be helping KT a lot more after giving up helping out at Belbroughton on the last Sunday of every month.

Kt and RN reminded everyone that visiting priests may not use the individual cups and will want to serve from a single chalice. Each person will have to decide if they wish to take communion in both kinds or bread only.

KT congratulated all those involved in the instating of the Parish Profile. All 3 churches worked well as a team and came up with the name ‘One Church, 3 Locations’.

8.Reports - Festivals and Events
KT reminded everyone that it was the school leavers service on 18th July at 6.30 for the year 6’s.

This year Clent would have the parade with the British Legion on Remembrance Sunday. KT will confirm with them that we will have their piper.

RP volunteered to organise and produce a Passion Play for the Good Friday Service.

Dinah has stood down from being involved with the Baptisms. Bonnie Harvey and Helen Maybee have volunteered to help and be the Baptism Team. It was discussed that we should have a Funerals Team too to come and set up, put the cones out, greet people and tidy up afterwards.

9.Church Building & Fabric:

NR advised that it has now been 13 months since the Quinquennial. There are still outstanding repairs that need to be done to the roof. The repairs are being lead by the diocese which is taking ages. After discussion it was decided that we would get our own 3 quotes.

NR will be meeting with Ian Watt to discuss a quote as the electrics keep tripping the and the door locks, and the card machine goes off. If this happens when you are in church, you can still get out.

NR would also enquire about the sensor light above the choir door sometimes not working and also whether we can get the lights in the path to work or to replace them with ones that will. It was also felt that we should get at least 1 other quote if not 2.

10.Wardens’ Items:

Volunteers helped out clearing and tiding the church grounds and grateful thanks was given to all involved. NH will speak to Nigel Morgan about pruning some of the trees and then we can speak to the tree preservation officer to see if we can go ahead.

NM wanted to know who had what keys and requested that we contact him direct, with that information. NM advised that Anne Harris and Rosemarie Buchan had given their keys back.

We still have a missing microphone so it was decided that a new one should be purchased. Also, it would be good practice to make sure that the hand-held microphone is available at every service even if it is not needed.

11.Correspondance:
Nil - other than routine Diocesan distributions including the announcement that Bishop John is retiring.

12.A.O.B.

NM advised that he was gradually contacting the utility companies to pass on the new details. RP thought that she may have the password for BT as she was the person who originally set up the account.

KT advised that the issues at the school nursery were now resolved, The nursery was now full for September, and this would give a better transition into reception class etc. Funding had now been found to replace the main sewage pipes in school.

KT also reminded everyone that the school fete was in Saturday 6th July and encouraged all to come along with cash.

Thanks was given to MW for the open tower and how delighted Katie and Helen were with their certificates.

And finally….Grateful thanks was given to Richard for his guidance, support and friendship. We all wished him and Kathy a very happy retirement.

13.Next Meeting:
26th September 2024 at 7.30pm in St Leonards

14.Grace:
The meeting concluded at 9pm.