

Minutes of Meeting 02/2020 of the PCC held on Tuesday 4th August 7.30pm by Zoom

Present

Bob Abel (BA) (Treasurer); Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Richard Cunningham (RC) (Asst Churchwarden), Susie Downer (SD), Wendy Howell (WH), David Howell (DH) (Churchwarden), Roger Moore (RM) (Secretary), Sandra Rice (SR) (Churchwarden) Alison Johnston (AJ) Caversham Park Church representative

Welcome and Prayers

Felicity Chapman introduced part of a recorded reflection by Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, dealing with the challenges facing churches at this time. In a prayerful conclusion Felicity sought heavenly guidance and support in the work of the PCC.

Apologies for Absence

The Revd Derek Chandler is absent on sick leave until August 24th.

Approval of Minutes 01/2020

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Actions and Matters Arising

RM reported that there were no outstanding actions.

Agenda Item 5 - Opening St Barnabas for private prayer

Having discussed the risk assessment, control measures and arrangements for stewarding, the PCC adopted unanimously the following resolution:

“The PCC, having considered the Risk Assessment for opening the church for personal prayer, agree that the church may be opened on Thursday mornings from 9am til 11am”.

Actions: RM to include details in the Letter to Church members; DH to purchase disposable face masks

Agenda Item 6 - Opening St Barnabas for public worship

RM explained that there had been a Dioscesan instruction for PCCs to pass a resolution if it was decided it was inappropriate at this time because of the Covid 19 pandemic to open for worship. Guidance on the form of the resolution had been provided. RM outlined his communications with the Area Dean, Graeme Fancourt. After discussion, the resolution below was agreed unanimously.

“The parochial church council of St Barnabas Emmer Green, Reading, authorise dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11

and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 on the following occasions: Sunday 9th August 2020; Sunday 16th August 2020; Sunday 23rd August 2020; Sunday 30th August 2020; Sunday 6th September; and Sunday 13th September. The reason for the dispensation is that in the light of the Government's guidance on preventing the spread of Coronavirus, there is no church in the benefice which can be used safely for public worship on those occasions."

Agenda item 7 - Opening the Hall for new term in September

BA outlined the likely demand for Hall use and the reservations of some groups. He also indicated that some children's groups had carried out their own risk assessments and were happy to start soon. It was agreed that the key to use would be suitable and sufficient well based risk assessments. The PCC agreed unanimously the resolution below.

"The PCC, having considered the Risk Assessment produced for the Hall which meets Government and C of E guidance on the Covid 19 hazard and taking account of the recommended detailed control measures and working practices; agree that the Hall can be opened for use as from Monday 7th September"

Agenda item 8 - Date for APCM

Following discussion it was agreed to hold the APCM on 22nd September at 7.30 pm by Zoom. To make the meeting as inclusive as possible every effort would be made to involve those without internet connections.

Agenda item 9 – Pastoral Care

DH reported that there were no outstanding concerns at the moment.

Agenda item 10 – Finance

BA reported that he continues to issue monthly reports but he summed up indicating the churches finances are in a parlous state. Income has been halved and although we will be able to pay the Parish Share this year it is unlikely we could meet that commitment next year. BA noted that one possible chink of light is the claim for up to £10,000 for loss of income which has been lodged with Ecclesiastical Insurance. At the moment this has been rejected, but the Financial Conduct Authority has taken a test case on the wording of business interruption insurance in a range of policies to the High Court which may help our case. A judgement is not expected before mid-September.

Agenda item 11 - Communications

RM requested guidance from the meeting on the messages that should be given to those enquiring about the future of the church. It was agreed that all communications should be fact based avoiding any speculation. Messages to be covered as appropriate on facebook and the website.

Action: RM to draft a letter to Church members on the current state of play and plans for the future

Agenda item 12 - Living with Loss

SD explained that it had been arranged to hold meetings in two separate gardens to avoid breaching the 6 person rule. The first meetings were planned for Friday 7th August.

SD requested PCC permission to hold Living with Loss meetings whilst meeting all government Covid 19 regulations.

PCC agreed that such meetings could be held

Agenda item 13 - Votes of Thanks

Felicity proposed a vote of thanks to David and Sandra for all their work as Churchwardens and members of the PCC; to Mark for keeping the virtual worship going and Busy Bees; to Elizabeth Tyler for her prayer posts and to the choir and others who have been doing their bit.

Any other business

Craft Group WH sought views on re-starting the craft group. After positive discussion it was agreed that WH would produce a risk assessment and a description of arrangements.
Action WH

Caversham Park Church. AJ advised that 2021 was the 50th anniversary of Caversham Park Church and she was looking for anecdotes from those who had contact or involvement with the church in the past. She was seeking in particular documents relating to the church. BA advised that he could help.

Closing Prayer

Mark closed the meeting with a prayer.