



**Minutes of the Zoom meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Present:** Jonathan Ward, Rector  
Sybil Andrew  
Marc Bassot  
Christine Blackburn  
Bill Derham  
Lenka Ellmann  
Dan Leeves  
Sally Munns  
Martin Pinnell  
Jeff Seabrook  
Penny Seabrook  
Jeremy Tagg

**Item 1. Apologies** were received from Richard Ford, Sarah Morgan, Amber Stockdale

It was noted that Val Hollamby has resigned from Deanery Synod and PCC

**Item 2. Prayer** – Jon opened in prayer and read a passage from Romans ch.15

**Item 3. Minutes of previous meetings**

The Minutes of the zoom meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May were approved subject to 2 corrections under Item 2 – “Jeremy **reported**” should read “Jeremy” **speculated**”; **one third** each” should read “**one sixth** each”

The Minutes of the zoom meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June were approved without comment. The revised Trustees’ Report will be circulated by email to the PCC for their approval. Christine was asked to highlight alterations **in red**.

Both sets of Minutes will be signed and dated by Jon and left with the PCC Secretary.

**Item 4. Finance**

a. Update - Christine will circulate an update up to the end of June. Expenses were down, there was a slight shortfall for Sprung.

b. Strategy for Finance – there are 2 issues to be addressed –

- i. What is the financial position & how to communicate this to the church
- ii Response from the church

Discussion of issues that might arise (in spite of fairly stable financial position) –

There is a question mark over the composition and outlook of the church family post-lockdown. Two members of the church family have already indicated they might be moving on from St John’s – for

different, personal reasons. (Jon will share names with Christine)

This highlights that we are confronting something of an unpredictable future, which has the potential to have a significant bearing on our financial position.

We don't know what job security will look like for people in the coming months, and what proportion of the church family are affected by this uncertainty.

There was wide discussion about the necessity of the lighting and it was noted that it remains an unavoidable project. Questions were raised about timing and fund-raising, and the wardens agreed to press on with obtaining further quotes for comparison so that we can progress matters.

Jon has again written to the diocese regarding our parish share.

How and when do we communicate this to the whole church – at APCM on 31<sup>st</sup> October or in September just before the APCM? Is it right to limit our communication solely re finance particularly in the current situation?

Financing of Children & Families Worker – Amber about to start on her 3<sup>rd</sup> year – decision re extending? Pledges currently in place for 3 year period but there was a shortfall. It was agreed that this could be met by our reserves. Should this be shared with congregation? It is integral to our mission.

Christine confirmed the 3 year period which was broadly covered but after this there would be a big demand on church finances and this would then be part of our general giving to mission. This would need to be clarified with congregation. It would be helpful to ask Amber how she feels about a further extension. It was reiterated that we need to consider these matters in the light of the 'role' rather than Amber as the specific person fulfilling this position.

After our discussion it was agreed that there are 2 issues to consider –

Review of the Children & Families Worker project – it was agreed to do this in September  
A pastoral letter to the whole congregation including a review of all the good things

An increase in general giving is important  
We need to clarify what we are looking to raise money for  
Should the lighting project be a priority?

After discussion the PCC resolved the following:

- To continue apace with the lighting project and use whatever reserves are necessary to cover these costs
- Recognise that we need to increase our regular income and consider a strategy for the most sensitive and helpful means by which to achieve this. Detail will be provided at the APCM, but the PCC are to consider what communication to make to lead up to that meeting.
- Parish Support will be reconsidered in light of conversations with the Diocese
- We will obtain 2 more quotes for CES' specification of the lighting project and pull together a group of people to help with progress / assist with potential funding streams.
- Apply for the faculty.

**It was agreed – proposed by Sally, seconded by Bill**

**Please communicate to Jon your ideas as to how and when all this should be communicated to the church.**

In reply to a question Christine confirmed that it would be possible to have a projection on what our reserves will be on 1<sup>st</sup> January. We do need to have in hand 3 months cover for expenses. There should be £40,000 left in reserves.

#### **Item 5. Church Opening & Mission**

Currently Public Worship is limited to 30 people, 2 metre social distancing, no singing or coffee, no wine with communion (Jon can administer the bread), no kneeling & queuing for communion 2 metres distance, any hands touching – sanitise immediately.

There are 3 options - keep it as it is for private prayer; continue to screen what is currently put out on Youtube (possibility now to watch it with friends for those without internet access); hold a basic communion service or service of the word (but people really miss communion).

Discussion points

- \* how to determine who could come – booking system?
- \* we will still need 10 o'clock service
- \* it is important to see people in the flesh once more
- \* do we ask for people's opinion?
- \* timing – 8.30 am suggested
- \* do we hold off until September?
- \* all is in place in church – signing in system essential
- \* service on screen (no paper allowed)
- \* bring own Bibles
- \* should we look at other churches and join with them?

Jon said it is possible to organise an 8.30 service and he will work out the practicalities – he will be away until 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

It was noted that notices outside church will have to be tailored to any adaptations we make to church opening.

#### **Item 6. Inclusion**

It was agreed that a team be formed to look at the issue of how inclusive we are as a church with regard to people with many different kinds of disabilities. This question has been given renewed impetus with the church's consideration of matters of justice.

**Item 7. Safeguarding – nothing to report**

#### **Item 8. Any other business**

a. Julia Cernoch would like to apply for Reader training – she has attended a Vocations course, has completed the Bishop's Certificate and has held various conversations.

Jon explained that Reader ministry can be exercised in different ways and not solely in the field of preaching. Julia's might be more in the teaching area, discipleship in small groups, etc.

The deadline is fairly near and there will be a discernment process with various interviews. Training is reviewed after 1 year. The total cost will be around £1,000 over 2 years - £150 per term for 2 years + a retreat fee of £180.

Sally reported that the training has changed since her own training 20 years ago but it still covers old & new testaments, preaching, pastoral work, assessed sermon, contact with different churches, ongoing discernment.

She commented that Julia is a sticker with a real heart for God's word, she is hungry for more and to develop her gifts.

**It was agreed to support this application – proposed by Sybil, seconded by Sally.**

b. There is a risk for many churches that this pandemic may result in lower church attendance, but it is raising questions around the nature of church and what we do, which may well form a PCC discussion in the Autumn.

**Item 9. Next meeting**

It was felt important to hold a meeting in August – Jon will e-mail his proposed date

**The meeting finished in prayer**

Signed ..... date .....