

Report of the meeting of St Nicholas PCC on 17th January 2019 at 7.30pm at Trevyr

Present: Revd Gaynor Burrett (Chair), Revd Andrew Harter, Louise Minford, Jenny Harter, Russell James, Rob Phillips, Mark Potter, Mike Noakes, Pat Noakes, Mary Moore

Apologies: Sandy Ireson

1 Welcome

Gaynor opened the meeting with a reading from Matthew 20.25-28 & prayers at 7.40pm

2 Previous Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2018 were agreed by the PCC as a true record and signed as such by Gaynor. There were no matters arising.

3 Ministry Matters

Review of Christmas Services: Nativity Live had received good feedback, and the professional sound system was much appreciated. Improvements for consideration next year include: at least one children's carol; use of staging; better access for children to the front; softer Nave lighting. The ewe and lamb were much admired, as was the Christmas tree.

The Christmas morning service with a separate section for the younger children & their parents had been well received.

Christian Aid Lunch: 13th May 2019. There will be a fund-raising lunch in the Nave after it (or possibly a breakfast before it).

Lent Lunches: It was agreed to hold these this year in the church, probably on Tuesdays. Pat will organise the catering, but speakers need to be organised. Ash Wednesday is March 6th.

Mothering Sunday, March 31st: A 5th-Sunday. It was agreed to hold the usual Group Service at 10.00am at Skenfrith and feature the Messy Church children & parents. Andrew & Jenny to ensure they are briefed, and encourage Grosmont-based helpers also to attend.

4 Use of the Nave

Teenage Activities: Following the Rural Futures visit, there may be an opportunity to run teenage activities in the Nave. Rural Futures' feedback and report of their visit is expected in late January and it was agreed to give the idea further consideration then. Grosmont Events to be kept informed in case they wish also to be involved.

Use of technology in church: Gaynor suggested the purchase of a Group laptop and data projector to enable more flexibility in worship styles and to provide scope for other activities involving presentations. Louise indicated that funds could be made available. Gaynor will discuss the idea with the other PCCs prior to a final decision.

5 Wardens' Report

Door Keys: Both the main door and the tower door locks are ancient, with large and valuable keys. There are no spare keys and replacements cost from £250 to £1,250. It was agreed to fit modern locks alongside the old, suitably covered. This will require a faculty and at present faculties are not being processed. Gaynor agreed to talk to the Archdeacon about expediting this.

Entrance Tarmac: There is a need to ensure access of sufficient width for wheelchair users by means of a painted clearway. The land is not owned by the Post Office nor by Highways, but who does own it is unclear. Rob agreed to research this and report back.

6 Health & Safety Report

Smart water: This is now in stock with attendant signage. Mark & Mike will apply it as appropriate.

West Door Wheelchair Access: In windy weather the door has to be kept barred to prevent it opening. Mike, Mark & Russell will explore options for preventing this whilst still giving access.

7 Safeguarding Report

Children's services: An audit of who looks after the children should be given to Pat Noakes for the sake of good record-keeping.

8 Finance and Treasury

Current financial position: basic income for the current year will be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses; however both planned giving and loose collections are in steady decline. Church Link is in its final year under Jean Prosser & Peter Buchanan and its future thereafter unknown.

Budget for 2019: There is a need for more input into three areas: building fabric, mission expenditure and fund-raising events.

A Fabric Group was established consisting of the two Wardens, Rob, Pat & Gaynor to list likely items of expenditure under 'essential' and 'desirable' headings with approximate costs. The initial list will be presented to the next PCC Meeting.

Mission Expenditure, or outside giving, is targeted at 10%, currently running at 8%, which needs correction. There was also concern that people unattached to the church do not know the extent of giving. It was agreed that use should be made of Church Link for this purpose and Mark agreed to ask Mike Pullen for an article about the Hospice for the March issue. It was also recommended that those running events should always post a notice of funds generated and thanks to donors on the website and on village notice boards.

The current programme of concerts or curry nights, or other potentials such as strawberry teas or a tea dance, can produce useful but relatively small amounts of income; at least one major event (possibly two) should be planned in addition each year. A Social Committee consisting of Jenny, Mike and Russell was set up to look at possibilities, including a Mediæval Supper, Antiques Road Show, Pantomime, or Promise Auction. It was felt that the latter was most likely to be manageable in the current year.

Major Project: Fund-raising for projects is easier than for general funds, but can release resources for the latter. A high quality sound system in the church and nave, including a deaf loop, could cost a great deal. Andrew & Jenny's son Dominic runs Martin Audio (which loaned the Nativity Live sound system) and he is prepared to offer equipment at cost to the company. It was agreed to ask him to visit and discuss the correct design and costing for it.

9 Any Other Business

Nave bookings: Mike needs to know ASAP of any actual or potential booking in order to avoid clashes. It was noted that weddings are being discussed of July 20th and August 31st (which may imply the Produce Show being moved to Bank Holiday Monday), and in this context a costing sheet would be helpful. It was felt that £10ph was cheap in the context of wedding receptions. Grosmont Harvest and harvest Lunch will be on September 22nd.

Church cleaning: in addition to regular cleaning, the church needs a spring clean. It was agreed to hold this on Saturday March 2nd 10.00am-12noon. Andrew to announce on Sunday and ask for volunteers.

Transparency: it has been suggested that PCC Minutes be posted on the website. *NB* It was subsequently agreed to post a report of PCC meetings, in effect the PCC Minutes with personal &/or confidential information removed.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Thursday March 28th, 7.00pm, in the Vestry

Easter Vestry to be held in late April (Easter is April 21st)