

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar opened the meeting with a Bible reading from 1 Thessalonians 1.9-10 before leading in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

None (see Appendix 1).

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes were agreed *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Holy Communion. If the current restrictions allow for the church to be re-opened for Public Services in the near future, the administration of Holy Communion will still be suspended until around Easter.

Architects. The Vicar informed the PCC that he had not yet received a formal reply from Inkpen Downie Architecture and Design Ltd.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Lizzie Wallace re resignation from the PCC. The Vicar, as Chairman, had received formal notification from Mrs Lizzie Wallace that she was resigning from the PCC (effective: 27th December), in light of her intended appointment as the Children's and Youth Worker, in compliance with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Mr Duncan Breckels re PCC policies. The Secretary had received an email from Mr Breckels suggesting that the PCC Handbook should include agreed policy regarding the existence and operation of the key register and guidance in locking and unlocking the church building.

6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Wendy Whitfield raised the issues of church heating and safety regarding the bells in the winter months, while the church is closed for public worship (see item 10).

7. REPORTS

All reports were made verbally.

Vicar's Report. The Vicar reported that the church is closed again for public worship. We do not expect to re-open until late-February at the earliest. Christmas was as positive as could be hoped in the circumstances, with good engagement online and at the communion services. The Vicar expressed a note of thanks to all who have worked so hard. We are delighted about our two new appointments starting this month. We are hoping that a Safeguarding Committee will take over after Mrs Anne Kavanagh as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwardens' Report. The path to the disabled access has now been repaired and the church hall boiler was serviced in December without any problems found. The communion chalice repair is in hand with a silversmith. Following interviews on 14th December, offers of employment were made to the two candidates subject to references and the relevant DBS checks. The Churchwarden expressed a grateful thanks to all those who assisted

with stewarding duties over the Christmas period. The annual report on attendance figures to be sent to the Diocese has been completed.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer shared with the PCC the most recent Financial Summary.

Administrator's Report. In the run-up to Christmas, the church organised various deliveries of letters, Christmas cards, invitations and DVDs around the parish to households, church members and residents at Balkerne Gardens. A big thanks to all those who helped coordinating and delivering these.

Jericho Road Ministries Working Group. Dr Dan Watts summarised three suggestions that had been discussed at a recent meeting with the steering group: hosting post-Covid evenings at Beacon House with activities and Christian content; a return of St Peter's Guest House in some form and a Zoom support network between the JRM Working Group and guests at Beacon House.

8. COVID-19 - LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOR 2021

The Vicar invited the PCC to discuss two questions: What are we in danger of missing? What does this make possible? The majority of the PCC responses involved concern for children, "off-liners", social gatherings, inter-generational relations and St Peter's presence in the town centre. Positive outcomes were encouragements from online services and prayer meetings via social media, online study groups and prayer couplets, a larger involvement in the online service rota and the possibilities to reach people outside church in Colchester and world-wide.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS IN 2021

It was agreed that the Annual Church Meetings would be on Tuesday 27th April 2021, via Zoom, unless it is viable to have the meeting in church.

10. AOB, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED UNDER 6

Church heating. It was agreed to set the church heating once a week for some hours while the church is closed.

Church bells. The Vicar agreed to contact the Archdeacon regarding the issue of safety around leaving the bells alone while the church is closed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th February, at 7:30pm. PCC meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

13. CLOSING PRAYERS

Various members closed the meeting in prayer.

APPENDIX 1

Mr Duncan Breckels	present
Mr James Coe	present
Dr Matt Cox	present
Mr Peter Holden	present
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	present
Dr Mick Kavanagh	present
Mr Richard Lawn	present
Revd Mark Wallace	present
Mrs Bernice Watts	present
Dr Dan Watts	present
Mrs Wendy Whitfield	present