



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting -via Zoom

Monday January 25th 2021 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 2 Peter 3 from verse 8 - a reminder to be faithful and obedient to the message as it had been taught.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: None

Approval of minutes from November 23rd 2020: Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: None

3. Operations

Mike Ferguson sought to clarify what was happening with the AV system. He had presented a case for a dedicated computer for the system at previous PCC meetings. He has researched a Dell Inspiron PC which would be suitable for Church use and streaming.

Following Mike's input, the PCC **agreed** the purchase of a laptop and associated software, with the money coming from the legacy.

Matters to do with OSR were deferred until after lockdown.

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church building took place on October 7th and a copy of the report was sent out to PCC members.

In summary the church building is in good condition and is well cared for. There were 12 recommendations with those in level 1 and 2 to be completed in the next 12 months.

Following discussion, it was decided that it would be more expeditious for the PCC to agree all proposals listed in levels 1 to 4 in the Report. All **agreed**, with the money to come from General Fund reserves.

4. Safeguarding

Wendy Ferguson and Kate Croden are keeping abreast of the communications coming from the Diocese and Wendy is keeping the dashboard up to date. Further review will take place when it looks as though we are returning to normal provision. For further information please see the Diocesan website.

5. Health and Safety /Covid Response

Just this week we have received a letter from the Elected Mayor and Director of Public Health in Leicester asking that all places of worship in the city and county should close except for funerals. No review date was given but it is anticipated that this will be in line with the next government review on 15th February. (However, this is still a decision to be taken by local PCC and this PCC had already taken the ‘close decision’ as a safety and protection strategy for our whole community in Rothley.)

6. Finance

Annual Review of Policies

The 2021 schedule was included with the papers for this meeting for information. The three policy areas are finance, health & safety and safeguarding. Finance policies will be reviewed at the March PCC meeting.

Annual Report & Accounts 2020

Work on the Annual Report & Accounts is well under way. The first task is to gather all the relevant figures as any income and expenditure that relates to 2020 must be included, even if it was received or spent after the end of the year. Three items remained to be added to the figures the PCC received. These figures will then go forward to the Independent Examiner for approval at the beginning of February, together with a detailed Trustees Report, formal notes explaining the accounts and the optional narrative reports we include in our reporting. Sue thanked all those who had prepared narrative reports on various areas of church activity.

We ended the year with a surplus of just under £3,000, thanks to the financial commitment of our church members. Donations were, understandably, down in 2020, but expenditure was also under budget. The Finance Report lists the headline figures.

The PCC will be asked to formally agree the accounts in March.

Several months ago it was suggested that the Quarter Days Heritage Events Fund should be renamed, now that our heritage activities are not regularly based around the Quarter Days.

The PCC was asked to approve a change from QDHEF to the Heritage Events Fund in the 2020 accounts. All **agreed**.

General Fund Budget 2021

We know a little more now than when the budget was first drawn up, but the Finance Team has decided to leave the worst-case scenario budget in place and monitor throughout 2021 as so many uncertainties remain about future church activities.

Sue and the Finance Team were thanked for all they do and Rob wanted to extend thanks to the whole Church Family for their continued support as our income is stronger than most Churches despite the ongoing pandemic.

7. Send

Ros Taylor reported that our main and discretionary tithe has reduced by only a small amount.

All agreed the Discretionary Tithe proposed in the report.

Our partnership with the Baptist Church in The Soar Valley Community Food Project were discussed and Ros proposed a one-off donation of £750 specifically for the use of the Baptist Church premises during 2020. The project has always been a joint venture between our two Churches and it was thought that such a donation would reflect our commitment.

All agreed a one-off donation to the Baptist Church of £750 to be paid out of the surplus in our General Fund.

Ros Taylor is now involved in the work being carried out on modern slavery in Leicester.

8. Discipleship

The minutes of the last meeting were sent out with the paperwork for this meeting. One correction was pointed out: Breakthrough is run by Ros Taylor and Fred Sleath.

Alison Parkinson suggested an idea for a Christian Book Club once a month.

9. Vicar's Report

In his report Rob had asked the PCC to consider the following:

1. In what way might our online provision need refreshing, bearing in mind the potential work load this involves for Paul and Jenny?

Members were enthusiastic about the regular interviews in the online services and hoped to see more. It was also suggested that we try to have more choir accompaniment, or even just a single voice, to lead any less well-known hymns/songs. Jenny Pilbeam said recording the choir is time-consuming to produce, although audio recording alone is easier.

2. How many/who are those who came to the building but are unable to access online resources?

There are only three people who attended 9.30am services who are unable to access online output, but they receive the paper copy of the Fellowship Post. Sue Jackson has explored recording the online service onto DVD for those who cannot access online services and two people are now receiving this. It does not breach any copyright issues.

3. Are we adequately serving those who are unable to access online services?

(See above)

4. How do we best address and build up those aspects of our Christian life together that we lose through not meeting face to face?

Alison Parkinson suggested that in addition to the reminder to contact each other after the online service, which is always made, we could perhaps explore having a Zoom coffee morning after the service once a month. Jenny added that if numbers were large this could be further facilitated by the use of breakout rooms on Zoom.

5. How do we all remain connected with and prayerfully invested in the work amongst children and young people?

Rob has involved young families in the current online services on several occasions. It was suggested that we could have another interview with our university students to get an update. Both Sunday School and our groups for older children and young people, Grid and Breakthrough, have been continuing online and meeting by Zoom once a week.

6. How do we best communicate our decisions and when do we review our decision?

On this point it was decided that it was best to wait on local and central government reviews.

Rob commented that Lent and Easter services and activities were on his radar and at the development stage. There was a book recommendation for Lent in the Fellowship Post last week.

10. Towards an integrated Communications Strategy

Sue Wilson thanked all those who got involved with this exercise and sent comments. The summary of responses brought forward a few more media that we either already use or might want to consider.

We currently use a wide range of communication media and the consensus is that we are being effective, but it could be helpful to further develop or sharpen some areas. However, to be able to do that, we may need to draw in a few more people from our congregation to become involved.

Sue answered the first of the general responses at the end of the paper by reminding us that it is the PCC who has overall responsibility for strategy, but that we rely on smaller groups of people to work on the detail of each area of our work and report back to us. For example, communication with church members is being addressed by the Discipleship Group, which draws together people with relevant interest and involvement. Similarly, the Finance Committee brings together some of the individuals involved in different aspects of church finance, under a chair who does not have a hands-on role but is concerned with overall strategy.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that we need to draw in more people from the congregation to help with both technical and marketing aspects of Church

communication. Jenny Pilbeam agreed that we should widen our use of social media to include Instagram.

Action: It was agreed that Jenny Pilbeam and Alison Parkinson should develop proposals for consideration by the PCC in order to further enhance our Church communications profile.

David suggested that we might want to consult with Jon Barrett, the Diocesan Mission and Communications Enabler.

11. Update on next APCM and Diocesan Synod

David Wilson reported on two items:

- a) Next APCM, to be held on Sunday 18th April - Following the decisions of both Angela Neill and Mike Ferguson not to stand again, two new Churchwardens will be required. At this point in time there are likely to be two vacancies for the PCC - Clive Jackson has completed six years and hence has to stand down; Ros Taylor has completed three years and is, therefore, eligible for re-election.
- b) Forthcoming Diocesan Synod Agendas - Two important issues are likely to come down from Diocesan Synod for discussion at parish level. The first is a major review of patterns of ministry across the diocese, entitled ***Shaped by God Together***; initial consultation meetings open to individuals are currently being arranged by the Diocese. (See Diomail to get involved.) The second important issue is ***Living in Love and Faith***, a series of resources on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Diocesan Synod in March 2021 will hear from a small working group convened by the Bishop about how this might best be taken forward at parish level.

The meeting closed at 20.45 with a prayer of thanks led by Rob Gladstone.

Next meetings:

**Business Committee, Wednesday 24th February 2021: details to be notified
PCC, Monday 8th March 2021: details to be notified**

Reports for the PCC meeting to be sent to Susan Pinkus by **Sunday February 21st** prior to Business Committee please. Thank you.

SusanPinkus Jan 28th 2021