



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting -via Zoom

Monday November 23rd 2020 7pm

Present:

Revd. Rob Gladstone (chair) Jonty Pilbeam, Angela Neill, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Alison Godfrey, Linda Poole, Mike Ferguson, Wendy Ferguson, Ros Taylor, Jenny Pilbeam, Ray Prince, Clive Jackson, Alison Parkinson, Wendy Lewis, Liz Barker, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read from Romans 1:1-7: A reminder of why we exist as a Church and 'the obedience of faith'.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: None

Jenny Pilbeam was co-opted to PCC and welcomed.

Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Wardens were appointed: Susan Pinkus (Secretary), Sue Wilson (Treasurer), Assistant Wardens Ken Arkley, Fred Sleath, Ruth Gilmore and Jean Johnson.

New PCC Members: Wendy Lewis, Alison Parkinson and Liz Barker were welcomed.

Everyone was referred to documents on the PCC Code of Conduct and An Introduction to the PCC which had been circulated before the meeting.

Electoral Roll Officer appointed: Marion Whitby.

Approval of minutes from September 21st 2020: Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: None

3. Finance

General Fund Budget 2021

Sue Wilson explained that the General Fund handles all the general income and day-to-day expenditure of the church. A budget is agreed by the PCC each year and at each meeting the latest available income and expenditure figures are compared to that budget. A narrative report is produced to accompany the figures. A Statement of Financial Activities is also issued and this includes not only the General Fund, but all other sums of money put aside or donated for specific purposes. This statement includes actual figures at a given time, whereas the General Fund is adjusted to take account of pending Gift Aid claims and tithe payments.

The forecast for 2020 is that we will end the year with a small surplus.

It has been more difficult than usual to forecast income and expenditure for 2021 and the budget presented is a worst-case scenario. The minutes of the last PCC meeting and the Finance Report for this meeting explain the assumptions that have been made. A balanced budget would only be achieved on paper by cutting the amount we give to the Diocese in Parish Contribution and/or the amount we give away to local, national and international mission through our annual tithe. The treasurer did not believe the PCC wished to do either. However, she also believed that this deficit budget was a cause for careful

consideration but not for alarm. If approved, this budget would be monitored monthly by the Finance Team and any concerns immediately reported to the PCC. The general feeling was that it was better to be prepared for a possible financial shortfall than to be caught out. Our reserves are healthy so we would be able to cover a deficit if it happened.

All approved the budget for 2021.

Annual Report 2020 Schedule

Sue Wilson reported that, as well as the required statutory reporting, for the benefit of our church members and any other interested persons we include a collection of narrative reports about the various areas of church activity and responsibility. This year has been very different to anything we have experienced before but we have continued to try to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ in this village. So, for those responsible for preparing reports this year, it was suggested that we shouldn't prepare a list of things we haven't been able to do, but a positive description of how we have adapted and what we have done - and we have done a lot! The deadline for reports is 11th January 2021.

Action: Sue to contact those people who are not members of the PCC and will provide further information for Alison Godfrey.
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4. Safeguarding

November is normally a time for the safeguarding review but it has not been reviewed as we have not been functioning normally and there are no changes to make. It was proposed that the current policies should roll over to 2021. Wendy pointed out that the safeguarding returns have not been requested from the Diocese yet but Rob countered with the information that Birstall have received theirs.

Action: Wendy to check on diocesan returns.
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For information there is new information/guidance for digital contact with children on the diocesan website.

5. Diocese and Deanery Update

David Wilson provided a brief overview of current developments in Goscote Deanery and the wider diocese.

Rothley has four elected lay members on Deanery Synod: Wendy Ferguson, Ray Prince, Linda Poole and David Wilson plus Rob as Vicar/ Area Dean. The major focus of the most recent meeting (18th November) was finance where it became apparent that there was a 13% reduction across the Deanery in the amount offered in Parish Contribution to the Diocese for 2021 compared to that offered for 2020. Covid-19 was a significant factor accounting for the shortfall. There was also a useful exchange of information about the way benefices across the Deanery were coping with life under lockdown.

At Diocesan Synod on 21st November finance was again central to discussions. A deficit budget of some £500k was passed, but the focus of the Synod was an initial debate on "Shaped by God Together", a project which is looking at potential new patterns of ministry in the light of the severe future financial challenges faced by the Diocese. David felt that it was vitally important that we in Rothley engage with the ongoing consultation process.

A number of other topics were signalled for initial discussion by Diocesan Synod in 2021, notably "Living in Love and Faith", for which national resources were published in November 2020. It is

envisaged that this topic will be discussed at diocesan, deanery and parish level at an appropriate point in the future.

6. Operations

The recent Quinquennial Inspection report on the church building will shortly be sent out to PCC members for discussion at the next meeting.

The boiler house demolition and gas meter move have been on hold due to the pandemic, but it is hoped to resume this project in the new year.

There were 2 proposals put forward for PCC approval:

(a) Laptop for use with the AV system, to be funded from Pat Foulds' legacy.

Mike suggested this could be purchased, complete with Windows 2019, for about £625. This was agreed, with one abstention. However, a discussion then followed about future proofing any large technology purchase such as this. It was felt that the Communications group need to discuss our future needs to avoid any improvements taking place in a piecemeal fashion. It was agreed that Alison Parkinson and Jenny Pilbeam should initiate this discussion with the Communications group.

(b) Updating Liz Sleath's computer to improve functioning. Approx. cost of laptop and software £1500.

This item was deferred until the next PCC meeting as there were a few issues concerning our current wi-fi contract and connection.

Health and Safety:

Emergency lighting has been replaced under warranty.

Charnwood Borough Council have been contacted re clearing/pollarding trees in the churchyard.

All the current Covid-19 restrictions and arrangements are still in place and operating well.

7. Working Groups

Church Building

Angel Neill outlined the improvements that have taken place so far including the upgrading of the audio-visual system with six new screens installed and training taking place for operators. The improvements to the fabric of the building, including lowering the porch floor, installing an internal glass door, refurbishing the server room and reordering the choir vestry have received positive feedback from the Diocese and we are now at the stage of consulting the congregation which is being held up by the Covid-19 restrictions at the moment. So, everything is on hold.

Discipleship

Alison Godfrey reminded the PCC that this group is about the growth of discipleship and the growth of faith. It has had three clear points of focus: prayer, housegroups and leadership training. The group hasn't met since before the initial lockdown period and it is anticipated that they will try to meet soon.

Send

This group meets three or four times a year and is responsible for the administration of the Church tithe. It is about more than just our home and overseas links though and includes the food bank and the homeless in our local community.

Communication with the Church family has been largely through the Fellowship Post during the pandemic, but there have also been videos and services on Facebook and YouTube which have been made available to the congregation and the wider community.

Communication

This group is in development. We are exploring ways in which we can be more proactive in regard to getting our message out to the wider community as well as within our Church community, e.g. be aware of deadlines for The Rothley Post; explore ways in which the new AV system can be utilised to link to evangelism; advertise for people within our Church community who have creative talents to come forward and join the group.

8. Vicar's Report

We await clarification after this current period of lockdown. Whichever tier Charnwood is placed in will affect our usual 9.30am Sunday Service. (Announced today, November 26th, that we are in Tier 3.)

Christmas Services during the pandemic

Paul Parkinson, Jenny Pilbeam and Rob Gladstone will meet to produce some of our online Christmas services.

Sunday December 20th Liz Sleath and the Sunday School leaders are working on a children's nativity online service.

Sunday December 20th Carols by Candlelight online service

December 24th Christingle online. Jo Beals is working on a video to post online and Alison has recorded Away in a Manger for this service. Plus a package containing a candle and leaflet on how to make a Christingle and its significance is being handed out to all the children at Rothley School.

Christmas Morning

The 9.30am service in church will go ahead.

There will be no online service that day but Rob will post some thoughts online.

There will be no 9.30am service on **Sunday 27th December.**

We are planning to send out a Christmas card from the Church to all houses in the local community.

The meeting closed at 20.35 with a prayer of thanks led by David Wilson.

Next meetings:

Business Committee, Wednesday 13th January 2021: details to be notified

PCC, Monday 25th January 2021: details to be notified

Reports for the PCC meeting to be sent to Susan Pinkus by Sunday 10th January prior to Business Committee please. Thank you.

