

Parish of the Resurrection

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Wednesday 5th February 2020, 7.30pm

1. The meeting opened with **Worship & Prayer**, led by Revd Lynn Power.

AM reminded the meeting about the funerals of Barbara Small and Ruth Bridger.

2. **In attendance** was: Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM), Alan Armstrong (AA), Revd Joy Windsor (JW), Robin Kemp (RK), Tim Duddridge (TD), Angie Briggs (AB), Wendy Burnhams (WB); Revd Lynn Power (LP), Revd Rachel Sturt (RS), Revd Gordon Randall (GR), , Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney (EG), Colin Aiken (CA), John Vivian (JV), Sarah Neish (SN), Derek Gurney (DG), Tori Hewitt (TH), Philippa Penfold (PCC Secretary)

Apologies were received from: Jenny Lawrence (JL), Peter Bell (PB), Margaret Bell (MB), Keith Arrowsmith Oliver (KO), Lisa Hillan (LH), and Tim Loy (TL) has resigned from the PCC.

Minutes of last meeting were **approved**.

Matters Arising – Town Chaplaincy report to be brought to a later meeting.

3. A look at Congregational attendance statistics (AM)

The Ministry Team and CW's have looked at the statistics and compared March and October 2019 to produce the average attendance. The Christmas statistics in particular were very good.

The meeting broke into groups of 2/3 to discuss the statistics and then feedback. A summary of comments is shown below:

Christmas 2019

- Holy Rood has gone up – due to refurbishment and the 'Gordon effect';
- AS has gone down. The Butts carol service was very successful which has not been included in stats. This may have provided the Christmas service for that end of town. Maybe a Crib Service and a midnight might help?
- St Peters held a combined carol and crib and had the CYC choir there which increased the number of children.
- AM pointed out that one marker of a healthy church is how the community react at special celebrations. Question needs to be asked about AS and why the community hasn't reacted in the same way.

March/Oct 2019

- St P's are having communions and building their special celebrations, e.g Mothering Sunday.
- There is a lack of children at AS and St P's. Church@4 attracts the families in Holybourne, Andrews Endowed and St L School. Need to find a way to attract people to come to church after Church@4. St P's doesn't have facilities so difficult to attract families.
- Services are different across the churches on Sundays
- AS has changed its communion to make it less 'high'. Does every church have to have communion every Sunday? Is it right for every church? Difficult to maintain new attendees – does communion put new people off? Different worshipping experiences

important to provide options for people to attend. Need services to appeal to young people, families.

- Travelling evensong proving very popular.
- If services are being redesigned important not to put off older people in providing things for families. Broaden the spectrum of services being offered. If service is aimed at families it might alienate those who are single or not in a family.
- Parish has services at different times but not together. Maybe sometimes have one service that everyone can come together as a Parish.
- Need to provide something during the week. Families are often busy on Sundays, especially with sport activities, therefore need to provide something at other times. Church@4 does address this to some extent.
- Men's Walking Church has been successful – needs a facilitator to get conversations going.
- Is it good enough in terms of attendance per population in Alton? Low percentage but still doing well against other places, particularly the village churches.
- This should be used as a topic in future 'Parish Conversations'. See below.

4. Future Parish Conversations

Continuing from item 3.

- First conversations have been successful.
- Welcome is important – everyone is a 'welcomer'. Parish conversation is a chance to do this.
- Need to put out some discussion points, and feedback options to be published in PM and Sunrise to allow people to prepare in advance.
- Saturday mornings not suitable for all. Dates venues and times for these to be published.
- 21st March will be on the service statistics and will be held in All Saints.

5. Children's, Youth & Families Worker (RK)

The working group had met and RK presented their findings. A Job description and advert were tabled.

The group decided that the person must be experienced, and someone who can reach out to all age groups. It is a big job and needs to be full time not part time. Help with accommodation is key to encourage person from out of area. Salary may need to be lowered to enable this.

A discussion took place on funding for the post, and the best location for the role to be based. This may depend on wifi availability in church buildings e.g. the POD in St Lawrence Church, or the office at All Saints. Wifi is available in the Parish Office.

ACTION: TH to provide figures for how much GAP funding has been used for the existing Schools Minister position, and how long funding could be provided for from the PMAP Fund.

Training needs – in house could be offered as well as more formal courses.

RESOLUTION: The PCC agreed unanimously to go ahead with the advertising and appointment.

6. PCC & Governance (AM)

AM presented a diagram of the proposals of how the various governance groups should work together.

- **Parish Executive** would ensure major projects are handled in an effective way to ensure that plans are properly managed.

- **Standing Committees** would enact decisions from PCC, and take their own decisions, as necessary.
- **Forums** would give a voice for Church Wardens and other groups with specific interests.
- DCC will now be called **Fabric Group**.
- Other committees, eg Admin & Finance, 5 Year, Outreach.
- Parish conversations – feedback to Parish Executive and to PCC.
- New TOR for Parish Executive were shown

RESOLUTION: The PCC agreed unanimously to adopt the new Parish Governance Structure.

7. Committee reports

7.1 Worship & Outreach (RK) – Presented paper for consideration.

- Alpha Course going well.
- Skittles/Harvest Supper – limited in scope for outreach and may have run their course. Low numbers and not much interaction between churches. SN will host an alternative event for Harvest in her barn.
- Board Games mornings – some opportunity to bring in families and numbers dropping. Will have less meetings but advertise them better.
- Twice monthly evening services – going well.
- Jigsaw Festival – Rotary have offered to help host end of Oct – will be better linked to mission as currently a secular event taking place in church. Key issue is link with Rotary – good as engaging with another community group. Next meeting 4th Feb to discuss way forward. Need to ensure that Rotary are happy with the mission based approach. Money will be split 50/50 for charities of choice. Should increase the footfall due to the Rotary connection.
- Liaison with GAP partners – David to join group
- Forthcoming – Pancake event, evangelistic event in Portsmouth, Alton Community Fayre, 3rd Parish Awayday Sept 2020, away weekend in June 2021 in East Sussex.
- PCC area now on website
- Outreach at Wooteys Manor

7.2 Five Year Plan

No report as no meeting has taken place.

7.3 Admin & Finance (CA)

- Latest accounts up to Nov 2019 show that we are ahead of budget – report will be attached to minutes.
- The Year end accounts are currently in progress.
- Application for VAT for LSP has been submitted.
- 2020 budget agreed subject to review at last meeting.
- Two old bank accounts at HSBC need to be closed. AS RE Fund and Vicar (£15,000) and Church Wardens account (£1,000). One is frozen and one is topped up by registry office which is in the grounds of AS. CA cannot gain access so need a resolution from PCC to close the accounts and transfer all funds to the CAF account.

RESOLUTION: PCC agreed unanimously for AM and CA to write an appropriate resolution to send to HSBC to close the accounts.

- JH and PP have updated the hire fees for church buildings (distributed to meeting). Increased by inflation.

RESOLUTION: PCC agreed the new hire rates, with immediate effect.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Office and JH for their work on the increased booking revenue.

7.4 Fabric updates

- Damaged/diseased tree in Holy Rood churchyard – faculty is in process. Need agreement from PCC to remove the dangerous tree. Quote is approximately £1000.

RESOLUTION: PCC approval granted unanimously

Sound system and AV upgrade in HR to improve facilities – this will come to next Parish Executive.

Total cost of new bike racks is £634 plus installation cost. Need to be bolted to hard surface so positioning at St P's may be difficult. Faculty application may indicate their positioning.

RESOLUTION: PCC approval granted unanimously for the Eco group to apply for faculty

- St Lawrence re-ordering – process needed to take project from parish conversation into a full project. A small group was formed to consider the process (AM, DG, JW, RK, JV), plus maybe some from congregation including someone from music side of church to represent that important element.
- AS reordering – quinquennial review has been cancelled so needs to be re-arranged.
- HR quinquennial was cancelled but has been rearranged for 6th February 2020.
- Path across St L is uneven and needs to be improved. TD has been looking into this as there is a dispute over who is responsible for the path with ATC.

8. Looking forward to the APCM (AM)

AM suggested that a longer time will be needed this year as there is much going on – partnership, re-ordering, eco church, and the Sunday morning slot before the service may not allow enough time. New rules allow until end of May to hold APCM, but Archdeacons encourage parishes to aim by end April. AM suggested after Easter (late April). All agreed.

POST MEETING UPDATE: APCM meeting agreed for Tuesday 28th April from 7pm in St Lawrence Church.

9. Closing prayer led by Revd Lynn Power

Meeting closed at 21.23

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm in Holy Rood Church.