**Parish of the Resurrection**

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council**

**Thursday 14th May 2020, 4pm (via Zoom)**

**In attendance** was: Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM), Alan Armstrong (AA), Revd Joy Windsor (JW), Robin Kemp (RK), Tim Duddridge (TD), Wendy Burnhams (WB); Revd Gordon Randall (GR), , Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney (EG), Derek Gurney (DG), Colin Aiken (CA), Sarah Neish (SN), Peter Bell (PB), Margaret Bell (MB), Keith Arrowsmith Oliver (KO), Lisa Hillan (LH), Revd Rachel Sturt (RS)

Philippa Penfold (PCC Secretary) (PP)

AM outlined the protocol for using Zoom for the PCC meeting.

**1.** The meeting opened with **Worship & Prayer**, led by Revd Andrew Micklefield.

**2. Apologies** were received from: John Vivian (JV), Angie Briggs (AB), Tori Hewitt (TH), Revd Lynn Power (LP), Jenny Lawrence (JL)

**Minutes of last meeting**, held on the 5th February 2020, and virtual meeting held 25th March via email, were **approved.**

**Matters Arisin**g – there were no matters arising.

**3. Safeguarding Update**

Safeguarding has not stopped due to the lockdown. Sally Kemp, Safeguarding Officer and AM have completed a return to the Diocese on past cases and allegations noting there was nothing on record or concern. There are no current issues in the Parish.

**4. Update on Church Buildings during COVID 19**

AM gave an update on the current situation. All church buildings were closed on 23rd March and remain closed. The Diocese issued updated advice to the clergy on 11th May which allowed the incumbent and appointed substitutes, to enter buildings to pray and record services. The Ministry team have decided not to do this as they wish to do this with the community, not on their own. Members of the Ministry team and substitutes given responsibility to check on each church are St Lawrence and All Saints (AM), Holy Rood (GR), and St Peter’s (SN). Further limited use may be possible from 4th July but this will depend on the public health guidance.

AM expressed his gratitude to the Ministry Team, and Ellie Elder in particular, for the excellent work that is being done to use technology to provide services during this time. These will continue as they are being appreciated by many.

SN updated the PCC on the quotes for repairs at St Peter’s roof and bell turret. Two contractors have visited the church and provided two quotes, one of which has been appointed. The work does not appear in the budget but funds are available in St Peter’s Fabric Fund and will go ahead once lockdown is lifted. PP confirmed that a List B application has been submitted via the online faculty system.

TD asked if the heating had been switched off, which AM confirmed had been done. PP confirmed that the main utilities have been contacted to inform them that the church buildings are closed.

RK asked if it would be possible for musicians to meet together in church to record music for the informal Sunday evening service. AM said that no advice has yet been given for this, and that at present only one person can be nominated to enter the buildings, so this would not be possible.

**5. Parish Financial Situation and a plan for generosity in the coming weeks**

AM updated the PCC on the current financial situation. As church buildings are not being used there has been a reduction in income. Busy Bees Nursery are hoping to restart in the Parish Centre on 1st June and they have been asked to provide a risk assessment to indicate how this will be done safely. There are no wedding fees at the moment as the church buildings are closed, however funeral fees are still coming in. Sunday collections have been reduced although some collection money and planned giving is still coming in. Some people are enquiring about increasing or starting new planned giving.

CA said that he and TH are keeping an eye on the bank accounts and that they do not have any concerns at this time. They will continue to monitor the situation.

AM had added two columns to CA budget spreadsheet to indicate some potential income/expenditure forecasts, both optimistic and pessimistic, which he presented to the PCC.

EHDC have given POTR £10k for business rate rebate. If other grants become available we will apply.

Some parishes may default on Common Mission Fund – Diocese are anticipating 30-40% default. Looking at various ways to deal with this, including furloughing staff and possible reduction in stipendiary clergy through redundancy and early retirement. AM keen to keep Common Mission payments as this will hopefully help to keep our ministry team resources in place.

WB – asked whether all the money in the bank account and the reserves that we currently have would be used? AM responded that he thought we might need to spend some or most of what was in the bank account at present, depending on the situation. Reserves are designated funds which could be re-designated if situation becomes very bad. TH and CA will aim for monthly accounting to monitor the accounts, and alert the PCC if a transfer from the reserve fund might be needed.

**‘Generous June’ plan for generosity**

AM and GR are working with the Diocese of Sheffield and Winchester for a ‘generous June’ initiative, and have shared a paper with the PCC on possible ways to approach this. GR expanded and explained the approach in more detail.

Members of the PCC made comments, as follows:

* That we should inform people by letter as well as electronic means if necessary;
* Review the number of sermons to be given on generosity as some felt there were too many being proposed;
* That a proportion of the money raised should be given to a charity or mission rather than spending all on ourselves.

SN raised that it was difficult to get older generation to use the parish giving scheme. Tim Sturt has produced a crib sheet including a new phone number where you can join via phone.

**ACTION: AM to send out new crib sheet to PCC members.**

AM stated that the giving page on the website needs to be updated with latest information, including the standing order form.

**ACTION: AM/Tim Sturt to update the giving page on the website.**

**Resolution: That the PCC approves the proposal for a generosity month during June in principal, to be advertised using electronic methods and letter. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ACTION: All members are asked to provide AM and GR with their thoughts on the period of time that the campaign should cover, and what to do with any additional funding.**

**ACTION: AM and GR to provide firm proposals for the generosity month, following feedback from PCC members.**

**6. The future - what will we continue from this COVID 19 period?**

**What will we postpone, stop, disband?**

**A discussion to start ideas for further thought and prayer.**

AM outlined the various services currently being provided using Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube, and asked if this should be continued. Should we use all the buildings when we are allowed to go back? How should we celebrate communion?

A discussion then took place, with the following points being raised:

* The online Facebook Live Morning Prayer is being enjoyed by a lot of people, many more than would have attended in person, and should be continued.
* Morning Prayer online helps to engage with older people who are not able to attend church;
* People are able to ‘catch up’ with online services at a time which suits them;
* Online services allow people to view services but not participate – may encourage people to come to services if they see that it is enjoyable;
* May also discourage people from coming to church as can view online, particularly in 18-35 age group;
* Internet-based technology is not for everyone and shouldn’t be the only method of providing services as this will leave some members of the community excluded;
* Is it possible to provide a telephone based service for those who do not use the internet?

AM then asked the meeting about the church buildings, and how these could be used when the lockdown restrictions are eased. What if only one church could be used?

A discussion then took place, with the following points being raised:

* People are more important than buildings - need to reach out to those who don’t come to church so buildings are secondary;
* Buildings are financially draining;
* We want numbers to increase and we might not be able to do this in a church building;
* St P is used by people in village and Alton at that end of town. Don’t spend a lot per head using the church. Need to look at what is being offered, not just finances.
* In village locations the church is important to the village community even if not a church goer. Balancing act as church building is a draw to people in the village, particularly at main festival times. Important not to overlook this.

AM stated we need to find out what each building is costing us per year. Might need to spend on some buildings but maybe not all.

**ACTION: CA to look at the cost of each church building per annum.**

**ACTION: PCC to consider possible options and think of what is most important when churches can return to normal. Members should either email AM directly and copy to all PCC members, with thoughts. Ideas will be brought back to next PCC meeting.**

**ACTION: RK has written a paper on this – paper to be circulated to PCC members.**

**7. Closing prayers**, led by Gordon Randall.

Meeting closed at 17.35