

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 11th May 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar commenced the meeting by reading Colossians 1:28-29 and in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes were agreed *nem con*.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- **Bible by the Beach.** Mrs Anne Kavanagh highlighted the recent Christian youth conference "Bible by the Beach", this year online. It was decided to include a link to the talks in 'St Peter's Update'.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Holy Communion.** A letter had been received from Mr James Coe expressing the hope that Communion services could be restored at St Peter's as soon as possible. It was agreed to deal with this under item 7.

6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vicar raised a finance-related matter (see item 7).

7. REPORTS

The written reports had been circulated before the meeting. Various issues were raised and addressed:

- **Make a Mother's Day appeal.** This year's Compassion appeal had resulted in a very generous amount (£3,100.50). It was agreed to donate the excess sum to the Child Survival Programme and to investigate the possibility of a pandemic-related appeal associated with the same.
- **Holy Communion.** In response to the letter from Mr James Coe, the Vicar reassured the PCC that the intention is to return to the regular pattern of eucharistic services as soon as possible, but that the current restrictions made it difficult for the such services to be carried out in a meaningful way. The PCC agreed that this should be addressed once we have further clarity on the Covid-19 restrictions.
- **Redevelopment Project.** The Vicar gave an update from his recent meeting with Mr Ben Downie from Inkpen Downie. The architects will provide specific numbers with respect to estimated costs of phases 3 and 4. The Vicar intends to invite Mr Downie to a PCC meeting once we have these figures. It was agreed to communicate with the wider congregation to provide a brief update about where the project stands.
- **Garden Church.** The PCC held a short discussion around risk assessments for the upcoming services in the Vicarage Garden, particularly regarding social distancing and the options for rainy weather. It was stressed that the government guidelines should be honoured in all that is done. The final decision on exact arrangements was delegated to the Vicar and Churchwardens.
- **Youth work.** Dr Matt Cox raised the issue of the gap in youth work between the ending of Garden Church in June and the plans for indoor youth work in September. The leadership team is aware of the issue and the Vicar felt it may be best to continue with outdoor events in this ministry until September. Mrs Anne

Kavanagh further drew attention to the ongoing need for assistance with youth work and raised the possibility of further appointments in this area.

- **Finance.** The parish share is paid up to date and all the church funds are in positive balance. Mrs Anne Kavanagh raised the question if we are in the position to reopen the Hall for rental income. The Vicar informed of a recent award given of £1010.09 in s106 contributions, which could be used for getting the Hall up and running for activities and lettings. At the Vicar's request, Mrs Bernice Watts and Mrs Lizzie Wallace had drawn up a list of three main areas of priority: boarding up a hole in the ceiling, carpeting floor tiles, and replastering/repainting a section of the wall. Mrs Wendy Whitfield highlighted a further area needing attention (the state of deterioration of the external doors near the toilets). The PCC agreed to spend the s106 award on work in the Hall. Mrs Bernice Watts will act as a central point of gathering quotes and moving the matter forward as a matter of urgency.
- **Parish Office computer.** The computer is slowing down, and it was agreed that this should be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- **Churchyard working party.** Mr Dave Lacy had raised the question if a working party could be organised. Mrs Bernice Watts will liaise with Mr Lacy, Mrs Wendy Whitfield and the Churchwardens for a suitable date following the lifting of the restrictions.

8. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The Vicar informed the PCC of the names and roles of the recently formed Safeguarding Committee:

- Mrs Sue Almond — Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Mrs Clare Reid — Safeguarding Administrator & Lead Recruiter
- Mrs Caroline Sheldrick — Children's Safeguarding Champion
- Mrs Bernice Watts — Safeguarding Committee Secretary (*ex officio*, as PCC Secretary)

The Vicar will chair the Safeguarding Committee, and the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and the Children's and Youth Worker will be on the committee, *ex officio*.

The PCC approved these arrangements.

9. RESULT OF RECENT CHURCH SURVEY

The report of the Return to Church Survey which was put together by Mrs Vivienne Depledge had been made available to the PCC prior to the meeting. The Vicar mentioned the positive outcome that we seem to be heading in the right direction and welcomed any thoughts. The meeting agreed that conducting this survey was a helpful exercise and that we should give some thought to the possibility of further such surveys in the future, as appropriate.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR GARDEN CHURCH

The Vicar talked through the thinking behind the three different services to be offered in the Vicarage garden and due to start on the Day of Pentecost. The PCC discussed some of the practical arrangements needed. The PCC approved the proposed scheme of outdoor services and online options and agreed on the finer details to defer to the Vicar and the Churchwardens.

11. REVIEW OF THE PCC HANDBOOK

The latest draft of the PCC Handbook had been circulated before the meeting. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of 2021.

12. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL MEETINGS TO ADDRESS TO THE PCC

- a) **Future appointments to Staff Team.** It was agreed that the PCC should spend time considering this issue, and it should be on the agenda for the autumn.
- b) **Resourcing ministry with children and young people.** It was suggested that a brief paper from the Children's and Youth Worker would help the PCC in considering this further. Such a paper should be considered over the summer.

13. AOB

None.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 8th June, at 7:30pm.

15. CLOSING PRAYERS

Various members closed the meeting in prayer.

APPENDIX 1

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