

ST PETER'S, TIVERTON

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2020 at 7 pm by Zoom

Present: Mary Seaton (in the chair), the Revd Robert Gordon, David Catchpole, Gill Heard, Kate Henshall, Jean Jenner, Deborah Lal, Averil Long, Catherine Makepeace, Jennifer Palmer, Chris Shields, Richard Stenlake, Vicki Stuckey and William Zarrett.

Apologies: Joanna Hall-Tomkin, David Ricks and Roy Webber.

The meeting opened with prayer.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 20 August 2020 were approved and signed.

2 Matters arising from the minutes

Musical resources for worship during lockdown (minute 5.4): There was an extended discussion of the use of musical resources and the streaming of services. The practicalities of live streaming our services will be further researched. Guy Henshall and WZ have begun this process and would welcome one or two others to make up a working group. The primary emphasis will centre around cost, benefit to our congregation and the challenge of finding willing operators for the system once it is in place.

3 Safeguarding

This matter was on the agenda, reflecting our commitment to exercise a shared scrutiny of this important issue, but CM reported that there had been no recent developments.

4 The Church of England and the lockdown

The PCC considered a letter from the two Archbishops and the Bishop of London about the Church's response to the government's rules concerning public worship during the period of the lockdown (5 November – 2 December). It was noted that they were expressing unease about the prohibition of public worship in addition to permission to open churches for private prayer, but there had been no evidence of any change of mind on the part of the government about this matter.

5 Worship

GH introduced the minutes of the meeting of the Worship Committee on 26 October.

There had been widespread appreciation of the provision of services on Sunday mornings by zoom and telephone, and RG was thanked for all that was being done by him and Steph

to provide and sustain this provision. Thanks were also recorded to Guy Henshall for his work in operating the sound system in church during the services held there, which was recognized as a very heavy commitment.

The PCC endorsed the minutes of the Worship Committee meeting.

6 Finance

WZ as chair of the Finance Committee introduced the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 22 October, and CS as treasurer reported on the overall financial situation.

6.1 *Income and expenditure*

Income to the end of October stood at £54,448 (budget: £56,999), and expenditure at £69,267 (budget: £82,077), producing an actual deficit of £14,819 (budget deficit: £25,078).

In detail, planned giving was up by £1,937, but statutory fees were down. On the expenditure side we have no salary costs at present (no music director and no office assistant). Planned maintenance is underspent against budget by £6,956, but emergency maintenance, e.g. installation of security grills, has used this up (overspent against budget £6,476). Magazine adverts are down by £762 but costs are down by £1,437 against budget.

6.2 *Stewardship*

The stewardship figures to the end of September were £33,095, i.e. an increase of £3,660 on the comparable 2019 figure of £29,435.

So, despite the disruption experienced since March, the stewardship finances are looking healthy. The church has not lost Parish Giving Scheme members (current figure: 47), and the benefit of this facility has been illustrated while the church has been closed. The scheme has been critical to continuing income during this year: without it the church would have seen much higher losses.

6.3 *The 'give a little, help a lot' appeal*

The grand total raised up until 1 August, including gift aid, amounted to £8,323.75.

6.4 *General fund raising*

RW remains the Fundraising Coordinator for the Church but VS will from now on assist him, focussing on collaboration with WZ in promoting the Church within the local community to the benefit of both. She has suggested several ways in which the town could be engaged such as a fund thermometer or Christmas tree festival.

6.5 *Common fund contribution*

As a result of a reduced number of participants, the Common Fund figure for next year for St Peter's stands at £48,529, a reduction of approximately £2,000 on 2020.

The PCC endorsed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting.

7 Fabric

The Fabric Committee has not met formally since March, but DR had sent a report on fabric matters, as follows.

There were two significant items that had been undertaken since the last PCC meeting in August. (i) The security guarding and window grills for the heating chamber have been completed. (ii) Roof level masonry works, most significantly the repair of loose pinnacles, have also been completed, as required by the 2018 quinquennial inspection.

Other matters are in hand: (i) We are still trying to establish when the necessary work on our churchyard trees may take place, for which the contractor, *Four Seasons*, has been appointed. (ii) Some additional repointing works have been identified at the east end of the south aisle and a quotation sought from *Western Steeplejacks*. This quotation will also cover the replacement of the high level pointing in sand/cement around the chancel at high level, which we hope to complete before any internal redecoration might be undertaken.

8 Re-ordering

WZ reported on conversations with DR about the latest developments on the re-ordering project.

DR had reported that invitations for tenders would be published soon and reviewed at the end of November or early December. Once a contractor had been appointed, DR's hope was that work would start in January, though WZ thought that this timetable might slip a little. When the bids have been received, section by section, the PCC will be in a position to review each and decide which ones to adopt.

As to the financial implications, the first significant monthly payment would probably be in February or shortly thereafter. The architects would provide a schedule of likely payments indicating the amount and frequency, which would enable CS to draw down money from the Church House funds as needed. If less than the Church House Funds are eventually spent on the re-ordering project, the Charity Commission could be approached to free the remaining funds from their permanent endowment status.

9 Committee membership 2020/21

The PCC received and accepted recommendations from the Standing Committee concerning membership of the committees for the period up to the time of the APCM in April 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.48 pm.

Signed:

Date: