

PCC Minutes

Wed 29th July 7.30. via zoom.

1. Opening prayer: RF.

2. Present: Ruth Fitter. Ruth Parsons. Pamela Wells. Hannah Allen. Graham Brooks. Steve Roberts. Dim Couston. Rachel Hawkins. Sue Matthews. (Anne Minchin).

Apologies: Maria Wells. Pauline Godfrey. Cynthia Kerr. David Jacques

3. Minutes of 25:06:20: Proposed as true record GB. 2nd PW. All in favour.

4. Matters arising: Review of public worship so far. Now that capacity is up to 41 (with extra in the hall if necessary) it has felt more welcoming. People are getting used to 'mask etiquette'. Hand sanitiser should be on for 30 secs before it is effective. No rushing. Hannah said the Thursday morning services feel very spiritual. There are still inclusion problems for those unable to be there in person. Live streaming, not everyone wants to be seen, contributions from those 'not in the building'. Need a 'techie' sound person. Going forward we are going to have to develop some sort of hybrid service.

Big thanks to Andy for arranging all the chairs.

5. Finance:

£7,000 has been paid to the diocese for our parish share thus amending their mistake. CCLA account, Fabric £12, 102.90 and current account has £2,072.65. Gives a total of £14,175,52.

People have been giving during lockdown, thanks for everyone's generosity.

6. St Stephen's Church. A couple of years ago the diocese offered to sell the building to us for £1. Could have been used for charities, coffee shop, arts & music. The community was consulted who were excited. Diocese decided it was too much of a risk. £300,000 was needed to make it safe. They contacted the Church Commissioners to get permission to demolish it. Granted. The council has been

asked to reassess housing provision for vulnerable people. Rooftop was involved. There has been a meeting of Andrew Braddock, Council and Rooftop and plans proposed for a 3 storey building comprising a ground floor bistro, the other 2 floors to be flats for vulnerable people. The work needs to be done fast because Bishop Rachel is concerned that people in hotels will soon be turned out. The demolition will occur before the end of September and the build completed by the end of January. 🙏 Rooftop is to pay the demolition costs. The land will remain the property of the diocese, who will retain the ground floor for storage and a café to be run rent free by some external enterprise like Roots. Rooftops will manage the property, there will be a 24/7 warden. Tenants will be those who have gone through a 'pathway' course to independent living. Should be a good missional opportunity, the Mission & ministry dept can be involved as well as RF and HdG and us.

The local community needs to be informed, SM suggested local radio. There should be a display of the history and artefacts of St Stephens in the new premises.

7. 'Plans' for September: Will need to continue to have a hybrid of physical and online. Liturgical tradition will not change.

There will continue to be a Eucharist on Sunday and Thursday mornings.

No intention now to revive the 8.00.

A Wednesday evening zoom to discuss topics and experience different styles of worship is a possibility.

Be good to keep teatime church going but we need ideas of how to maintain social distancing between families.

RF plans to send out SR4/4RS forms to collect ideas of what to

Retain Resist Return Radical so we can reflect on the past and look to the future.

Small group conversations, physical if possible. It would be good to include those who are unable to join online. Some people are isolating

and the conversation will need to be 1:1. Conversations in September. These will somehow be collated and shared.

8. Deanery Strategic Plan:

Bishops Rachel & Robert have asked for our strategic plan for ministry in the next 10 years. Lay people's ideas are wanted. Each deanery will need to lose 2 stipendary posts. Possible reshaping of parish and deanery boundaries. Let RF know the answer!

9. APCM : To be held before the end of November but still awaiting clarity for the process. Zoom? Postal? Hybrid? There should be advice from the archdeacons so we can hold it in October. RF to look for a date for the meeting.

10. Safeguarding: Need to add in safeguarding over zoom to our policy.

11. H's ordination: Hopefully the 19th or 20th September in the cathedral but nobody is allowed to attend apart from H's immediate family and RF. First presiding service will be the 27th September. Not sure how to have a socially distanced feast!

12. AOB. RF thanked everyone for carrying on in faith and hope!

There will be good company in the promised land, and there is no need to cling on to all we have.

Have a good August. Huge thanks to HA, with a farewell on Sunday 2nd.

13. RF closed the meeting with prayer.