**Parish of the Resurrection, Alton**

**Monday 19th April 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); Matthew Bayliss (MB); Alan Armstrong (AA); Lisa Hillan (LH); Tori Hewitt (TH); Wendy Burnhams (WB); Sarah Neish (SN); Angie Briggs (AB)

Philippa Penfold (PCC Secretary) (PP)

**Members of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden PCC’s were in attendance for the first part of the meeting.**

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

AM welcomed the members of the three parishes from Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden (BLS).

**2. Joint meeting between Bentworth, Lasham, Shalden & POTR PCCs**

AM welcomed the members of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden, and explained the reason for the meeting – exploring how we might work together under the new reorganisation arrangements as proposed by the diocese. Responding to proposal that all would be part of one team and maybe one parish. AM, DG and GR have met with three representatives from BLS (Mervyn Dunwoody, Peter Rankin & Michael Del Mar). The importance of getting to know one another was stressed, and that this is a prayerful process, working with joy and in unity.

BLS had 4 questions to ask, following meeting last week, needing outline answers with detail to be worked on later.

*Q1. In the Parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden, we feel that the Church is integrated with the Village and we have been and are working to maximise the connection between Church and Village. To this extent, the establishment of a regular Service Pattern with a minimum of 2 clergy led services in each church each month with the opportunity to have additional services at Major Feasts and perhaps the provision of additional lay led services is essential.*

*In this context, how can this be delivered in a form of association between BLS and PoTR?*

*Q2. Again, in this context, how can the present PoTR Ministry Team maintain regular ministry within each of the BLS parishes, building relationships with each community?*

AM responded that the service pattern regularity and consistency was important. However there will be a need to stagger service times, and offer a variety of service styles, including children/family services. At the moment POTR has two stipendiary clergy plus a youth worker and two job-share administrators who are all paid. There are also two other licensed clergy and one retired clergy who are all non-stipendiary. Two other retired clergy have just moved into the parish who are also getting licensed. However, not all are available for every weekend during the year. It will be important to develop teams to help lead services across the 7 churches, which will include lay-lead services.

Other services suggestions to engage with the village communities:

* Good evensong with members of St Lawrence choir, followed by prosecco and nibbles;
* late afternoon services in open air in churchyard;
* mid-afternoon barn service

AM – POTR have focal ministry where different members of the ministry team have responsibility for a church in POTR. Would like to explore how this might work across BLS. Focal person could help develop teams to work in local area e.g. for funeral services, or ministry with families, or baptisms.

Other thoughts to help engage with the local communities:

* home groups could work with focal minister to help with midweek connection;
* appoint a key person in each village to act as point of contact with focal minister.

*Q3. Bentworth has a Church School and Lasham and Shalden are in its catchment area. There has always been a close Church / School relationship with a team from BLS doing “open the Book” before Covid together with regular Clergy guidance and support for collective worship both in the church and school, and a presence on the Governing body. How would you see this relationship developing?*

AM responded that church schools bring opportunities but also great responsibilities. POTR have Open the Book teams so could work together on this. Ingrid Owen-Jones has worked in Bentworth School and would like to continue. Martha Lloyd, POTR Youth Worker, is already working with schools and colleges, and POTR is looking to give more hours for schools ministry. Governance part is more difficult, and AM would struggle to take on this role but could offer this to someone else in ministry team.

*Q4. At this time, the Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden preferred option would be to form a new single parish retaining all three churches and our legal rights. This would simplify the administration by reducing the number of PCCs from 3 to 1. This Parish would then operate in a Benefice with PoTR. Are you comfortable with this proposal?*

AM responded that this could be a stepping stone. POTR has one PCC with reps from all 4 churches. CW’s in all churches plus one other elected rep from each church plus can have 5 deanery synod reps. Have other groups which looks at specific topics eg finance and admin, worship and outreach. Also task related groups to take on project work. Financially income is merged but expenses are recorded on a per church basis, with one set of accounts and one budget. We use CAF bank with two accounts (current and stewardship), plus a CCLA savings account. We also have restricted funds for each church which can’t be shared around, with spending overseen by churchwardens for each church.

BLS have concerns about moving to a combined Parish with POTR, as follows:

* the three parishes are very rural and used to supporting each other;
* process of change is difficult and makes people feel uneasy;
* people worried their village identity would be ‘swallowed up’;
* need to feel visible.

A question was raised as to the way an amalgamated Common Mission Fund payment might be worked out for a combined Parish. Would this affect the desire for people to give money?

AM responded that he didn’t know the answer but would find out from the diocese. It would probably be one band for the entire area of the 7 churches.

Following the discussion, BLS then voted on the following:

**That there is an arrangement with PoTR and BLS which is worth exploring in detail, with the aim of coming back to all 4 PCCs with an agreed plan for the “Way Forward”, with an end date of early June as the target.**

**The 3 PCCs of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden agreed their assent to this plan.**

**AM then put the same suggestion to the POTR PCC, and that a small group be formed to look at the various issues, with a suggested report back of early July.**

**POTR PCC were all in favour.**

AM stated that it would be important this is a managed process and that all remain visible. It will also be important to work on the diocesan process as this is the legal side of things.

18.52 The joint meeting with BLS finished. GR prayed for the joint meeting.

**POTR PCC meeting opened at 18.55**

The meeting started with a general discussion around the preceding joint meeting, particularly the question about the common mission fund. Also how we move forward in relation to ministry and church attendance in BLS, as rural communities are different to a town environment.

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

**3. Apologies** were received from: John Vivian (JV) and Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver (KO)

**4. Minutes of last PCC meeting**, held on the 15th March 2021 were **approved.**

**5. Matters Arisin**g - none

**6. Safeguarding Update** - none

**7. Parish Financial Situation**

The Treasurer (CA) reported that the Year End accounts for 2020 have been adjusted, following comments from the auditor. There is an outstanding error from 2015 which will need to be continued into this year’s accounts as there is not time to make the adjustments before the APCM. The Diocese have paid out remaining funds from the Holybourne James Trust which was a trust set up when the original vicarage was sold and the money held by the diocese. 50% of the funds will go to HR fabric and 50% kept by diocese for Parsonage Fund.

HR have received another £2k donation for fabric.

Other dormant accounts – Newbury BS – does this need to be continued? Discussion outside meeting and will bring back to PCC for resolution.

Bank accounts all good and healthy reserves.

GR asked if the donation to HR be gift aided?

**ACTION: CA to check with Tim Sturt.**

DG asked if the Parish Centre carpark resurfacing had been approved by the PCC, as this should happen for all projects, and how much it had cost?

**Post meeting note:** The quotes were discussed and a contractor appointed at an Executive group meeting. The works had cost £9,334.80.

LP asked if the speed bump could be marked so it was clearer to cars and pedestrians.

**Repair works:**

The Office has been informed by the Diocesan office that a PCC minute is required to support any List B or faculty applications for repair works that are required across the parish buildings. Urgent work is required for All Saints and Holy Rood roofs (previous minutes of 14.12.20 and 19.01.21 refer). Simon Goddard (SG) and the contractor TM Roofing have inspected both buildings and SG has approved their proposed work plan.

**Resolution: The PCC agreed to support applications to the diocese for works, as recommended in recent QI reports, as follows:**

* **Roof repairs (missing roof tiles) at All Saints, Holy Rood and St Lawrence;**
* **Gate and adjacent wall repairs at Holy Rood;**
* **Remainder of church wall repair at Holy Rood.**

**All in favour and duly resolved.**

CA reminded the PCC that the HR Fabric funds are now low.

**8. Futures Group update**

EG updated the PCC. The group had had a meeting with Martha Lloyd which had gone well. They were finishing the rota for the parish congregation meetings which will be published in PM and on website.

**9. POTR Basis of Governance, Committee Structure, Terms of Reference, Focal Ministry**

In 2016 the Basis of Governance document and TOR for committees was agreed. AM has updated this document, in that:

* District Church Councils changed to Local Church Groups;
* Futures Group changed to Vision and Strategy Group
* Other group names have been changed, e.g. Buildings Group

The PCC discussed the proposals, and made the following comments:

* Model not being adhered to due to the effect of the lockdowns – need better relationship between fabric issues and finance needed;
* Urgent work should be fed to the Finance & Admin group for approval;
* The 3 main groups (Worship & Outreach, Vision & Strategy and Finance & Admin) should all report to the PCC after each meeting;
* Parish Executive has major role – with Standing Committee dealing with urgent items only. May need to drop to one CW representative after reorganisation;
* Additional line needed on diagram from the Local Church Groups (who have authority to spend up to £2,000 per year) to Finance & Admin Group.
* The Parish Executive has the overall responsibility for all the church buildings, and is split into three separate areas of responsibility – Buildings Group/Standing Committee/Churchwardens Forum. Each Executive meeting agenda will address all three streams;

LP asked if St Peter’s was able to have a churchwarden as it is designated a Chapel of Ease, as without one they would not be able to vote on the Parish Executive group. The PCC agreed that St Peter’s was entitled to have a churchwarden to represent issues on the Parish Executive group and PCC.

It was agreed that the Parish Governance & Committee Structure should be followed more strictly following the next APCM. This should also be linked to the work being done on the reorgansation and Focal Ministry. A skills audit may need to be carried out to look at what members bring to each of the groups, which could include members from outside the PCC. Each group should appoint a Chair person who would ensure that a written report of each meeting is produced for approval at subsequent PCC meetings.

**ACTION: AM to update the Parish Governance & Committee Structure document in light of the PCC’s comments, and bring back to the next PCC for discussion and final approval.**

**10. Closing prayers** – led by GR.

Meeting closed 19.49