

St Margaret's Church, Angmering
PCC minutes, 13th September 2021, Church Hall

Present: John Bawler, Ben Bennett, Steve Bentley, David Boreham, Alan Butler, David Fordham, Chris Harris, John Heaton, Ann Jones, Hannah Jones, Jackie Johnson, Ben Lucas, Esther O'Toole, Sue Pauley, John Roberts, Tina Smith, Mark Standen (chair), Adrian Warburton, Chris Wild, Chris Wilson

1. Mark Standen welcomed everyone to our first 'in person' PCC for a while. Two short passages that were pertinent to today were shared; Esther 4 v14. Esther was raised up by God to serve him 'in such a time as this' and we should see ourselves as having been raised up to serve him in this post Covid period.
Ezra 1v1. As we serve God in this generation, we can trust in his power to move the hearts of even the most powerful of people to achieve his plans. This was followed by prayers.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Derek Dainton, Keith Varney
3. **Minutes of PCC meeting, 21st June 2021.**
Couple of minor errors corrected. Unanimously agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising**
None
5. **Chairman's comments**
 - (i) The post Covid opening up of the church is going well with 3 services now offered and numbers growing.
Thanks were offered to all who had kept the 'show on the road' for the last 18 months, in particularly those who had produced the music.
The All Age service held on the 5th Sept had a disappointingly small number of children, which could be for various reasons. Agreed to wait and see what the numbers are next month before reacting.
The 5 service has a very different style of music and a new format giving a good flow of praise and worship which worked well. It would seem that older primary school children are moving towards the 5 leaving the very young at the 10am service – this will be monitored over the coming weeks. Care needs to be taken that background music doesn't drown out the spoken voice.
 - (ii) Matt Porter has been in touch and passed on best wishes and thanks to all for the gift
 - (iii) CoFE Covid 19 guidance – thanks to Chris for the precis of the lengthy document. Agreed that it would be prudent to stay as we are currently and see how the next few weeks look around Covid. Ventilation in the church may be problematic in the winter months. Seat spacing is leading to capacity issues with more chairs being needed and blocking fire exits. Agreed a strategy needs to be in place for where extra seating is to be put (Wardens to look at this). All covid

measures need to be revisited at each meeting to reflect the current situation.

(iv) Initiative by Chris and Heather Wild – ‘Shaken or stirred’. Details were circulated of the planned short course and discussed. The rationale of the course is to use the experiences of the pandemic to open a conversation around faith drawing on personal experiences. Ways of publicizing this were discussed – social media, local publications, posters, local churches etc. It was thought that the three meeting weeks should end by the end of November to avoid a clash with Christmas events planned.

(v) General Synod elections. Mark, David F and John H are all standing. Prayers were asked for all please as there is a general push to get more evangelical input to the synod. Voting by the Deanery Synod will take place late Sept / early Oct.

(vi) Relicensing of Lay Readers – John Roberts and David White. Proposed: Steve Bentley, Seconded: Ann Jones. Unanimous agreement.

(vii) Mark shared a sheet of proposed dates / activities for the next three months which was discussed. A couple of events of note: On 25th Sept there is an event being arranged by the Parish Council ‘Angmering Revealed’ where local organisations can gather in the Community Centre and publicise their groups. All local churches will be represented. On 3rd Oct it is planned to have services as usual, followed by a picnic in the Rectory gardens, weather permitting. Mark asked for any ideas / suggestions to be sent to him asap. A climate service was also suggested (in line with Diocese)

6. Youth, Children and Families.

Chris Wilson gave a short verbal report on his first couple of weeks in post. He thanked all for the warm welcome.

Children’s work in the 10am and 5pm services are going ahead using the same material as in the main church services. Adventurers (9-13yrs) and Rooted (13yrs – late teen) groups have both re-started; Adventurers are looking at the theme of change using Acts while Rooted are planning a social event to invite friends. The school is looking at re-starting assemblies soon and Christian Union after half term. Chris also has some ideas of a Halloween event he organized in London, a service of light, and will think whether this could be possible here.

Chris asked for prayer in organizing rotas and social groups while still getting to know people.

Chris was co-opted onto the PCC as a full member. Proposed: John Bawler. Seconded: Jackie Johnson

7. Finance Report

Thanks to the work done in previous years to facilitate regular giving by standing order, the rates of giving have held up very well during the pandemic. There is currently a projected surplus of approx £20k which does not include any extra giving as a result of Gift Sunday.

The budget for 2022 is currently being planned by the Finance team to be presented to the PCC in November (before Gift Sunday). It was thought the best approach to employing a second children’s / youth worker would be to wait a while to let Chris settle in and see what is needed.

The funding for an extra ministry trainee will be added as a budget line for half of the year.

There has been a request to increase our Parish share paid to the Diocese from 105% to 150%.

This was thought to be excessive especially in light of the possibility of having to finance a curate

in the future.

8. Safeguarding

James Nicholls had nothing new to report

9. Buildings

The 5 yearly electrical survey of the church estate has just begun – it covers the church, church hall, vestry hall and vestry cottage. All equipment will be PAT tested.

Thanks were extended to Keith Varney for arranging the churchyard tidy. The front wall by the car park needs some remedial work done on it.

Roofing and drainage issues with the church building are in progress (co-ordinated by David B with Andy Kyte) and will hopefully be sorted before winter weather arrives.

An accident report form has been completed regarding Malcolm Hawke's fall. The church steps, where he fell, have been examined and had recently been cleaned of any growth so did not present a particular trip hazard.

10. Wardens items

None

11. Correspondence

None

12. AOB

None

13. Meeting concluded at 9.20pm with prayers, followed by The Grace

Next meeting: Mon 1st November 21 , 7.15pm in the Church Hall

Meeting dates for 2022 to be available at November meeting