

Parish of the Resurrection

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Wednesday 10th June 2020, 4.30pm (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), Peter Bell (PB), Margaret Bell (MB), Keith Arrowsmith Oliver (KO), Lisa Hillan (LH), Revd Rachel Sturt (RS), Revd Lynn Power (LP), Jenny Lawrence (JL) 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 Gordon Randall.

2. **Apologies** were received from: John Vivian (JV), Angie Briggs (AB), Tori Hewitt (TH), Colin Aiken (CA), Sarah Neish (SN),

Minutes of last meeting, held on the 14th May 2020 were **approved**.

3. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.

4. Finance Update - see Colin's figures

As CA was not present at the meeting, questions from the PCC would be sent to him, as follows:

- EG asked if the revised budget figures were the actual to April or had they been revised in light of COVID. Also asked why the Service Expenses figure has gone up.
- DG commented that the HR maintenance figure is high – was this due to removal of the diseased tree.
- AS funds have gone down – is this due to maintenance? Check with how the payments are being managed – are they transferring funds from fabric to main? Clarification required.
- Planned giving figures – will these catch up in the next month or two?

The PCC congratulated Colin and Tori for providing figures up to this point.

5. Opening of church buildings for private prayer

AM outlined the government announcement that from 15th June churches can open for private prayer only.

AM had also attended the Alton Ministers meeting – most of the local area churches are not opening until later in the year, and there is a call for a combined approach.

The meeting was opened for a general discussion, with the following main points raised:

- The culture of C of E worship is to use their buildings for communal prayer and worship – other churches do not necessarily have this culture;
- The risk to older and more vulnerable members of the community in that this may encourage them to come out and gather within an enclosed space;
- If the church is open will it/should it be manned during the time it is open;
- Will volunteers who come in to clean or supervise be placed at a higher risk themselves;

- The age group of likely volunteers is probably going to be those from more vulnerable groups – there is a need to encourage younger members of the church community to help instead;
- How to minimise the risk by the layout of the interior furnishings, e.g. less seating, shutting off areas of the church; signage, cleaning and sanitising material availability;
- Cleaning of the building between open sessions. Would leaving a 72 hour period between openings negate the need for cleaning;

Following the discussion the following proposal was put to the meeting by AM:

Proposal: That the churches within POTR should be opened up for private prayer, and that a rota should be devised that ensured that a 72 hour gap could be maintained between openings in all the churches. That churches should be open from Monday 22nd June, with the preceding week used to ensure the churches were cleaned and reorganised to ensure that government and Public Health guidance could be followed.

Resolution: Members of the PCC agreed to the proposal unanimously.

A further discussion then took place on whether the churches should be manned during opening periods. Views varied with some raising concerns over the health and safety of volunteers who took on the task.

ACTION: AM agreed to take advice on manning churches and how this should be done properly, in light of the health and safety concerns raised. AM will communicate this to the other churches and community.

This will be kept under review as guidance changes.

6. Update on Resurrection Furniture

AM updated the meeting regarding the re-opening of the Resurrection Furniture shop as from 15th June. As they cannot have as much furniture in the shop as before, due to social distancing requirements, furniture will be stored in AS hall for the time being. The trustees will provide a risk assessment for the storage of the furniture in the hall.

7. Alton Community Resilience Fund

AM updated the meeting on a new fund which has recently been set up. Matthew Bayliss from Alton Town Council has asked all town organisations providing help in community to work together. Individual families may need specific help, or organisations may need seed funding to help get projects going. Local churches will be used to help communicate the work and help with funding. AM has been asked to chair the panel that will assess the applications that come in. Paperwork coming out next week and POTR and Harvest Church will be named as supporting partner.

Members of the PCC approved AM's involvement in the project.

8. Closing Prayers led by Wendy Burnhams.

Next meeting: Monday 22nd June, 6pm

Meeting closed at 17.54