**Parish of the Resurrection Alton**

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

**Monday 15th March 2021, 6.00pm (via Zoom)**

**In attendance** was: Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM), Revd Gordon Randall (GR); Colin Aiken - Treasurer (CA); Robin Kemp (RK), Tim Duddridge (TD), Derek Gurney (DG), Revd Rachel Sturt (RS), Revd Lynn Power (LP), Jenny Lawrence (JL); Elspeth Mackeggie-Gurney (EG); Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver (KO); Matthew Bayliss (MB); Alan Armstrong (AA); Lisa Hillan (LH); Tori Hewitt (TH); Wendy Burnhams (WB);

Angie Briggs (AB) (listening only)

Philippa Penfold (PCC Secretary) (PP)

**1.** The meeting was opened by Revd Andrew Micklefield with a psalm and a short prayer.

**2. Apologies** were received from: John Vivian (JV) and Sarah Neish (SN);

**3. Minutes of last PCC meeting**, held on the 18th January 2021 were **approved.**

**4. Matters Arisin**g – St Peter’s work still ongoing. HR works are moving forward. St L bench is being fitted – will also replace plastic bins with wooden ones. Simon Goddard meeting on site to look at roofing issues at All Saints and Holy Rood, and the path at St L – 24th April.

BCM courses – AM reported that he had supported a late application for PP to take the current BCM Worship course. PP is also considering an application for the BCM Permission to Preach course which would take place in September 2021.

**Resolution: PCC members approved Philippa Penfold’s application for the BCM Worship course, and would support her application for the BCM Permission to Preach course.**

AM reported that Martha Lloyd will join for future meeting when she is able.

**5. Safeguarding Update -** none

**6. Parish Financial Situation**

CA had previously circulated the financial papers and an update note to PCC members (attached to the minutes). The Year End has now been completed but this has delayed the current situation report on the accounts.

**ACTION: Please can all PCC members provide any feedback on the Year End report asap as will go to the Auditor on Weds afternoon.**

Questions to CA and TH:

MB asked about Misc expenses and why this needed to be explained in greater detail. TH explained that the general code has lots in it so it would be more beneficial to break this down so it can be tracked more clearly, e.g.IT costs, bank fees, etc.

EG asked whether Trustees responsibilities could be presented by CA at a future meeting as this is a on-going concern. CA agreed this would be done before next meeting when accounts had been signed off.

**ACTION: CA to present a report of Trustees responsibilities to future PCC meeting.**

MB asked whether accounts were managed as budget against expenditure, or was it done retrospectively. CA responded that last year’s budget was prior 3 years budget plus what was coming up in year ahead. Covid has had a big impact on budget so this year allowed for more opening up of economy in general. Draft budget done in Oct 2020, so this year have set against midpoint which is tighter but allows for some growth. March month end actuals will be used to adjust and will come back to PCC for discussion if necessary.

AM thanked to CA and TH for their hard work as POTR have managed to be stay resilient through the pandemic despite loss of income.

**7. Parish of the Resurrection Values**

AM presented is paper on a set of ‘POTR Values’ (attached to minutes) to help guide the big decisions that will come due to the reorganization of the Deanery.

Open discussion by PCC members, with the main points recorded below:

* Add the words ‘we are rooted in the care for creation within the stewardship of the world and its environment that God our father has created.’
* Add wording related to being ‘rooted in prayer’.
* Add wording ‘learning the practices of being in conversation with God’.
* Add wording related to ‘rooted in quality’ to reflect that sometimes 100% isn’t possible;
* Add wording to reflect that’ we are rooted in worship of God’. AM suggested this should be in the main title.
* Values will be used to benchmark all our decisions. They will be published on our website when finalised, under our Vision.
* Other groups outside of the church can use the Values as a link to POTR.

**ACTION: AM will update the Values document based on PCC comments and resend out.**

**8. Youth/Children/Family Ministry Strategy**

RK has set up a group to work on the strategy for Youth/Children/Family Ministry with LP, LH, Martha Lloyd and Robin Lees (representing Resurrection Furniture (RF) who have donated £10,000 to support the youth work of the Parish). They have met with RF trustees and are aiming to produce an annual report to satisfy RF requirements. Main points of focus:

1. Martha’s work
* Developing youth work – excellent start with Martha who is enjoying her work. Worked on ‘Blaise’ with Landry. When lockdown ends will expand and meet with families and appoint some youth leaders. Target July 2022 of 25 people in teenage youth work.
* Journeys project with Alton College – difficult with zoom. Headed team of 3
* Church@4 going well – target of 50 children by 2022. Teams being developed.
* Lighthouse to be developed – target of 20 by 2022.
* Plans to work with Eggars and Amery Hill
* Training volunteers to help with ongoing work.

It will be important to publicise the youth work via PM and Sunrise plus online.

1. Primary School work

There is a pressing need for a replacement for Keren Brake who left last year. This needs to be someone with school experience to coordinate service after school, and other festival services. Need to get this going again for Sept – 8 hours per week part time work.

1. Liaising with other youth groups

There is currently an inactive link with BenBinFro COGS group. Weekends away, summer festival, concerts, lots of activities, and lots of eating activities to bring the Youth group together and get their interest.

1. Baptism Prep

More rigorous prep for families planned to include a Welcome pack with questions and follow up meeting.

Lots of good things already happening that can be further developed. Martha looking for more volunteers of all ages to help develop.

The PCC discussed the emerging Strategy and work so far, and made the following comments:

* Baptism Prep – a pack of information and question may be off-putting for those less educated. A personal meeting would be helpful to take people through the information. This would require a larger Baptism team to increase engagement, possibly involving some of the established Church@4 young families. Follow-up invitations to attend Teddies and Church@4 after the Baptism service, with possibly part of Church@4 being for the collection of Baptism certificates to encourage attendance.
* Resurrection Furniture would welcome material for the shop window from RK and group to advertise the changing role of the church and any new activities.
* School’s Post – AM to look at budget for support of another post for 8 hours per week.
* Stewardship giving to be targeted towards funding youth work.
* Support for children during holidays to support parents. This would need a team of youth leaders which Martha is already looking into, also work with other ecumenical groups e.g. Harvest Church.

AM thanked the group for work done so far which has provided good support for Martha, agreed by LH (as line manager).

**9. Futures Group update**

EG – nothing further to add to update in PM and website. Waiting for conversations which need to happen with congregation members once restrictions are lifted – hopefully in April. Meeting with AM and GR next week to update on current progress and check still on track.

AM thanked the group for hard work so far.

**10. Reflections and questions following The Pastoral Reorganisation Meeting** **with Bishop David and Richard Brand**

AM outlined that the initial proposal put forward was that Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden join POTR to create a new enlarged single parish. The proposal is not what was originally anticipated (an extended circle round Alton to pick up adjacent parishes was the original idea) but this has changed after discussions.

Next Weds 23rd March there will be a PCC meeting with Bishop David and the Archdeacon. The PCC need to consider what questions to ask of them during this meeting.

Discussion open and the main points raised are noted below:

**Governance:**

         The size of the new PCC needs to carefully controlled to ensure it doesn’t get too big to work effectively. The use of sub-groups taking responsibility for certain tasks will be important.

         All current charities (ie PCCs) associated with each current parish will be disbanded and made into one with the new parish.

         Vital to get to know the people in the churches. Need to identify key members of the congregation to act as main point of contact.

         Need to approach as equals and not be seen as a ‘takeover’.

         General fund money would be one big pot but individual church would have a restricted fund for fabric. Need to ensure general fund is seen to be used across all the new parish.

         Need to work together and share ideas and learn from each other.

         Important that joiners have their own identity and can work to benefit of new parish. Need to encompass their good ideas and experience.

         Need to know when locus parentis’ would start.

**Worship and Ministry:**

         Need to know what styles of worship the new additions currently use, and the size of their worshipping community. Are they well supported by their communities?

         Important to build a team of lay ministry.

         What is the role of the priest in creating Parish Ministry Team?

         Challenge will be focal ministry, and how to ensure this is maintained in new parish.

         Opportunity to pool resources and have disciple groups to move forward as a 21st century church.

**Alternative suggestions for reorganisation:**

         Would it make sense to include Chawton geographically?

         Proposed building development at Chawton end of town so may make more sense to join at later stage?

         Northanger needs a ‘Plan B’ as Carrie and Lesley may not be there in 5 years.

         Did Diocese look at house for duty in Bentworth, Lasham, Shalden and Medsted?

         Bentworth is too far from POTR. Might work better in Alresford Deanery as maybe more in common with Preston Candover.

         Four Marks taking on Medsted - why not Bentworth as well?

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS provided by PCC members prior to the Deanery meeting, but after the PCC meeting are attached at end of these minutes.**

**11. APCM Arrangements**

The APCM needs to be arranged before the end of May.

**AM proposed to hold the POTR APCM on Monday 26th April 2021 at 6pm via Zoom. PCC all agreed and was duly ratified.**

**12. Closing prayers** Led by GR.

Meeting closed at 19.44

Next meeting: Monday 19th April 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.

**ADDENDUM:**

**Item 6 - Treasurer’s Report**

The November and December budgets were issued to the PCC on 4 March.

At the last PCC meeting the draft General Fund budget was issued for this year.  I shall review this after the March month end figures are available.  If appropriate, I shall recommend changes to the PCC for approval.

The Trustees’ Annual Report (TAR) and Financial Statements will [hopefully] be distributed later today in readiness for review at tomorrow’s meeting.  I am waiting for some updates to be received that will necessitate the re-working of some of the figures.

I shall delay delivering the report and supporting documentation to Laurie until after the PCC has seen and approved / made recommendations for any changes first.  This should not cause a delay of more than one or two days.

If I get replies today / tomorrow, I should be in a position to let the PCC know when the February month end accounts and budget will be available.

**2021 YTD Activity**

Clearly the focus has been on the 2020 TAR and Financial Statements.

We transferred the grant from DoW to the Kings Arm Project for Marth’s work in January.  The grant was for £15,428.

In March we have received a grant from Resurrection Trading of £10k to help fund Marth’s work for POTR this year.  These monies have been transferred to our deposit account with CCLA in order to earn a little interest.

The day-to-day bank account balances are healthy as follows:

**Current Account**

Min / Max Bals

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Min Bal | Max Bal |
| Jan | 24847 | 40998 |
| Feb | 25335 | 39481 |
| Mar | 23439 | 35901 |

Cashflows

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Payments | Receipts | Closing Balance |   | Significant One Offs | Amount |
| Jan | 34,376 | 18,586 | 25,369 |   | Tfr to Kings Arms Project re Alton College project | -15,428  |
| Feb | 16,602 | 17,585 | 26,352 |   |   |   |
| Mar | 21,863 | 20,551 | 25,040 | to the 12th | Grant rec'd from RT for funding Martha's work | 10,000  |

**Stewardship Account**

Min / Max Bals

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Min Bal | Max Bal |
| Jan | 211 | 2811 |
| Feb | 1587 | 4115 |
| Mar | 4135 | 16117 |

Cashflows

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Payments | Receipts | Closing Balance |   | Significant One Offs | Amount |
| Jan | 4,108 | 4,321 | 1,922 |   |   |   |
| Feb | 1,928 | 4,121 | 4,115 |   |   |   |
| Mar | 10,000 | 12,312 | 6,427 | to the 12th | Grant rec'd from RT for funding Martha's work | 10,000  |

The Miscellaneous expense ‘pot’ will be reviewed and updated in order to improve reporting and control.  This is Tori’s initiative.

Kind regards

**Colin Aiken**

**Treasurer POTR Alton**

Mobile:  07796 188812

**Item 7 – Parish of the Resurrection Values (1st Draft)**

*Proclaiming the Risen Jesus*

*Steadfast in Faith*

*Active in Service*

As a parish and a community of disciples of Jesus we are:

Rooted in prayer - learning the practices of being in conversation and relationship with Jesus. In everything we do prayer comes before, during and after.

Rooted in the Bible - believing that The Word of God directs and guides our individual and our communal lives. We read, mark, learn and apply it to all our decision making and parish life together.

Rooted in the gifts of the Holy Spirit - sharing what we all receive from Him to encourage and build each other up. We value our heritage but always want to be open to the possibilities of the present and future.

Rooted in partnership - looking to work with and alongside others who are building and extending the kingdom of God. We will work each other across our parish, with other local churches and with community groups who have kingdom values at their heart.

Rooted in quality - seeking that whatever we do is the best we can offer and is attractive to those in our communities.

Rooted in fun - enjoying the life that we have and presenting the Church and our faith in Jesus with liveliness and boldness.

**Item 10. Reflections and questions following The Pastoral Reorganisation Meeting with Bishop David and Richard Brand**

Additional comments provided by PCC members after the PCC meeting but before the Deanery meeting

**Comment from Matthew Bayliss**

My principal question for this evening concerns the sustainability of there being lots of church buildings across the Deanery, which are expensive to maintain, and in many cases have relatively small congregations.

These days people travel regularly to the supermarket, to see the doctor and to visit a favourite restaurant, they do not necessarily expect or need to find these things on their doorstep. So does it continue to be essential or sustainable to have an operational church in every local community?

Why is this not an opportunity:

* to combine POTR with Chawton, Farringdon, Newton Valence, East Tisted with Colemore, Selborne, West Worldham with Hartley Mauditt, Lasham, Bentworth and Shalden
* to create one enlarged Ministry Team, one administration, one PCC
* to determine, within the context of the enlarged Parish, which church buildings should remain in use and which should not
* to use combined resources in a more effective and sustainable manner

Just to be clear, these are not proposals or counterproposals, but are questions aimed at trying to better understand and test the current proposal (and the future thinking behind it) to join POTR with a number of distant Parishes. If POTR can be joined with Bentworth, why not also with East Tisted? In principle, where should this process stop and why should it stop there?

Is there a reasonable chance POTR will be joined with, for example, East Tisted in a few years time and, if so, why not now?

Is the model of sustaining many buildings and, in a number of cases, small congregations something we are being encouraged to continue, with the associated maintenance costs and resource challenges (principally on the Ministry team) that come with it?

My final question is to ask about the rationale for only joining Four Marks with only one other parish, Medstead, and why it was not thought appropriate to join Four Marks with other neighbouring parishes. In other words, the proposals for the Deanery appear to include community, geographical and proximity considerations which it would be helpful to better understand.

I hope these questions are helpful.

Best wishes

Matthew (Bayliss)

**Comments from Colin Aiken (Treasurer) with responses from Revd Andrew Micklefield (in blue)**

**Alton Deanery**

**Pastoral Reorganisation**

**Parishes of Lasham, Shalden and Bentworth join with The Parish of the Resurrection**

**Info about BLMS**

The existing benefice of (B)entworth. (L)asham, (M)edstead and (S)halden

A Benefice of four [Parish] Churches: St Mary’s Bentworth, St Mary’s Lasham, St Andrew’s Medstead and St Peter and St Paul in Shalden.

Website: <http://www.blmsbenefice.org/>

Download: [BLMS Reorganisation Proposal](http://www.blmsbenefice.org/content/lashamlatestnews/5Reorganisation%20on%20website_.pdf?e=20210321151328)

Download their magazine ‘[The Villager](http://www.blmsbenefice.org/content/welcome/2Villager%203%20March%2021.pdf?e=20210321153702)’ - lots of info

Note: On the 12th January 2021, after 41 years of ordained ministry, Canon Ed retired. This means that the benefice is in interregnum. The Churchwardens are now responsible for the day to day care of the churches under the guidance of the Area Dean, the Rev'd Brian Pritchard. For enquiries about Baptisms or Weddings, please contact our Administrator for these - Ingrid Owen-Jones: blmsbenefice@gmail.com.

Bentworth Churchwarden Mrs Cathy Dumelow

Lasham Churchwarden Mr Maurice Goor

Medstead Rev’d Ingrid Owen-Jones

Shalden Churchwarden Peter Rankin

Questions / would like to know about BLMS:

* Current clergy compliment and type (Rev’d Peter and Rev'd Ingrid Owen-Jones and …..?)
* Current size and make-up of each PCC e.g., incumbent, treasurer, church warden etc. See the PCC Minutes and APCM for each church under ‘Latest News’ for some help here.
* Are any of the PCCs a registered charity? Yes, all of them.🗸
* Do any of the churches have a church school and if so which one(s)? Bentworth.🗸

**Questions:**

The outline proposal lists Andrew, Gordon and Lynn as the incumbent and priests. Rachel is only mentioned as the Anna Chaplain. Will she also continue as a priest in the new Parish? There is no mention of Debbie Thrower and Martin East. Why is this?

Rachel’s licence is to be Anna Chaplain and it is also a Deanery wide licence – the Bishop found this out for me

Martin holds Permission to Officiate (PTO) as he is over 70 and officially retired – so he cannot be named in any new pastoral scheme.

Good question about Debbie.

The new Parish will comprise of seven churches which is more than the number of clergies mentioned. Are any of the churches ‘earmarked’ for closure [f yes, which one(s)]? How will we service them?

Many multi church benefices do not have the same number of clergy to the number of churches. We have been fortunate up to now in POTR. It will be a question of how many services across a month each church can have and timings. No church at present is earmarked for closure. Alternatives are festival churches – which means they open for specific special services across the year or maybe some sharing with other denominations.

Geographically, Bentworth fits better with Medstead (it’s the other side of the A339 and closer to) and Chawton fits better with Alton, like Holybourne does. What are the reasons behind the current proposal for each of these two churches; St Mary’s Bentworth and [St Nicholas’ Church](http://chawtonparishcouncil.org/village/chawton-parish-church/), Chawton?

I agree

Is the role of ‘Church Steward’ new as I’ve not come across this before? What are the differences between the roles of ‘Church Steward’ and ‘Church Warden’?

This is a good question for Tuesday’s meeting.

**Musings**

What are the different types of church and what do they mean? See the BLMS Re-organisation proposal for a full description of each. There are three:

* Parish Church
* Chapel of Ease
* Festival Church

To comply with the Alton proposal, all BLMS churches will need to become a ‘Chapel of Ease’.

And so could some of POTR churches! I think 2 or 3 parish churches would be enough in the new parish.

For some people, ‘change’ can be highly emotive and is often resisted. For example, due to fear of loss. People can become defensive. What support or guidance will be available to help to overcome this? See the paper PCC Simplification FAQs (2).

A question for Tuesday?

This coming together of parishes marks a significant next step in the evolution of POTR. Should the new and enlarged Parish also have a new name too? We all then have a new identity that unites us all on the next stage of our journey?

Could do but people have just got used to POTR! But I agree about new identity

Reorganisation is effectively re-allocating (re-distributing?) what we have among a single group that may or may not be larger or smaller than the total of the individual groups that currently exist.

This will be a significant project and will require good management and planning. POTR can draw on their previous experience here.

Yes we can

The proposal for the new PCC is that it will work mainly through sub-committees. These will most likely be comprised of PCC members plus co-opted others. A hierarchal restructure of the Parish will be required with more defined roles and responsibilities.

We have a good governance structure only recently agreed but not put into place effiectively because of COVID. It will need tweaking.

It may help to reduce the number of vacancies.

Some members’ workload may increase. Bearing in mind that the majority are volunteers, will they have the time, and will they want to take on more?

A question of building teams I think, so that one person is not left holding the can

Some roles may need to be shared by two or more people going forwards.

The CoE is reacting to a decline in church attendance as well as C-19 which I understand. What is the CoE proactively doing to try and reverse this decline? If you keep getting smaller, eventually you’ll disappear altogether!

Chawton – Rev’d Tony Pears is to retire. Maureen Pink is the Assistant Churchwarden.

**Comment from Wendy Burnhams**

I particularly note the following points:

* *Need to approach as equals and not be seen as a ‘takeover’.*
* *Important that joiners have their own identity and can work to benefit of new parish. Need to encompass their good ideas and experience.*

I thought Matthew’s question during the meeting was extremely important. As I remember it, he asked whether the joiners are being subsumed into POTR, or whether we are all joining together to form a new parish? I think a  good illustration of Matthew’s point is our new set of POTR values; will the joiners be asked to adopt these POTR values or will we need to formulate a new set of values once we have joined together? I’m not sure that the 2 statements above go far enough in conveying the idea of joining together to form something new, as opposed to subsuming the joiners into what already exists.

Wendy (Burnhams)