



Minutes of the Meeting of the United Church Council

Held on Monday 9 November 2020

Meeting held on Zoom

Present: Gill Bayley, David Carruthers, Buzz Coster, Jane Earl, David Gilbert, John Glidden, Martyn Gowing, Petra Hedges, Sue Hillier, John Rhodes, Adam Shiels

In attendance: Helen Swain

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Vice-Chair, Jane Earl

1) Opening prayer: Led by Jane Earl

2) Apologies for absence were received from. David Hibbert and Revd Deborah Snowball

3) Welcome to Council:

The Chair welcomed everyone, both new members and those who stood for a further term.

4) Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020:

These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed.

5) Matters arising

- a) *Contactless giving (item 4a):* The machines are now working and in use.
- b) *Pandemic update (item 4c):* The church is now closed both for services and for private worship. Reopening will depend on government guidelines. Services will be held on Zoom while the church is closed.
- c) *Annual meetings (item 10a):* These had been held on 11 October.
- d) *Update on staff health:* Deborah has had her surgery; she is now recovering and thanked everyone for their prayers. David Carruthers will contact Katrina and enquire how she is getting on with her treatment. **Action: DC**
- e) *HSBC bank accounts (item 10b):* The paperwork has now been completed to add Adam Shiels as a signatory on the HSBC accounts and change the address to which correspondence is sent.
- f) *Church Centre bank accounts (item 12d):* It was not known if the change to the authorised signatories had gone through. The Churchwardens will make enquiries. **Action: CWs**

6) Appointments:

The following were appointed to UCC roles:

- a) Lay Vice-Chair: Jane Earl
- b) UCC Secretary: Buzz Coster
- c) UCC Treasurer: Adam Shiels
- d) Chairs of the following committees (appointed by the Vicar): appointments approved
 - i) Community & Outreach Committee: Jane Earl
 - ii) Chair of Fabric & Churchyard Committee: David Hibbert
 - iii) Chair of Stewardship & Finance Committee: John Rhodes
 - iv) Chair of Charitable Giving Committee: Jane Earl

7) Safeguarding

- a) *Training:* Training has now resumed and is taking place online. The number who can attend is limited. Two UCC members need to do C0 and the new Deputy Safeguarding Officer, Sue Johnson, needs to do C2. Sue Johnson is now registered as the DSO and can do DBS checks.
- b) *Regular hall users list:* Helen Swain presented an updated list of regular users. The UCC approved the list. Compliance with all regulations is part of their contract of hire.

- c) *Safeguarding Officer*: No-one has yet volunteered to take on this role. It was noted that Sue Johnson does not wish to take on the lead role. Thanks were expressed to HS for everything she has done as Safeguarding Officer, a role which has evolved and grown since she initially took it on.

8) Appointment of sidespeople

This is now the responsibility of the UCC. It was agreed to wait until January 2021 to appoint the sidespeople.

9) Diocesan/Deanery/Circuit news

- a) *Diocesan*: John Rhodes reported that the Synod met in October. Financial issues were prominent on the agenda. He reported that stipendiary clergy will not receive a pay rise in April 2021 and some posts may be left unfilled. The Synod approved the Clergy Care & Welfare Covenant and JR recommended everyone look at this. **Action: All**

The Diocese resolved to become an eco-Diocese in which all parishes will work towards net zero emissions in the future.

David Carruthers reported that Diocesan funding for schools is likely to be lower and the school may look to the church for assistance. This will be discussed at the S&F committee.

- b) *Deanery*: No meetings appear to be taking place. BC still needs to notify the Deanery of the names of the recently elected representatives. **Action: BC**
- c) *Circuit*: No report.

10) Financial report

- a) *Current financial status*:

	06/11/2020	14/09/2020
Current & deposit accounts	£49,067	£71,207
Epworth (Myers & other bequests)	£216,337	£217,056
CBF	£6,528	£6,522
CBF Plate Fund	£88,993	£88,993

The large difference in the current and deposit accounts is due to the charitable donations being sent out. Also, the date of the update fell between the payment of the parish share and the receipt of funds from the Parish Giving Scheme.

- b) *Income and expenditure*: Adam Shiels had previously circulated the figures.
- c) *Agreement of Budget for 2021*: A draft budget has been prepared and, without remedial action, a large deficit is likely. This will be reviewed as soon as Deborah is back with the aim of bringing the budget to the UCC for approval in January. The draft budget will be presented to the S&F committee in November
- d) *Stewardship Sunday 2021: 17 January 2021*: It was noted that people have been extremely generous already this year and Jane Earl suggested therefore that more focus be given to the stewardship of time and talents. It was agreed that as much as possible be communicated electronically in order to cut down on paper

11) Christmas 2020

- a) *Church services*: It is hoped that we will be able to hold services in church on Christmas Eve (Midnight Communion) and Christmas Day. Services will also be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live.
- b) *Crib service*: Chris Hillier is working on a nativity play/crib service on Zoom on Christmas Eve.
- c) *Carol service*: This will take place on Zoom and Facebook Live. It is possible that the lesson readers may be in church.
- d) *Christmas tree*: It had been suggested that a tree might be mounted on the roof of the north porch. Martyn Gowing will look into this. **Action: MG**
- e) *Christmas cards*: As it is not possible to have boxes at the back of church as usual, a number of people offered to deliver cards around the area. The CWs will ask Karen if she will be able to sort them. If she is willing, it was agreed that all cards should be delivered to the office by 14 December. BC is able to put together a page on the website for people to post general greetings. She will write something for the pewsheet. **Action: CWs, BC**

12) Mission Action Plan (MAP)

The MAP needs to be reviewed and people are needed to contribute to this. Interested individuals should speak to Jane Earl or Deborah.

13) Date of next meeting: Monday 11 January 2021

14) Closing prayers

The meeting ended with the Grace.