

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 8th June 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar commenced the meeting by reading Matthew 7:24-27 and in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

None (see Appendix 1). Mr Tim Hearn and Mrs Val Morris were welcomed, after their recent election to the PCC.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes were approved subsequent to a couple of adjustments and signed as amended.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- **Youth work (items 7 and 12b).** The Vicar explained that this discussion would need to be postponed, as Mrs Lizzie Wallace had been unable to prepare the relevant paper due to ill health.
- **Finance (item 7).** The Vicar gave an update on the intended work in the Church Hall, which is moving in a positive direction. Mrs Wendy Whitfield has obtained quotes and the work is likely to go ahead while the exact costs are being calculated.
- **Parish Office Computer (item 7).** The Vicar informed the PCC that the start-up of the computer is somewhat faster after using a free version of a clean-up program. It is still not ideal and Mr Richard Lawn has offered to come in and look into the matter.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Estate of Mr Ken Cooke.** The Vicar shared the contents of a recent letter from the solicitors dealing with the estate of Mr Cooke, informing the PCC that Mr Cooke had left £7,000 towards the fabric of the church building. Grateful thanks were expressed, and the donation is to be placed in the Fabric Fund.
- **Holy Communion.** Mr James Coe referred to his previous correspondence regarding the return to the regular pattern of eucharistic services. The matter remains unchanged from the agreement at the May meeting, with the intent being to return to regular Communion services once restrictions permit them to be carried out in an appropriate manner once more.

6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. REPORTS

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

- **Garden Church.** The Vicar invited the PCC to give feedback on the outdoor services. Mrs Anne Kavanagh highlighted the positive aspects of people being able to socialise after the services with fewer restrictions.
- **Meeting with Bishop Guli.** The Vicar had met with Bishop Guli in May and had raised the issue of the diocesan response to the 2019 resolution by the PCC under the House of Bishop Declaration. The Bishop is taking seriously the fact that the issue has not been dealt with properly and assures the PCC that she will act on it as soon as she is able to.

- **Redevelopment Project.** The Vicar had received a document from Ben Downie of Inkpen Downie Architect and Design Ltd with a draft programme for work and timings. The Vicar shared the chart with the PCC and invited comments. He will get back to Ben Downie by the end of the same week with the PCC's feedback. Unless it has already been seen to, the Diocese should be informed of the change or architect (Mrs Wendy Whitfield).
- **Proposal.** The PCC agreed with the proposal from the Churchwardens' report that arrangements should be made for the five-year electrical inspection of the church. Mrs Wendy Whitfield will see to the matter.
- **Finance.** The parish share continues to be paid. The excess money from the Mother's Day appeal has been sent to Compassion for the Child Survival programme. The Hall fund is held up by reserves.
- **Youth work.** The Vicar gave a brief update on the ongoing children's and youth work during Garden Church on Sundays and at the mid-week groups.
- **Jericho Road Ministries.** Dr Dan Watts gave an update on an exciting new opportunity that has arisen for volunteers from the church to help run a social event on Friday afternoons at Beacon House.
- **Reports and PCC meetings.** The Vicar raised the questions whether the PCC would be in favour to keep receiving reports from the staff team, Churchwardens and the Treasurer on a monthly basis, and how often the PCC should meet going forward. It was decided to bring these matters up at the PCC meeting in July.

8. LOOKING AHEAD

The Vicar invited the PCC to discuss options for plans for church services in the summer and autumn. The discussion which followed yielded various helpful options and suggestions covering children's groups, family services, Communion, singing, refreshments, workload and the number of services each Sunday. It was agreed that once a normal 'return-to-church' was possible, it would be desirable to look for a re-starting of children's groups, the return of Communion services (at least monthly), and a 10am start for a single service on Sunday. The PCC agreed that the Vicar and Churchwardens should work together to finalise these plans for services in the coming months.

9. COVER FOR SUNDAYS WHILE THE VICAR IS UNAVAILABLE

The PCC discussed various options for cover for Sundays during the summer while the Vicar is unavailable, and agreed that various options (including the use of pre-recorded sermons from, for example, Church Society) should be explored.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESSES

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 13th July, at 7:30pm.

12. CLOSING PRAYERS

Various members closed the meeting in prayer.

APPENDIX 1

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