

# PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 9th February 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

### 1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Psalm 22.27-31 before leading in prayer.

### 2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**Church bells.** There had been no definite response from the Archdeacon regarding the issue of safety around leaving the bells alone while the church is closed, other than that it should be fine to leave them for now and that extra care should be taken when they start being in use again.

**Architects.** There was nothing formal to pass on. The Vicar reported that one of the architects from Inkpen Downie Architecture and Design Ltd has visited the church since the last PCC meeting. The drawings have now been transferred from QTA to Inkpen Downie and the matter is moving forward.

**Church heating.** The timings would be amended in light of the expected cold weather.

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

**Bishop Roger re proposed further suspension.** The Churchwardens had, with the support and approval of our patrons (Simeon's), drafted a letter in response to Bishop Roger regarding the proposed further suspension of the benefice. This draft letter had been communicated with the PCC. It was agreed, with a few changes of the wording, that this letter would be sent to Bishop Roger by the deadline of 17th February 2021. Dr Dan Watts thanked the Churchwardens for their efforts in drafting the letter to Bishop Roger.

**Lizzie Wallace re Youth Work risk assessments.** Mrs Lizzie Wallace had put together Risk Assessments regarding the church's children & youth online groups and a parental consent letter, which had been circulated to the PCC for a formal approval prior to this meeting. The PCC approved these documents subject to two minor issues (including references to Carers as well as Parents, and a reference to the date)

### 6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

### 7. REPORTS

The reports had been circulated before the meeting.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Anne Kavanagh to the staff team for the work they have done.

Dr Dan Watts asked about plans for the Church Hall. In response, the Vicar reminded the PCC that the Office is in ongoing use within the Church Hall, and that it is hoped eventually to restart children's groups there. The Treasurer reminded the PCC of the ongoing financial implications of not being able to let the Hall.

Mrs Anne Kavanagh raised the need for prayers for the new architect and for fresh ideas.

## **8. ENGAGING WITH THE LLF PROCESS**

The Vicar highlighted a few concerns about the LLF material, but emphasised the responsibility the church has to engage with the process. The discussion that followed included various points: that we should be careful to engage with external material, not just with what we already think; that perhaps discussion amongst a sub-group within the PCC might be helpful in the first instance; and that we should be sensitive and respectful to those in the congregation who may have reservations about St Peter's evangelical position. It was agreed that the Vicar would begin to move things forward after discussion with the Churchwardens.

## **9. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

The Vicar reported that the formation of a Safeguarding Committee is moving forward but is not yet finalised.

## **10. RE-BRANDING OUR CHURCH STATIONERY AND WEBSITE FOR A 'FRESH START'**

The PCC discussed the re-branding of the church stationery (logo, headed paper etc) and the current website. Dr Dan Watts suggested to have a budget of £1000 for these. The PCC agreed to keep to a preliminary budget of £1000 as a fresh start, but for the Vicar to come back to the PCC if the cost would exceed this amount.

## **11. AOB, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED UNDER 6**

None.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 9th March, 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	apologies
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