



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting -via Zoom

Monday September 21st 2020 7pm

Present:

Revd. Rob Gladstone (chair) Jonty Pilbeam, Angela Neill, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, David Salt, Alison Godfrey, Linda Poole, Margaret Offley, Mike Ferguson, Wendy Ferguson, Ros Taylor, Ray Prince, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read from Haggai 1:1-11.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Clive Jackson, Jenny Pilbeam. Serena Cook has now moved away to study at university and Rob expressed thanks for her contribution to the PCC.

Approval of minutes from July 13th 2020: Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: None

3. Finance

Parish Organisation Statement

Usually, at the September PCC meeting, the Finance Committee submits for review the Parish Organisation Statement, which is a short document stating who line-manages whom in the Church's paid roles. The Finance Committee would like to bring the timing of this annual review in line with the finance policies which come forward each March.

All agreed.

Finance Report

The Finance Report and papers provided the Church's financial position at 31st July, as well as a forecast for the end of the year and the first draft of the budget for 2021.

The forecast for 2020 is that we will ride out the difficulties of the year with a small surplus.

The first draft of the budget for 2021 should be seen as a worst-case scenario where income is down £6,200:

- £2,000 in donations and tax recovery
- £150 in bank interest (rates have dropped and we have started to spend some of the large legacy)
- £1,600 in fees (no forecast for weddings in case restrictions continue and couples cancel)
- £2,500 in OSR income

while expenditure remains at 2020 budget levels. In 2020 we were anticipating a possible £2,000 deficit, hence the predicted £8,000 deficit with £6,000 less income. The draft budget for 2021 includes a 'normal' year's expenditure, which may not happen, although it needs to be noted that external costs, such as insurance, telephone and broadband, continue to rise regardless. The maintenance costs for the church and OSR are taken from the 10-Year Management and Maintenance Plan, which keeps track of essential costs as well as recording work for which timing is flexible. We usually fund the latter from accumulated reserves or legacies. If 2021 should turn out to be a 'normal' year, then income would rise and the deficit would be smaller. At present the worldwide situation is too uncertain to predict, hence a balanced budget is not possible. The preference of the Finance Committee is always to be cautious and then be pleasantly surprised, rather than to be too optimistic and become careless.

The 2021 budget will come to the PCC for agreement in November, with any amendments that arise or that you request.

Parish Contribution 2020/2021

The Parish Contribution, our share towards the expenses of the diocese, is not a levy, but a donation decided by individual PCCs. We have been asked to confirm our pledge for 2020 and make a pledge for 2021. The thrust of the request for 2021 is for the same amount as we pledged in 2020. Of course, an increased pledge would be very gratefully received, but only if this could definitely be fulfilled.

From the forecasts, we can certainly pay the full £96,430 for 2020 - in fact, because we pay monthly by bank standing order we have already paid two thirds of this pledge.

For 2021, even in the face of a possible deficit, it was suggested we make the Parish Contribution a priority and offer the same pledge as 2020, £96,430, the reason being that we have always tried to follow the steer of the diocese and, if necessary, we have accumulated reserves of around £20,000 which could be used to support this expenditure. Sue W thought it unwise to increase the pledge for 2021 for two reasons: firstly, the possibility of an £8,000 deficit; secondly, the expected above-inflation increase to be asked by the diocese for 2022 - in fact, this was what was asked for 2021 in the original paperwork that arrived just before lockdown.

The diocese has asked the PCC to be **generous, realistic and prayerful** in its response and to explain its decision with reference to those principles.

We were also asked to share any specific requests for prayer for our parish and the Community of the Tree of Life will include them in their prayers for the diocese in the coming months. It was pointed out that, unfortunately, these are not followed up with the parish, which is disappointing.

We then paused for a time of individual reflection and prayer.

After a discussion the PCC voted unanimously to confirm the £96,430 pledge for 2020 and to offer the same amount for 2021.

Prayer requests:

RG pointed out that we seem to be engaging successfully with the older members of our congregation during the pandemic, but he was concerned that the younger members and young families were not being accommodated so well.

Our connections with Rothley Primary School.

Our connections with our local care homes and sheltered accommodation.

4. Operations

Angela spoke to the meeting about the procedures at the 9.30am Sunday Service. It is well-attended by around 60 people. Feedback has been very positive.

If the church building is to be used more often than at present, more frequent cleaning will be necessary, which may incur additional cost.

OSR: Linda made a bid for a business support grant from Charnwood Borough Council, but unfortunately our bid was too small to qualify.

Ongoing Work: It is hoped the crack in the wall by the passageway door will be inspected when the architect makes the Quinquennial Inspection of the church on 7th October.

Bookings: Pilates and Brownies are still not meeting in OSR at the moment and obviously bookings are down due to the pandemic.

Health and Safety: This will be discussed in more detail at a later meeting. The annual review of policies is not relevant at present as we have to follow specific government guidelines during the pandemic.

Reordering update: Due to the current situation this is on hold. However, the demolition of the boiler house will be progressed as the structure is deteriorating. £10,000 was put aside for this.

The AV system was due to be completed the next day, 22nd September, with a training session also scheduled.

5. Send

Notes from the last meeting of this group were sent prior to this meeting and they outlined what is happening in the organisations we support and how we are managing to communicate this to the Church family.

Regular information now appears in the Fellowship Post, rather than through the half-yearly bulletins.

Tearfund's Connected Church programme, which links us with a specific project in Kenya, will be discontinued later in 2020. We currently donate 10% of the Church tithe to this programme and 7% to the general work of Tearfund.

The PCC agreed that the full 17% tithe allocation should be paid to the Tearfund Partner Church programme, which enables Tearfund to allocate the funds where most needed. This change will be effective from 1st January 2021.

6. Safeguarding

Wendy gave an update. Our policy and procedures are due for annual review at our November meeting.

7. Vicar's Report

Social Media Analytics

Action: Rob to send this document out to PCC members.

Communication and Church Services/Rothley Post

It was felt that our position was now stable enough to put information in the Rothley Post publication.

Action: Rob to arrange for information about our church services to be submitted to the Rothley Post.

Action: Rob to ensure that service times are updated on the website.

The Wardens are exploring the possibility of opening the church for occasional small group meetings on a Wednesday evening, subject to the current 'rule of six'.

APCM

The date has changed from October 28th to October 15th. It is our aim to keep the meeting as minimal as possible, whilst fulfilling the legal requirements.

The meeting closed with a prayer of thanks and The Grace at 20:20.

Next meetings:

APCM, 7pm, 15th October: details to be notified

Business Committee, Wednesday 11th November: details to be notified

PCC, Monday 23rd November: details to be notified

Reports for the PCC meeting to be sent to Susan Pinkus by Sunday 8th November prior to Business Committee please. Thank you .