

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

Minutes of the 610<sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
held on Monday 21<sup>ST</sup> February 2022

## The meeting took place on ZOOM

Present: Matthew Rhodes (MR) (Chair), Sarah Beardsmore (SB), Jacky Dakin (JD), Claire Webber (CW) – Mark Gregory (MG), Pauline Heath (PH), Peter Lowe (PL), Mary Grover (MG),

**Documents Issued prior to the meeting:** Minutes of December PCC Meeting. Organ pipe refurbishment from Julian Gunn, organ refurbishment reference Paul Hale.

## 1. Welcome and opening prayer

## 2. Apologies

Carl Webber, Janet Noble, Helen Clark, Andy Clark, David Booker, John Green

## 3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with a few items added to AOB

## 4. Conflicts of interest

- I. None declared

## 5. Adoption of minutes of 608<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record with the following amends:

- I. Notre Dame spelling change throughout
- II. 10.5 Charitable giving – the wording should say “Up to” the social justice meeting
- III. We should include that the salaries were agreed for Claire Webber and Steve Dugdale

## 7. Matters Arising

- I. The working name “St John the Evangelist Ranmoor” has now been approved by the charity commission. Claire has now pursued this with Facebook and hopefully we will be able soon to update that St John's Ranmoor are able to fundraise on Facebook giving
- II. Whatsapp Groups – Children and adults cannot be together on whatsapp groups. – **Action Claire to speak to Philip**
- III. Cheques for the grants have been sent to all recipients – **Action Claire**
- IV. Phoenix Association – a cheque has been sent for money raised through the Christmas card and raffle.

## 8. Building Update

- I. Matthew is speaking to the architect tomorrow.
- II. Matthew thinks it might be a good idea to involve the DAC now as it has a new secretary. **Action Buildings team**
- III. The spire is due to be inspected this week and the buildings groups meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February which will review the spire report.

- IV. The building group will discuss the pews in church. Matthew has written an article for the Inspire magazine in February and hopefully it will prompt conversation and thought amongst parishioners. The buildings group will design a process for how we engage with the congregation. Mary is planning to look at some churches that have removed pews. John Keys (organist) who came from Nottingham and he has suggested some Churches. Peter Lowe would like to go to these visits with Mary.

## 9. Services

- I. Christmas services were very well attended
- II. Lovely to see so many children in Church.
- III. Sarah asked for thanks to James Stone to be recorded for his work and commitment on the nativity – it was a great success. Matthew to write to James to thank him
- IV. We stopped coffee before the Christmas services. The view generally by the PCC was that we should re-introduce coffee from this weekend. **Action Claire to do rota.**
- V. Parish teas planned in the Parish Centre by the pastoral care group.

## 10. Finance

- I. £4100 Tithe 2021 was split across international, UK and local causes by the Social Justice committee. Cheques have been sent out to the recipients.
- II. 17<sup>th</sup> February will be a Finance committee
- III. Mark Dakin and David Booker will have an initial meeting early February to look at the year end figures
- IV. The finance committee was asked to look at charges for church usage and recommendations will be looked at the February meeting
- V. A Giving campaign needs to be looked at with time and talents. A generous giving officer (Libby Culmer) in the Diocese is available to help St John's.

## 11. Restoration of the Chancel organ pipe front

- I. Proposal to the PCC, St John's Church Ranmoor from Julian Gunn, Assistant Organist. This is to restore the pipes on the Chancel side to shiny metal, to match those in the North aisle side. **Problem to be addressed** - The 33 organ pipes in the Chancel front were painted matt ochre in 1991 to 'match' the light wood colour of the newly limed oak of the pews. **Process**- Julian has already canvassed the Music team informally, and they support the change. If the PCC is in agreement, Julian is prepared to do all the admin. Once that is gained, a single dummy pipe from the extreme right of the front will be taken to a car bodyshop. They will try the process out on the back of the pipe – a patch 12 x 3 inches, invisible to the front - to ensure it works. Julian will check, with Mark, that we are happy with the colour. Then Julian will liaise with Matthew, Philip, Mark, and the body shop to determine the best timing for the work on all the pipes to be done. This will be in a single batch. The pipes should only be 'absent' for 2 weeks, probably late in 2022.
- II. **Finance** - This work will be done at Julian's expense, with no cost to the Church.
- III. **Implications** - For two weeks there will be a discreet screen covering the organ front in the Chancel. The organ will still be usable and the musical effect undetectable.
- IV. Julian has offered to help Mark Gregory with faculty application.
- V. Questions asked –

- a. Is it possible to take them back to their original colour and not lacquer them? Julian does not think this is viable as it will be dull. Julian will explore taking the pipes back to their original “raw state” first and see if this is viable.
  - b. By tampering with the pipes, is there a risk of having issues with tuning? Yes, there will be a need to retune.
  - c. JD feels there needs to be a consistency. Her preference would be original colours.
  - d. PL is against the proposal. PL felt that using a car body shop is not the correct way and we need to be consistent with the unity of the scheme. Peter explained that Ron Sims had the pipes painted because he wanted to blend them in with the surrounding woodwork ie. make them less visible. His was a scheme which focussed on the centrality of the Eucharist so that when people are at the communion rail they would be drawn with little visual interruption to the Crucified Christ in the window and the last supper reredos. Ron Sims wanted to move away from the cosy opulence which had dominated the interior e.g. carpeted nave, heavy brown Victorian furniture to create a sharper visual representation of the passion of Christ e.g. the black metalwork with thorn motif and simple nave altar. One of the very best things that Ron did was to get rid of the drab dark brown finish to the organ casing, pulpit and all chancel furniture and have it lightened and limed. The resulting ethereal quality of the light in there is uplifting and optimistic. He wanted to do the same to pews and ceiling ribs but the Victorian Society stopped this. The south light quality in church is wonderful. Ron used that to give a lighter, airy feeling due to light reflecting off the limestone walls and limed woodwork. Returning the pipes to their original colour would, in Peters view, diminish what Ron’s vision and purpose was.
  - e. If there was damage to the pipes who would take the liability for this? Julian answered it would be the organ contractor to supervise and he would bear any cost
  - f. York Minister have had a refurb of their organ pipes recently. John Green thought this would be worth looking at.
  - g. Concerns over the investment we have made recently on the organ work and would this damage them in any way?
  - h. 17 out of 3000 pipes would need to be replaced
  - i. Matthew does not feel that the silver would detract from the Last Supper windows and didn’t have a strong personal opinion either way.
- viii. A vote took place with the results as follows:
- a. 5 for and 2 against, 2 abstentions
  - b. Progress with the DAC application - In the application we need to state that, Julian is funding the project but the faculty will have to be applied for in the name of St John’s. St John’s will employ Peter Wood Organ Builders to do the work but the PCC did ask for a written undertaking from Julian that he will take financial responsibility for any defects, tuning costs or collateral damage. We will also need to inform our insurers if and when the work proceeds. **Action Matthew**

## 12. Social Events

- I. Charity concert event on the 5<sup>th</sup> February in aid of Action for Children
- II. Following the cinema success in November we are hoping to do a February Cinema after the half term. Matt will work on this and engage with the young people. (26<sup>th</sup> Feb)

- III. Queens Jubilee is the first weekend in June. The Big Lunch will take place which is a national initiative. We are hoping to have a picnic and a bouncy castle. A creative Evensong offer should be planned. 5<sup>th</sup> June is also Pentecost.
- IV. We need a new committee for social Events. A chair of the group would be excellent. Sarah volunteered to help and Mary Grover said she would be happy to be involved as lead from the Pastoral Care Committee. Mary and Matthew to take the leadership on this to the pastoral care committee. The Wozencroft were proposed as potential chairs.
- V. 2<sup>nd</sup> July will be a music concert

### **13. Safeguarding**

- I. Past Case Review – Claire updated on how this is working currently. Claire updated that the Diocese have been in touch about a past case review at St John's which is being investigated. **Claire to update the PCC on this as necessary.**
- II. WhatsApp group – Claire to progress a meeting with Philip Collin as we should not be using this with our young people. Discord to be looked at. **Action Claire**

### **Any other business**

#### **i. Children and Youth**

- a. Matt asked where we are with St Marys and St Marks and are we any closer to having a unified person who can work across the churches. Matt is having a meeting with Lynn at St Marks to look at their requirements.
- b. When Matt sets up the Cinema event the young people will be engaged. We have the capacity to engage with the young people through this type of event. We have had a few families who have not been to church before. We need to make sure that someone is here that can help run this when Matt leaves his curacy.

ii. Confirmation has been planned for Ascension Day 27<sup>th</sup> May and Matt is leading the groups for this.

iv. APCM – 24<sup>th</sup> April is fixed for the APCM. Pauline would not be able to attend [REDACTED]

v. 6<sup>th</sup> February Accession Declaration of Elizabeth II, 1952. This will be signified by a ¼ peal to be rung and the All Age service will be themed.

vi. Pauline will be admitted as Church Warden by Malcolm Chamberlain Archdeacon on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

**Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Meeting closed with The Grace at 21:20**

Approved by Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_