

**MINUTES OF THE P.C.C. MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2021 – 7:30PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING.**

1..Welcome: RN welcomed everyone to this Zoom meeting of the PCC, explaining that the Licensing of Canon Wyn Beynon as the next Parish Priest for the other neighbouring 'rural' parishes had been timetabled for Wednesday 1st September and that therefore our PCC Meeting had been put-back a day, thanking everybody for their understanding.

He led prayers asking for God's help and guidance – for our coming together with thankful hearts – seeking your blessings – and looking to help build your Kingdom yet to come.

2.. Attendance.

In video conference:

Rector:	Richard Newton	(RN)
Priest:	Kim Topham	(KT)
Wardens:	Rosemarie Buchan	(RB)
	Anne Harris	(AH)
	Neill Robb	(NR)
Deanery Synod Rep:	Harry Grove	(HG) - Secretary
Safeguarding Officers:	Natalie Baker	(NB)
	Julie Ward	(JW)
Treasurer:	Jon Prior	(JP)
Elected Members:		
	Louise McMichael	(LMc)
	Natalie Baker	(NB)
Co-opted Members:		
Bell-ringing:	Martin Whittaker	(MW)

(10 persons)

Apologies were received from_

Janet Steele	(JS)
Sarah Eagle	(SE)
Steve Eagle	(StE)

(3 persons)

All paperwork for the meeting had been placed on the parish website for reading / downloading.

3..Agenda and Minutes:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, subject to these amendments: i) #4 the Hagley/Clent church publication to be referred to as "Contact" and the Belbroughton/Clent publication to be referred to as the "Parish Magazine", ii) #10 Hagley's share was in the region of £40k and that of Clent £20k, giving a total figure of just over £60k, iii) the PCC's relief was expressed that any future increase would be small by comparison.

4..Matters Arising:

Annual Subscriptions for magazines: distributors were now becoming collectors as well. The question was posed as to how to segregate the two income streams from both publications; whose content is so different. It was proposed that both issues were made available including a possible 'free' issue of the other publication, to reveal what content it carried. JP, in reply to NR, said that the 'Magazine' cost some £1,010 p.a. (although we ran a small profit) and that a small change in format and subscribing advertisers

might be anticipated in January. It was agreed that St. Leonard continue supporting both formats for a further year.

5..Public Worship and Private Prayer:

The revised pattern of worship for all three churches was now being followed. The 'congregation' for Zoom services had halved (as was expected) although August figures were distorted by holiday schedules. AH asked why, on third Sundays, when there was no service being held at Clent could there not be a Zoom service to substitute ? Availability of clergy-persons.

There had been positive feedback from those attending the Family Service.

HG thanked those who were 'understudy-ing' him on the organ-bench during his convalescence and he was discussing when and how he might regain his seat.

6..Ministry and Mission.

Tuesday evening 'Bible Book Club' was continuing to function on Zoom.

Both the Church and Community Choir were anticipating re-establishing themselves. Other singing groups were also considering participating, though RB expressed the desire that they might be regular attendees and not just 'arrive' for Festival occasions.

7..Safeguarding.

NB was waiting for confirmation whether DBS checks now have a 3 or a 5 year validity, and will inform people regarding their circumstances when she has the information. MW said that bell-ringing observed a 5 yr term.

A PCC-approved policy on church use of 'social media' was needed, with annual renewal – KT thought there was a Diocesan template we might adopt. This requirement was 'new' to most people at Clent and also at Hagley. It would be adapted and adopted when it was available.

St. Leonard uses Facebook and the website www.clent-worcs.co.uk to disseminate its message to the widest audience – Hagley uses Facebook and [Hagley Cofe | St John The Baptist with St Saviour's Hagley](http://HagleyCofe|StJohnTheBaptistwithStSaviour'sHagley)

NB asked for answers to enable her to complete a form:

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Is our parish part of an "Ecumenical Partnership" | No. |
| 2 | Do our PCC discuss Safeguarding issues regularly | Yes; at every meeting. |
| 3 | Are details readily available to a new Officer/for inspection | They will be. |

8..Kim's Priesting.

KT thought that the event went exceedingly well – given there was so much to do in so short a time.

9..Deanery Synod Matters.

The Dudley Synod was proving elusive to our representative (HG) leaving him feeling that he'd 'dropped off' the mailing list and was for ever contacting the Chairman to find out what was happening at Greater Dudley. Bromsgrove/Redditch, on the other hand, produced regular 'glossy' updates and were promising Synods which were a hybrid of 'virtual' and actual during the inclement winter months.

RN was most disappointed with the attendance of just over 30 people at Canon Wyn's introduction to his new parishes (5 of whom were from Clent).

10..Finance.

JP reported that planned giving had risen and this and other factors mean he had revised his forecast to a projected figure, with 8 months to go, of (-) £4,000. He found the new fee structure to be confusing and that increased figures had to be kept 'on account', of which some sums were just 'passing through'.

There might possibly be a 'break-even' by the end of the financial year – perhaps with our being able to pay our Share !

Choir and Bell-ringing fees continued to be paid to RB and MW by JP for retention/spending, as appropriate.

A letter received from the Diocesan Office referred to us in Clent and Hagley as being in One Benefice (in advance of the Bishop's promulgation) almost leaving us to decide what proportion we each pay of the total figure !

We seem to have emerged from the recent Pandemic period rather well and, by next March, should have a clear indication of how we are doing.

11..Church Buildings and Fabric.

Gates to the Front Porch: the PCC was asked what their thoughts were about refreshing or removing the metal porch gates, which served no present purpose although 100 years in situ. NR said that he would investigate cost options – though LMc said that she liked them and they could serve as a way of securing a display within the porch. They might also prevent use of the porch for anti-social behaviour (which had occurred in the past).

There was neither progress nor news on the Vine Lane wall issue. It might be considered in 2022 – if a builder could be found – with sufficient materials to undertake the work.

12..Church Wardens Items.

The gate to the Children's area had been fixed by StE. Many thanks.

13..Correspondance.

LMc suggested incorporating a Flower Festival into the extended Bank Holiday period planned for the celebrations of H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th inclusive. The PCC gave enthusiastic approval. This was the sort of activity which Barbara Palmer's bequest could help prime.

RN asked that that particular Bank Holiday weekend was kept free of Wedding bookings.

NB has experienced the easy use of contactless donations in other churches and asked if such a system could be investigated for Clent and used at this Festival.

AH asked whether, given recent referrals to bequests in communications from Worcester, might we investigate they might be "holding" some of our monies ?

She also mentioned that Christine, from the Belbroughton Office, was getting married soon and that Clent might like to provide a present and so acknowledge her past work for us and friendships made.

MW mentioned that closer ties with St. John's, Hagley, meant that we would be able to turn-out an 8 bell (instead of 6) team of ringers more regularly.

HG reminded the meeting of the forthcoming wedding of "Ollie and Collie" (Oliver Edwards (Clent) and Charlotte Collie (Chaddesley) – Noon on 23rd September – although, exercising 'Bride's privilege', it was an "away" fixture at Chaddesley).

14..Any Other Business / Future Meetings.

It was planned to hold a mid-November meeting on **Wednesday 17th November – 7:30pm**, again on Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 9:40pm with saying of The Grace.