



LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday September 30th

at St Thomas Church at 7:30 pm.

Present: Bronwen Bridges, David Bridges (Churchwarden), Pat Cashin, Barbara Clapper, Daphne Johnston, Andrew Payne, Sylvia Pepin, Michael Standage, Peta Walmesley, Peter Salisbury (Vicar), Mary Hill (Secretary).		
1	Welcome and prayer: The Vicar welcomed everyone and opened the evening with a prayer.	
2	Apologies for absence were received from Brian Cox, Maureen Harris, Ray Shepherd, Celia Swan, Jeremy Vines, David Wansey, Malcolm Ward, Ray Shepherd and Malcolm Haigh.	
3	Proposals for AOB. Bronwen Bridges asked for an item concerning the charity Empty Bowls to be considered. This was agreed.	
4	The minutes of the July meeting were approved.	
5	Matters arising: Welcome Network: There was general agreement that welcoming refugees aligns with Our Vocation of offering hospitality in Jesus' name, but more details were needed to know exactly what is required for St Thomas to register as a Welcome Network Church. Bronwen Bridges agreed to research the idea further.	BB
6	Chairman's Report: The Vicar thanked member of the PCC for their responses to his request for ideas on how the Church should proceed with opening up after Covid-19 and said that the issue would be discussed further under the Main Business section of the Agenda.	
7	<p>Buildings and Land Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints and Tops Nursery. Michael Standage was pleased to report that all the building work had been completed on time and that it looked good. There were minor snagging issues but these were being dealt with. The formal opening of Tops will be held on December 10th, 2021. <p>The main legal issue that needs to be resolved is that of Dr Burge's encroachment on the NE corner of the All Saints site more than ten years ago in order to build a car port. MS had circulated a detailed report of the steps that have already been taken to find a solution. The Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance (WDBF) holds the freehold of the entire site and the PCC has managerial responsibilities in respect of the site and therefore it is up to the PCC to decide the future of Dr Burge's encroachment. On the advice of the Diocese and Legal Adviser, since there would be considerable costs involved if the issue was taken on by lawyers, the PCC representatives on the Management Committee have recommended that: <i>The PCC approve in principle Dr Burge's offer to purchase the disputed plot of land from the church with the condition that the PCC receives financial compensation from him for the legal and valuation fees which have been incurred in defending his claims of ownership of the land; to pay the PCC's legal fees in connection with the sale of the land and to cover the costs associated with any necessary further Pastoral Scheme and public consultation.</i> The PCC were also reminded that Dr Burge may reject the initial offer price and seek to reduce it. Should this happen, it is recommended that Dr Burge be reminded that the next step would be to meet in the Land Registry where costs are likely to exceed any reduction he is seeking in the offer price.</p> <p>This negotiated settlement was proposed by David Bridges and seconded by Peta Walmesley and it was agreed unanimously.</p>	

- **All Saints repairs.** The walls behind the altar need repointing. MS has had a reasonable quote for £2,500 and would like the PCC to accept this. Daphne Johnston proposed this request and Sylvia Pepin seconded it. It was agreed unanimously.
- **St Thomas repairs.**
East End repairs/ stonework and roofing. Work on the East End should start in the Spring after the report from the structural engineers has been received and the schedule of works has gone out to tender.
West End. DB reported that the circular flower bed by the door must be removed as it is causing damage to the wall and ideas for possible landscaping and enhancement are being sought from the public via the St Thomas website.
- Jonathan Cook, who has been involved in the All Saints/Tops project from the beginning, is resigning from the All Saints Management Committee at the end of December. The PCC expressed grateful thanks for JC's energy and commitment in seeing the project through all its stages.

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Finance Report.

Andy Payne had circulated his Finance Report prior to the meeting.

1. **Accounts update.** The current investments and assets are £670,080.
2. **Management Accounts.** The six-month figures for income and expenditure up until June 30th show a deficit of £17,807 compared to a budgeted deficit of £23,515.
3. **CMF 2022.** We have been asked to contribute £131,188.11 to the CMF. This was proposed by Andy Payne and seconded by David Bridges. All agreed.
4. **Charitable giving.** AP has received letters of thanks for our donations to the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers, the Church Mission Society and from Restored Lives. The Bible Society has yet to reply about our intention to donate £3,500 to them. This may be as a result of our current lack of representatives for the charity and will probably affect future giving. The choice of our Christmas charity will be decided at the November PCC meeting.
5. **HSBC accounts and change of bank.** From November 1st, HSBC will no longer offer free banking to charities such as St Thomas Church and so the Finance Committee asked the PCC to approve the following decisions in order to minimise the number of accounts we hold. The Finance Committee therefore asked the PCC for approval for the following decisions relating to HSBC accounts:
 - 40-30-36 61171801 PCC Lymington St Thomas Hall. Vistas are the only user of this account and have requested to use the HSBC Treasurer's account. This change was proposed by Peta Walmesley and seconded by Bronwen Bridges. All agreed
 - 40-36-36 81450581 Lymington PCC St Thomas' Renewal Appeal. Since this appeal has affectively closed, the four remaining donors are being encouraged to adopt the PGS as their means of giving. The closure of this account was proposed by Daphne Johnston and seconded by Barbara Clapper. All agreed.
 - 40-30-36 20545988 Lymington Parochial Church Council Gift Aid Account. This receives donations by standing order from ten donors, donations via PGS, donations via Stewardship.org., HMRC tax refunds and transfers from the Parish Hall Trust. Discussing with these donors alternative ways of giving to the Church will be sensitive and may take some time. This change was proposed by Peta Walmesley and seconded by David Bridges. All agreed.
 - **Change of bank for deposit of coins, notes and cheques.** Since HSBC has closed its counters, the Church has been using the Post Office for weekly banking but has found this a time-consuming and difficult exercise. They therefore suggest that the Church moves its banking to Lloyds who currently offer a year's free banking for new business

	customers. The closure of the remaining HSBC account (40-30-36 6122321) and the change to Lloyds was proposed by Peta Walmesley and seconded by Michael Standage. All agreed.	
9	<p>Health and Safety Report.</p> <p>Malcolm Ward had circulated his H and S Report prior to the meeting. The main issues were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid 19 precautions such as face masks and hand sanitisers will continue for the immediate future. • The biennial St Thomas H and S audit has been reviewed and updated. • The Church of England has required all churches to review all H and S Risk Assessments relating to their buildings and grounds. Several Risk Assessments have already been carried out for past and future events. These include the Messy Church, Petanque picnic, St. Thomas Eco Fair, Remembrance Sunday and the Toddler Group. 	
10	<p>Main Business: Covid Recovery Plan and pMAP</p> <p>The Vicar introduced the discussion on the current situation at St Thomas' and asked committee members to consider what they thought were the main issues that needed to be considered as we begin the move out of the restrictions imposed by Covid. He also asked whether in the light of these considerations we needed to refine the objectives of pMAP. He distributed a leaflet of his ideas on what was most urgent for both the short-term recovery and the long-term growth and sustainability of the Parish. He also circulated the summary of the three sections of pMAP. After discussion in groups, all agreed that in the short term, as well as managing Covid -29 restrictions (which is the responsibility of the Vicar), the focus should be on pastoral care in the Parish. The Vicar mentioned some ideas from his Deanery meetings that we might like to consider (e.g. developing interactive online attendance at services; leaflet drops with a 'We're still here' message; revisiting pMAP by enlarging teams) but everyone agreed that we have much to offer in Lymington and that contacting people who had not returned to church and providing opportunities for involvement in parochial activities should be our first priority.</p>	
11	<p>Correspondence: The secretary had received a letter from Daphne Johnston on behalf of the Solent Music Festival Directors thanking the Church for its support and encouragement.</p>	
12	<p>Diary Dates: The secretary confirmed that PCC meetings in 2022 would be held on the fourth Thursday of each alternative months at 7:30pm at the Church. There might be a move to the fifth Thursday in September 2022 (as had happened this year) because of the Solent Music Festival. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in April at a date yet to be decided.</p>	
13	<p>AOB. Bronwen Bridges drew our attention to a local charity called Empty Bowls where potters provide pottery bowls to restaurants where they are sold and money is raised for local food charities.</p>	
14	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday November 25th 2021 at 7:30pm in St Thomas Church.</p>	
15	<p>The Vicar closed the meeting with prayer.</p>	