

**Meeting of the PCC of St Denys Church Ravensthorpe**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, 7.30pm, at 21 Church Gardens, Ravensthorpe**

| <b><u>Agenda Item</u></b> | <b><u>Minutes</u></b>  | <b><u>Action agreed</u></b>                 |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1</b>                  | <b>Opening prayer</b>  |   |
| <b>2</b>                  | <b>Attendance &amp; apologies</b>  |   |
|                           | In attendance: Rev Chris Peck (chair) 'CP', Alice Cooper 'AC', John Mott 'JMo', Meg Benn 'MB', Chris Freeman 'CF', John Matts 'JMa', and Gill Douglas 'GD'<br>Kieren Cooper 'KC' joined the meeting from item 6 onwards.<br><br>Apologies for the meeting were received from Steve King 'SK'.  |   |
| <b>3a</b>                 | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>   | <b>AC</b>                                   |
|                           | Subject to a couple of minor typos being corrected, all agreed that the minutes were a true record of the previous meeting, and AC agree to post a copy on the church porch noticeboard.   |   |
| <b>3b</b>                 | <b>Matters arising from previous PCC meeting minutes</b>   |   |
|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tree surgeon has completed his work and is now content that trees are as safe as is reasonable to achieve. It was noted that he had advised that the fir trees bordering the path on Church Gardens were unlikely to last longer than another 10 years at most, but did not require urgent attention.</li> <li>It was noted that the Parish Council had advised us they would no longer be able to fund the church clock annual maintenance. The meeting expressed its thanks for having done this in recent years, and agreed we now just needed to make sure we knew the contacts for the servicing, so we could ensure it continues to happen. MB to check these with Parish Council clerk.</li> </ul> | <b>MB</b>                                   |
| <b>3c</b>                 | <b>Actions from previous PCC meeting minutes</b>   |   |
|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC said she had not yet put a new sign on the brown bin to discourage inappropriate use, but that a suitable summary had just arrived with the new permit (now made available free of charge to churches). GD agreed to laminate and put on the bin.</li> <li>The dementia health check had been circulated, but as it was not on the agenda tonight, CP proposed we defer until the July meeting.</li> <li>KC agreed that the letter of thanks to regular givers had not yet gone out.</li> </ul>  | <b>GD</b><br><br><b>AC</b><br><br><b>KC</b> |
| <b>4</b>                  | <b>Minutes of recent APM &amp; APCM</b>  |   |
|                           | The recent APM & APCM minutes were also reviewed by the meeting for factual accuracy, and no errors of this nature were identified.  |   |
| <b>5a</b>                 | <b>Benefice matters: Update from Leadership Meeting</b>  |   |
|                           | CP provided a brief update on the February Leadership meeting, being one attended by the treasurers and a member of the Diocese giving team. The matter of future clergy staffing for the benefice was discussed, and all 8 churches expressed a desire to have 2 FT clergy in the benefice, but the   |   |

8 expressed significantly varying degrees of confidence that they would be able to finance this in the short term. All agreeing on the challenge to be bridged, the May leadership meeting focussed on the vision for the future and growth. Obviously, the matters are also linked, as national statistic now suggest that in the next 8 years, if it doesn't change its demographic make-up, the CofE will lose 2/3 of its regular congregation.

**5b Benefice matters: Vision for the future**

At the May Leadership meeting the room was asked to consider 3 questions to prompt thought and discussion about the future of our churches. We were then asked to bring this same discussion back and repeat it with our PCCs.. AC therefore facilitated a time where PCC members were able to share their answers to the questions proposed. The outputs are set out at the end of these minutes, and were to be submitted back to Rev Allison for her to compile.

**AC**

**6a Fabric: Reordering project update and decisions.**

CP updated as follows:

- John Barker had now received the quotes from the 3 potential main contractors, as agreed with the PCC. They range from £70,402 + VAT to £84,492 +VAT. John has also advised the PCC of his contentment with the work of the provider of the lowest quote. A full breakdown of their cost was requested, as is recommended where one quote is over 5% lower than the rest.
- John Barker has asked if we are happy to approve the archaeological advisor's quote.
- Jeremy Meager has advised the PCC that he has now left Viscount organs and set up Cotswold Organs. It was agreed that we needed to find out more before we understood the impact (if any) of this on our proposals.

KC and other members of the PCC had examined the likely known other costs of the project, and both KC and JMo circulated summaries of their thoughts. All agreed that once these other costs were considered, if the lowest quote was accepted, then a likely total cost of the project was up to £100,000.

There was unanimous agreement that the lowest quote, being from Goodfellows Builders, was the preferred one, particularly given the positive experience John Barker has had of their work in similar churches.

KC also set out our current funds, and in what order he would suggest they were utilised if they were needed.

There was a discussion about whether any grant funding would be available, and if so, how this would be applied for. KC agreed to check with the diocese and come up with a shortlist of grant bodies worth approaching, and if any of these sounded as if they may be suitable or a project of our type

then JMa and JMo agreed to help with making any applications needed. Members agreed that whilst St Denys could finance the project from its own unrestricted funds if required, it would of course be far preferable to supplement our own resources with additional grant funds and donations towards this project if possible, so as to preserve other funds to generate income to support ongoing church building costs. JMo raised a particular concern in this respect, and therefore the meeting specifically agreed that, to the extent St Denys' own funds needed to be utilised, they would be utilised in the following order:

**KC, JMa, JMo**

1. From the restricted funds received from the the Diocese which relate to the project ;
2. From general unrestricted cash reserves down to a level whereby the Treasurers account has sufficient buffer left for normal cash flow requirements ;
3. From the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund - Fabric Fund ;
4. From the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund - Sale of Land,
5. Through liquidating the CCLI investment related to the Ravensthorpe Sale of Land (128001224S - P10630),

**AC**

There was some debate about whether we needed to wait for any grant income to commence work on the project, given the PCC's desire to complete the work this year if at all possible. There were differing views on this, but it was agreed we should at least wait to see if there were any funders the diocese suggested contacting that sounded likely, and ask them if they would find this approach acceptable before we formally signed any contract with the contractor.

**AC**

However, the PCC agreed we should ask John Barker to tell the main contractor, Goodfellows builders, and also Cotswold Archaeology, that they were our preferred suppliers and we wished to commence the work in the next couple of months if possible. In SK's absence, AC agreed to communicate this to John Barker to avoid any delay.

A member of the PCC asked about the progress of finding a new home for the organ, but in SK's absence, it was suggested we ask him to update us on his return.

AC also proposed we put a note in the newsletter to update the village on the project, and also ask that if anyone would like to either donate, or be involved in raising any funds, that they should contact us now. It was agreed this would be a good idea.

**6b Fabric: Other matters**

- GD proposed we restart the practice of a cleaning "party" a couple of times a year – all agreed this was a good idea,

|    |   |   |          |
|----|---|---|----------|
|    |   | and that as soon as the building work was finished we should reinstate this.  | GD       |
|    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC raised that if anyone had a long enough hose to reach from the outside tap to the south steps, she would pressure wash the Clearmac surface, as this ideally needed doing every year or so, and this would prevent weeds growing on any dirt built up on the surface. JMa agreed to look for a suitable long hose.</li> </ul>   | JMa & AC |
| 7  | <b>Forthcoming services and events</b>        | AC noted that there had been a slight issue with the coffee rota for the last Worship for All Service, and she wanted to check who was now responsible for the coffee rota following the Johnstone's leaving the village. CF said Tricia now does it, but that for some reason that service had been missed. It was proposed that it was checked to the planner every 2 months, and a copy was posted in the church, so any omissions could be spotted early.   | CF       |
| 8  | <b>Feedback on recent services and events</b> | <p>It was agreed that all Lent, Easter and Holy Week services and Events had been a success. GD commented about the excellent attendance at the family event on Good Friday, which had been standing room only!</p> <p>AC noted (and CP noted that this had been the case elsewhere too) that the Easter Day congregation had been atypical, and included lots of visitors, and less regular attenders (it was a more "Christmas" type of congregation), and that this needed to be borne in mind for next year when planning the service.</p>          | CP       |
| 9  | <b>Mission and Outreach</b>                   | <p>AC explained that we had been checking the arrangements for insurance for the various outreach events that the benefice runs, and it had been confirmed that the events were covered by the church's Ecclesiastical Insurance, however, the insurer had advised that we formally note at a PCC meeting that we consider these events to be church outreach events.</p> <p>Therefore, she asked the PCC to note their agreement that Bus Stop Tots and Brunch@11 constituted outreach events run on behalf of this church. All were in agreement.</p> |          |
| 10 | <b>Children, families and young people</b>    | AC briefly updated on the positive state of the Brunch@11 meeting.  |          |
| 11 | <b>Safeguarding</b>                           | AC confirmed that Andrew Elliot (benefice safeguarding officer) has now asked that all PCC members carry out the basic awareness level of the safeguarding training if they have not already done so, and forward onto him their completion certificate. AC will send around the link to the training, and coordinate getting these certificates back to AE for the PCC.  | All      |
| 12 | <b>Pastoral matters</b>                       | No matters were raised.   |          |

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|-----------|--|--|--------------|
| <b>13</b> | <b>Finance</b>                                     | <p>KC circulated a financial update and noted the key points arising. The income remains on track with our expectations, as do costs.</p> <p>GD asked about the changes she had heard about to the monthly giving scheme administered by the diocese. KC confirmed that there was to be a change to a DD based system, with an option to increase giving by inflation each year. KC is due to find out more about the scheme, and the transition soon, and will share further details in due course, but no action is needed from givers at this point. It will also be a good opportunity to promote more givers going onto the scheme when we launch it.</p>   | <b>KC</b>    |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Matters for the newsletter</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to the Christian Aid Week collector and donors.</li> <li>• Update on the reordering project</li> </ul>   | <b>AC/SK</b> |
| <b>15</b> | <b>AOB, including any matters from recent APCM</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the APCM the suggestion of putting in a hard-surfaced path from the allotments to the south door of the church (currently a grass route) was made, and the PCC was asked to consider this. The PCC held a brief discussion of the merits of the proposal and also the likely arguments against it, and concluded that as it was something which would no doubt require further detailed consideration (and a full faculty process), if it were to be seriously considered. It was therefore agreed that our first priority would be the current reordering project, and then this proposal would be reconsidered after that, particularly once improvements to access as a result of the reordering were implemented and could be properly tested in use.</li> <li>• There was also an observation made at the APCM about the cutting of the fir branched overhanging the Church Garden path. JMa agreed to have a look at these.</li> </ul> | <b>JMa</b>   |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                        | <p>Next PCC meeting:<br/>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July</p>  |              |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Closing Prayer</b>                              | <p>The meeting closed with the Grace</p>   |              |

**St Denys Ravensthorpe PCC – Input to Uplands Group Vision and Strategy:**

**Copy of outputs from exercise done as a PCC:**

**What do we want for our churches?**

- A congregation growing in depth of faith and commitment (not just numbers)
- More younger people to become involved
- To be more inclusive and aware of differing requirements
- An openminded group of people
- A future!

- Growth
- Unity
- Sustainability (people not just finances)
- A broader range of attendees (class, age, type etc) from the village
- Somewhere with modern facilities where people can meet and worship and invite others to join them
- Less focus on buildings (maybe we only need one per benefice?!)

**What do we want from our churches?**

- Quality prayer experiences
- A warm, welcoming, and pastorally caring) presence in our communities
- Services and worship to suit a broad range of both current and potential attendees.
- To be inclusive, but aware of differing requirements
- Friendship and fellowship
- To help fill the gaps left by an increasingly uncertain and unstable society
- To provide welfare/practical support as well as spiritual support (i.e. services previously provided by state?)
- A place of peace
- A welcoming body of people
- A place to mark life stages, (mourn, celebrate, remember)
- Somewhere with modern facilities where people can meet and worship and invite others to join them
- Less focus on buildings (maybe we only need one per benefice?!)

**What would we want to focus on this year if we could choose just 1 thing?**

- Making the reordering project a success and using it to bring people in to the church
- Engage village in reordering work, and in using it
- Encourage outreach and ownership of the re-ordering project
- Make most of the opening of the new facilities for a big launch, and a programme of outreach events.