

St Andrew's Church

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2020 via Zoom

Present: Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Patience Wilson, Paul Edwards, Catherine Holton, Frances Cansfield, Claire Reilly, Andrea Edwards, Dinos Kousoulou, Illy Duce, Rex Bourne, Rob Barwood-Symmons, Adele Barwood-Symmons, Emma Oppong-Addai, Ruth Mackay, John Tanner, Richard Berndes, Paul David and Tony Leach

1. Opening Prayer

1.1. The Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received from: Claudia De Rienzo and Laura Bruce.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 11th March were approved and will be signed at an appropriate time.

4. Matters Arising and Actions and Decisions.

8.1 Contactless giving. The meeting noted that this initiative would be pursued once the Church had reopened. In the meantime, Text Giving had been introduced as part of the online service.

5. Response to Coronavirus. Rev Steve Griffiths gave an update on the impact of the Lockdown on Church Services and Ministry. The following areas were explored:

Pastoral Response. Jo has continued to work specifically on Mindfulness sessions and with contacts via the school. Rev Steve Griffiths has been exceptionally busy with concerns over mental health, financial and bereavement issues. There has been a significant increase in the number of funerals over the last 10 weeks. We noted that a decision was made to partner with Love Your Doorstep as a way of meeting the practical support needed in the local community rather than try to set up our own response.

Worship. 16 services are conducted via Facebook Live as well as a Holy Communion Service on Sundays. We explored the national picture of the impact of digital services. This showed a significant take up on Easter Sunday with a gradual decline since. 29% of people are using this opportunity to participate in services other than services offered through their normal Church.

Various options for counting attendances have been used. The potential record of attendance at St Andrews indicates that on average there are regularly 50 more people taking part in Services and there has not been any significant drop off since Easter Sunday. It was agreed that a wider discussion was needed going forward as to the role of online services both in terms of attendance and participation.

Financial Response. There had been a significant loss of income in bookings of the Parish Centre since the restrictions in movement were introduced. Text Giving has been introduced as part of the Sunday Service. However, giving is approximately 30% down.

Discipleship. An online Bible Study Group is being explored as are other forms of on line learning using Facebook live rather than Zoom. The situation will be kept under review and if there is a preference to use mediums such as Zoom for training, events will be changed.

Buildings. We noted that Church Buildings are likely to be allowed to open in July. We explored the practical and possible legal consequences of opening the Church if we were allowed to do so.

Rev Steve Griffiths has estimated that only 50 people could attend a service if the current social distancing rules remained in place. The Church would need to be deep cleaned after each service and appropriate safeguards would need to be put in place to safeguard those attending.

We acknowledged that the social interface services are valuable to many people, as well as the success of the online services. The future is likely to require a mixture of both and returning to a Church based service is never going to be as it was prior to the Virus. The general feedback from the meeting was that the current format of services were inclusive, engaging and a very calming experience.

The issue of services going forward being more inclusive and accessible was raised, as well as a need to get greater involvement from others and it was agreed that this needed to be addressed.

The meeting congratulated Rev Steve Griffiths and Jo for the work undertaken in getting the online services functioning so well.

6. Status of PCC. Dinos confirmed that new guidance had been issued regarding PCC membership and the holding of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. All PCC members will remain in Office until the APCM takes place. This includes Church Wardens and Deanery Synod Reps. The APCM needs to take place before the end of October 2020. Zoom type meetings are acceptable but any decisions involving Financial or Contract matters must be circulated to the PCC to enable any recommendations to be ratified.
7. Update – Towards 2030. The paper circulated updating the actions taken to date was noted. It was agreed that the MAP needed to be updated as a result of our recent experiences.
8. Parish Centre update. It was confirmed that the Lease had been signed and that Kedleston Schools Ltd. had taken over possession of the Centre. The first part payment of rent had been received and the next quarter's rent is due in June. The Centre still needs to be cleared and this needs to be carefully planned and a significant number of people need to be involved.
9. Financial Update. The financial position was reviewed and it was noted that the budget had been recast to take account of the impact of the Virus. The financial position was acceptable in the circumstances and the rent being received from the Centre is making a significant contribution towards the financial stability. It was confirmed that the flat had been vacated and that permission was being sought to change the use classification to enable Kedleston to use it as an office and teaching space. Once the Council has agreed to the change of use, the flat will be leased to Kedleston under a separate agreement at a market rent. There is a cash flow issue which requires a call on reserves which will be refunded once the June rent for the Parish Centre is received.
10. Church Restoration Project. Dinos reported that due to Rev. Steve Griffith's time constraints, the Steering Group had not met. It was hoped that the first meeting would be held soon and a report presented to the next PCC. As the National Lottery is not taking

new applications it was felt that although things had been delayed we should be able to make up any time that has been lost.

11. AOB. Future meetings. It was agreed to continue to meet using Zoom and that the next meeting should take place in July. If an announcement is made prior to this in relation to Church Buildings being allowed to open, then a special meeting will be called.

The meeting concluded with the Grace