**Parish of the Resurrection**

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

**Monday 14th December 2020, 6.00pm (via Zoom)**

**In attendance** was: Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM), Robin Kemp (RK), Tim Duddridge (TD), Wendy Burnhams (WB); Derek Gurney (DG), Revd Rachel Sturt (RS), Revd Lynn Power (LP), Sarah Neish (SN), Colin Aiken (CA); Jenny Lawrence (JL); John Vivian (JV); Angie Briggs (AB) (listening only) (14 in total)

Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver (KO) joined at 18.26

Philippa Penfold (PCC Secretary) (PP)

**1.** The meeting was opened by Revd Gordon Randall with a bible reading and a short prayer.

**2. Apologies** were received from: Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney (EG). Tori Hewitt (TH) and Alan Armstrong were not present.

**3. Minutes of last PCC meeting**, held on the 19th October 2020 were **approved.**

**4. Matters Arisin**g – held over until the next meeting

**5. Christmas Services & January/February plan**

The Christmas service pattern is different this year - most services being online and in building services on Christmas Day for which confirmed bookings must be made - they are filling up fast.. This includes a Carol service on the 20th with the choir, and an online Crib service on Christmas Eve organised by Lynn. On the 27th Dec AM proposed that no services will be held in church, but that there would be a shared online service with Methodist Church

**AM proposed that no services in church should be held on 27th December. PCC agreed unanimously.**

Services in January follow the same pattern until further information is received from the Government.

**5. Finances of the Parish**

Report from Treasurer had been previously circulated, and is attached to the minutes. Accounts up to end of October have been received. Income currently behind budget, so in red by £500. Situation better than might have been. Some left from Ian Toombs legacy (about £1000) plus £1000 from Ken Littlefield (split between HR and STL).

RK – has a bill for the Hope magazine which is to be submitted.

**6. Building updates**

St Lawrence

* Grave in churchyard has collapsed due to change to condition of the ground. Underground vault had collapsed. Simon Goddard (SG) and archeological team advised that it be filled with pea shingle and leave to settle. Will reinspect after a few weeks. Alton TC have met the bill as they responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard.
* Pathways – meeting with Alton Town Council regarding the pathways which are not in good condition. ATC consider that this is ‘improvement’ of the path not maintenance, and therefore not their responsibility, but are still happy to part of the discussion and make some financial commitment. POTR will get some quotes for the repair with the hope that ATC will cover 50% of the cost. Ongoing issue for many years. CA asked if anyone tripped and fell, whether ATC would be liable. TD replied that during reorganization of the town council over the year that paperwork has been lost, and therefore responsibility has become unclear. AM would prefer that POTR have control over the improvements to the pathway.
* 2nd hole has appeared in stone slab near Choir Vestry side door entrance. Temporary barrier has been erected. SG is advising on what repair needs to be done.
* Re-ordering group will reconvene in the New Year.

Holy Rood

* QI report has been received. SG has requested more detail from roofing company for repair, using the details in the QI.
* Vestry bee repair has caused a crack. Churchwardens will meet on 11th January with SG on site to look at all the repairs.
* Monument may need more urgent repair, but this may need to involve the war graves commission. Michael from Kemp & Stevens will inspect to see how bad the situation is.
* Gate into vestry wall coming away from gate so note has been put up to say don’t use. Have had some quotes for repair.
* AM and GR have spoken to Robin at K&S. He had discovered human remains when digging a new burial of ashes plot. Now running out of full spaces for burial so need to start process to close the churchyard. Also how to designate an area for memorial garden. GR has received details from Registrar’s Office on ways forward. Will review in January. Churchyard will become council responsibility once closed. .

All Saints – have had problems with roof which has resulted in water leaking into the organ. Awaiting full QI report from SG.

St Peters – roof repairs scaffolding will be erected on Friday. Clive Fosbery was on site (who erected the bellcote) and the builders, so happy to proceed. Bellcote now being repaired off site and under cover.

**7. General Synod, Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod**

General Synod – 3 main topics at last synod

– safeguarding (national team need to be distanced from any investigations),

- living in love and faith (report on identity, sexuality and marriage) – next stage to engage in local areas – hopefully around Lent time.

- clergy covenant – how do we look after the clergy? PCC discussion to take place regarding this.

Diocesan/Deanery – all about budget and how to manage the 3 million shortfall. 3 main areas – buildings, support and central staff and stipendiary clergy. 12% costs on central costs, 80% on stipendiary salaries. Looking to reduce by 20-22 hopefully through retirement or early retirement. Bishops are in conversation with those that will be affected by this. Jan/Feb will complete this stage.

Deanery – Canon Ed Pruen is retiring in January (Bentworth, Medstead, Lasham & Shalden) so this post will not be filled again. Revd Tony Pears (Northanger) is retiring in October. No further information relating the plans for these retirements. Parish Share payments are reducing so this is also an issue. More info end Jan/beg Feb.

**8. Futures Group**

RK outlined his update report which had been circulated earlier and is attached to these minutes. The group had been talking to Chris Bradish and the Alton ministers group.

RK will return to the Alton ministers group to continue the discussion.

A new church called Overcomers Church has started in Four Marks, meeting in the village hall. Based on housegroups.

**9. Alpha Course**

Very successful course online – 10 guests. Keen to keep going so will continue for another 5 weeks after Christmas. Used video resources from Alpha which have been very good. Group want to continue when the course ends.

**10. Ministry Training - Wendy Burnhams, Robert Saunders, Julia Poole, John Ogden, Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney**

Wendy Burnhams – almost at the end. Will be ordained in June 2021 and will become the curate for POTR.

Robert Saunders – moved to Southampton (St Denys)

Julia Poole – coming to end of BCM Pastoral training. Need to work out what she can offer.

John Ogden – BCM Prayer Champions course.

Elspeth Mackegie-Gurney – BCM Creation Care – eco church.

Julia and John should be encouraged to help others to take part in future courses. Currently courses are offered as online courses.

**11. Celebration of what we have achieved since March 2020**

AM – we have learnt a lot in last 9 months on what is church, and should celebrate what we have achieved. We are still solvent; people want to come to church; we have completed one Alpha course; we have learnt how to produce online material (thanks to Ellie Elder (EE)). Thanks to PCC for continuing to meet and the support given.

RK – thanks to ministry team for online materials. Thanks to PP and EE for extra work.

AM also grateful to those people not serving on PCC who have continued to support the church.

Also thanks to Martha Lloyd and how well she has settled in. Thanks to LH for help with this. Landry is also due to arrive shortly, and thanks to RK for his support with this.

**12. Closing Prayers** Led by AM.

Meeting closed at 19.26