

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 13th July 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar opened the meeting by reading from 2 Corinthians 7, and then led the meeting in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH JUNE AND 15TH JUNE 2021

The previous Minutes were approved *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Lent 2022. Bishop Guli's recent *Ad Clerum* proposed that Lent 2022 be viewed as a 'Holy Sabbatical' for churches in the diocese. This might involve reducing the number of meetings and cutting down on general busyness to help churches recover after the difficulties of the pandemic. It was agreed that this should be raised at a future meeting.

6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. REPORTS

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

- **Service timing.** *Proposal:* To move our intended start time for the Morning Service on Sundays in church to 10:30am. Various members could see good reasons for this suggestion and the PCC agreed to move towards a start time for Morning Services at 10:30am from September onwards.
- **Small Groups.** *Proposal:* To gather potential leaders of Small Groups in the early part of autumn, with a view to developing a vision for such groups at St Peter's. The PCC agreed for the Vicar to start the process of re-booting Small Groups and to look to meet with potential leaders in the next few months.
- **Office computer.** Further to the Administrator's report, Mr Richard Lawn has obtained a new computer for the Parish Office and plans to set it up in the near future.
- **Jericho Road Ministries Working Group.** Dr Dan Watts has been working towards sourcing a team of volunteers to help running a social event at Beacon House. The interest has been low and the question remains whether a team could start something up in the autumn or support an event that is already led by Beacon House. Dan and the Vicar will meet separately to discuss options.

8. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING TO THE PCC

The Vicar raised the matter of regular reporting to the PCC and whether we should do this in a different manner and frequency. While The Vicar emphasised the importance to maintain transparency, he wanted to raise the question whether monthly reports are the best way to do it. The PCC discussed various options and agreed to move towards a "spotlight approach" by focussing on certain areas within the church life on a rotation basis. It was suggested to

highlight each major areas of church life about three times a year. Also emphasised was the importance of being flexible and responsive to new situations as they arise. The Vicar shall discuss this in more detail with the Churchwardens over the summer.

9. RESOURCING MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mrs Lizzie Wallace had presented the PCC with a paper on plans for children's and youth groups from September onwards. In this, she outlined three specific areas where resources would be required for facilitating these groups. The PCC addressed the following points:

- a) Re-equipment of the Church Hall and the issue of maintaining cleanliness.
- b) Allowance for a budget for teaching resources and other materials.
- c) Prayers for provision for a team of committed leaders and helpers.

Dr Dan Watts proposed that the Finance Subcommittee could look at an annual budget for youth work to address the financial dimension of these resource issues. Mr Lawn emphasised the limitations of such annual budgets when needs fluctuate. The PCC agreed to delegate further consideration of the financial dimension of these issues to the Finance Subcommittee. The PCC agreed to pray that the Lord will provide committed leaders and helpers. The PCC also acknowledged the need to rethink how we source volunteers and to look to having a wider volunteer culture. Dr Dan Watts led the meeting in prayer.

10. APPOINTMENTS

The Vicar raised the matter of appointments for a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator (the current vacancy ends in August 2022) and Apprentices/Ministry Trainees (this would be a brand-new appointment) and addressed the question on how to move forward with these. A discussion followed. If we would look to appoint one or more Apprentices/Ministry Trainees in September 2022, we need to begin the process between now and Christmas 2021 (Revd Mark Wallace). The Churchwardens presented feedback on the role of the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and stressed that we should be focussing on a co-ordinating role instead of a leading role. The importance of pastoral care work in church life was emphasised. It was pointed out that there are existing networks of pastoral care within the church but that these need to be co-ordinated and expanded. It was also pointed out that without Revd Aella Gage, who prior to the pandemic had been in effect our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, we will feel the need for this role keenly going forward.

The PCC agreed to look to re-advertise for a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, keeping the current job description, and with an ideal start date of the 1st October 2021. The Vicar will liaise with the Churchwardens and the Administrator on the process.

The PCC also agreed, in principal, to explore the vacancy of an Apprentice/Ministry Trainee further and to bring something more concrete to the PCC for consideration in the autumn. During discussion, it was emphasised that making such an appointment would have resource implications and that there needs to be a robust vetting process.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESSES

None.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 14th September, at 7:30pm.

12. CLOSING PRAYERS

The meeting was closed 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