



Minutes of the Zoom meeting of the Parochial Church Council

25th February 2021

Present:

Jonathan Ward, Rector	Sybil Andrew
Marc Bassot	Christine Blackburn
Bill Derham	Lenka Ellmann
Sarah Fletcher	Richard Ford
Sally Munns	Sarah Morgan
Martin Pinnell	Jeff Seabrook
Penny Seabrook	Jeremy Tagg
Philippa Tagg	Karen Williams

1. Apologies for absence/Prayer

Apologies were received from Annette Pinnell and Amber Stockdale. Jon read from Romans 15 and then we had a time of shared prayer.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2021 and matters arising

Re-wording of Item 3c. Allocations - ".....Although Steve Read will no longer be working in Coney Hall, do we still value his work? A number of people at St. John's continue to have contact with him. We have not yet decided whether to make an allocation to the Bible Society for 2021..."

3. PCC Meetings

Currently we have 9 PCC meetings p.a. plus the APCM. The legal minimum is 4 PCC meetings p.a.

Jon suggested that 3 or 4 of these meetings be development focussed with operational meetings every quarter. Updates in between could be posted by email. After discussion this new structure was agreed.

The accounts need to be presented at the March meeting and the APCM has to be held before the 31st May.

Jon will circulate dates for the rest of this year emphasising that it may be necessary on

occasions to address some matters between meetings, but this is not difficult.

Action: Jon to circulate PCC dates for the rest of 2021.

At this point we discussed a possible date for re-opening the church building for the 9.30 am service. West Wickham is below the national average for Covid and vaccination rates are high.

It was agreed that when we open we need to pay due regard to public health and safe exiting from the building. We will look to coordinate dates with the other local churches.

It was agreed that our potential target for re-opening be Palm Sunday.

4. Mission 2021

Our discussion focussed on the article Jon had circulated to help us look to the future with the suggestion that this could be further discussed at our meeting on 27th March.

The following points were raised –

Should another survey be circulated to the congregation?

To move from gathering to connecting.

We have done more during lockdown.

Open up church building more – public footpath.

People want **experience** of God.

Possibly re-open discussion with developers.

Lighting outlay

Opportunities with people in new estate

Possible 20% reduction in congregations generally when churches re-open – how to make contact with those who have been on line.

What about services at times other than Sunday morning?

We do need to meet **together**.

Meeting on line has been lifeline to many but people will be keen to come back, maybe more slowly.

Should we have both – on line and in building?

Jon had discussed this with Jonny – it is not just filming what you do in church – investment needed.

What do we want as a church? – our mission is to reach people outside.

Online is part of our space – especially for people not sure – going into a building can be very challenging.

Interviews at our services really good – people get flavour of what we do. Local people want to come to a local church – we can encourage families to watch.

We don't currently know if there is any growth in this area.

Martin, our Worship Team leader, said his team needs to look at the possibility of services in person + on line. This would not be so resource intensive as streaming the 10.30 service.

There are safeguarding issues too.

We cannot trace those who sign on

We do have the opportunity of reaching beyond our current area of influence.

Prayer on Zoom is very powerful, also Alpha.

Different ways of engaging in mission seem to be having influence.

What about online mid-week groups available to all?

We need to try different ways & be more courageous.

Resourcing is a big issue

There is an excellent article in the March issue of Christianity magazine "12 months that changed the church"

The recent Deanery Synod meeting focussed on Mission

It was agreed that the PCC would discuss these issues more deeply at future meetings.

5. Finance

There was no Finance Sub-Committee report

The first draft of the 2020 Report is now with Christine

6. Wardens' update

Risk assessments - these had been circulated to the PCC in advance of the meeting. There was very little change from last year – new dates for approval are in red. In the "Risk Assessment for St. John's" Item 8, it was agreed that the Risk Rating for Scalding be moved from Low to Medium and Severity from 1 to 2. Should there be a Welcomer at the bottom of the stairs? It was agreed that there should be updated training for the Welcomers.

These Assessments were approved, proposed by Christine and seconded by Sarah.

Lighting project – all had been cleared with Luke – 5th March is the end of the notice period – one person came back to Jeremy on this. It now has to be agreed by the Chancellor. A provisional date from Ryan is mid- June. There is no need to vacate the building for services.

7. Learning Leadership

Laura Mascarenhas has expressed an interest while she is home from uni in the summer. It is understood that she wouldn't be looking for an income supplement like Dan. Jon and Amber will have a Zoom chat with her.

8. Safeguarding

DBS checks are being carried out with new recruits to the Care team. There is a powerpoint available for Sue and Maureen so the same guidance is given to all. Thanks were expressed to Sarah and Michele.

9. Inclusion/Diversity Team Update

Penny was looking at the possibility of a stairlift (cost around £5,000) – 3 firms propose approximately the same price and one has offered to come and look with no obligation. Pictures and measurements have been taken. There would no obstruction in the kitchen.

This would be a temporary measure until a more permanent solution could be found for

wheelchair access to a toilet.

10. Next meeting

Jon to circulate dates

11. Any other business

It was reported that the grating by the kitchen door is broken.

We finished the meeting with prayer.

Signed Date