

## St. Leonard's PCC Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### Zoom

1.Rev. Newton opened the meeting with prayer: remembering those in hospital, and those recovering; for the gift of the guidance of the Holy Spirit on those in the NHS and private care; and then read the Collect for the coming Sunday.

2.Apologies were received from Rose Padmore and from Rosemarie Buchan.

3.Pending.

4.None.

5.Matters arising from the AGM (5<sup>th</sup> April):

i.The Sidesmen's Rota remained unresolved: there was the need for more to be involved and these vacancies needed advertising. People needed to commit to a date and to arrive early enough to undertake their tasks.

ii. Jerome had volunteered to pick-up those requiring a lift to church.

iii. AH. observed that there had been an average of 3 'welcomers' for each of the past few Sundays.

6.Ministry and Mission:

KT. The church had been involved in the recent 'Parents' Day'.

The number of children attending services was increasing (very good news), as was the number of people wanting to get in touch with members of their extended families following funerals.

HG. Technical issues meant that the web-site had needed to be re-written (although it retains the same format and presentation). It is simpler than before (and hopefully needs less weekly maintenance). Visitors numbers had increased to some 700 'hits' per month (where visitors load more than one page, meaning they are reading the content and not just landing by accident).

Congregational attendance is down.

7.Safeguarding:

Just 2 PCC members needed to refresh their training in the next 6 months.

All church-related activities needed to be logged (including services) and required PCC 'Authorization' in order to be included in insurance cover.

JP. to enquire that all our 'normal' activities are included under our existing policy.

School-based activities are 'risk-assessed' and covered by the school itself.

'Special' and 'One-Off' events are required to have received PCC 'Approval'.

NB. Report to be presented to the next PCC meeting of what is still required.

8.Flower Festival:

LM. Said that some tidying was required to present St. L. at its best.

i.Nothing to be placed on the stair-rails to impede access

ii.There will be 8/9 areas in which to place arrangements

iii.The 'Children's Area' will be a 'Picnic' display

iv.No charge for entry, but a 'Collection Plate' will be made available

- v. Entry times are advertised as being 08:00 to 19:00 (Thursday to Sunday inc.)
- vi. Displays to be installed on the Wednesday, following morning Communion
- vii. A lay-out plan will be available from next Wednesday
- viii. A new 'History of St. L' will be available (Thanks to NR)
- ix. Jars made by the children will also be on display

#### 9. Wi-Fi:

NR. Explained that there had been 3 failed attempts to organise appointments with OpenReach engineers: several sets of equipment had been delivered and were now deemed unsuitable and would require collection and return.

We live in hope.

#### 10. Finance:

JP. With the anticipated increase in energy costs he was predicting a £5,000 loss over the church's 12 month financial year (e-on electricity rates had already changed as of 01/03/22). Planned Giving, Fees and Investment Returns were as predicted.

bt are already taking money for the Wi-Fi even though we do not receive any service from them (RP to dispute this with them after installation).

LM. To send JP a breakdown of the Flower Festival costs.

He was awaiting any costs associated with Clent Connect.

#### 11. Organ Report:

HG. He was to make arrangements with the representatives of Nicholsons and with Walkers to attend the church with him and make a thorough assessment of the state of the instrument and any associated repair/renovation costs.

#### 12. Church Buildings and Fabric:

There had been conversations with Mark Carter (Diocesan Advisor on Buildings) regarding\_

i. A/V installations: there would be problems with obtaining Faculties with the installation of permanent screens because of the historic nature and listing of the building

ii. Pews adjacent to the Chancel Steps: their proximity made for great difficulties turning coffins, assembling Wedding Parties, and restricted wheel-chair users to other parts of the building. Might the 'front row' be moved one row back ?

LM. suggested that a 'risk-assessment' on behalf of the disabled (a.k.a. "those with restricted mobility") might add weight to this development.

There was further advice that we might not get a Faculty to replace the boiler if our recommendations "...do not make a contribution towards 'carbon saving'..".

The 'Quinquennial Review' (every five years) was due shortly (previously 2017) but this might be delayed because Covid restrictions have backed-up other inspections. Our architect has advised us that it would take up to 2 days to complete a survey of the building.

#### 13. Church Wardens Matters:

As 12.

#### 14. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Joe Weston

This was regarding an 'old' stone being altered and located on an exterior church wall.

There is already a 'Memorial' with words approved by the family, as suggested by John Partington

himself.

The PCC was unanimously against this project and the Secretary would transmit this decision to JW after his recovery for his present hospitalisation.

15. Any Other Business:

i. HG had, as Deanery Representative, had made a report available of his attendance at the Greater Dudley 'Conversations' event at Brierley Hill Civic Centre and what transpired.

ii. MW's health was improved and was no longer having to wear leg-braces, hoping eventually to return to Bell-ringing. Simon Wilkinson has been appointed as Deputy during his recovery.

MW, SW, Anne Griffin and others from St. L and St. J will be taking a 1 day training course to be held at St. L. The PCC gave their approval – subject to the church not otherwise being in use.

16. Future Meeting:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August was agreed; KT to Chair.

T.b.c. nearer the date.

The meeting concluded with The Grace (21:02)