



Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 19:30
On Zoom

Present: Howard Wright, Jonathan Rooke, David Duffin, David Craigen, Andrew Walters, Mike Saltmarsh, Pam Maloney, Janet Foster, David Williams, Rich Gillard, Howard Short, Pip Hughes, Timothy James, Abi Mezzullo, Natalie Senior, Jill Williams, Bob Meekums, Lorna Littlewood (guest), Jane Hughes (guest), Rod Eckles (acting secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard welcomed the team to the first meeting of the New Year. Rod Eckles has agreed to take minutes.
There were no apologies.

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard read Psalm 100: Shout for Joy to the Lord.. This is 'celebration scripture', as is our new teaching series on Colossians, telling how vast our God is. We have much to be thankful for in what God has done over the past year.

Jane and Lorna highlighted some of the main events over Advent and the Christmas period, including Messy Church, Zoom Cafe, and Christingle. 124 activity bags were delivered: (30 Advent bags, 37 Nativity bags, 37 Christingle bags, and 20 tots bags). Also very positive feedback from Holiday at Home (178 bags distributed). Posters distributed around the village, and well received. Positive feedback also from Westlands and Belford House.

Howard noted that the Carol Service, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services attracted 364 'views' on YouTube. Our daily Nativity videos had 231 views. The Christmas collection has reached £1625.00 (incl Gift Aid).

Howard then led us in prayer to our God, Emanuel, who walks with us.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None.

4. PCC – 10th November 2020

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
 - i. Howard has approached someone regarding the vacant PCC Secretary position, and they are considering.

5. Ministry Update

- a. Current mission and ministry (including services, Christmas events): Feedback covered under 2) above.
- b. Future mission and ministry: Howard confirmed that following the Bishops' new advice, we have no choice but to close the church building. There will be no live services from this Sunday 10th January, until further notice. Two key factors dominate:
 - i. Keeping the church open whilst other public spaces are closed has become indefensible,
 - ii. Public safety remains paramount.

Natalie raised the risk that some who have continued attending church might feel neglected or abandoned. Howard said most will stay connected, but there is bound to be disappointment. We will need to make contact as necessary, and he asks everyone to keep eyes and ears open, and to keep in touch by telephone as appropriate.

ALL

- c. Proposal of a small (4-6) 'future strategy team':
Howard explained more of the background, building on the outline contained in the meeting agenda. The proposal leads on from our Parish Mission Action Plan, and the need for a strategy based on a 'best guess' at how the future is unfolding. Though initiated by the PCC, the suggested group should not necessarily be comprised only of PCC members. Howard then opened it up for discussion.

Summary of the main observations and concerns:

- Absolutely the right approach in principle.
- How do we decide the make-up? Members of the staff team? Building and finance considerations will necessitate PCC involvement in any case.
- Finance and organisation at diocese level will be a key factor.
- What scenarios do we need to plan for? Help for other churches?
- [Howard] Ed Pruen at Medstead retires this Sunday, the 10th, and is unlikely to be replaced.
- Surfing analogy: When is the right time to catch the wave?
- We must start by being anchored in scripture, and in God.
- Bible on one hand; reality in the other.
- Must use our different gifts, and build on things we are now celebrating.
- We're in a boat - Coronavirus has tipped us out - when/how do we climb back in? - modify the boat first?
- Represents a chance in a lifetime to reach new people.
- 'If you want to walk on water you've got to get out of the boat' [Ortberg].

Howard said we should reflect on strategic priorities. During discussions, five members expressed interest: Lorna, Abi, Howard S, Andy, Pip. There was also some debate about Howard's own role. Lorna said we must honour and respect his authority, but his stated preference was not to interfere or 'control' the group's deliberations, except in the case of clear practicalities. There would need to be accountability by way of PCC report-back.

Output must relate to the Mission Action Plan, which might itself need to be changed. Howard will circulate a copy. Jane was also keen that we maintain a digital 'presence' in the future life of the church.

HW

6. Finance.

a. Draft 2020 Results. David apologised for not being able to circulate earlier, but highlighted the extraordinary turnaround from the forecast deficit for the year of £29.1k to a deficit of just £2.7k, with the December period showing a surplus.

Treasurer Commentary:

1. Exceptionally generous one-off donations (particularly from outside area from those enjoying our online services, but also latterly from within our regular donors) continued through to December.
2. Contrary to forecast, and despite end-year catch-up on expenses, December showed a surplus, with the final result for the year being a small deficit!

3. Covid-imposed restraints on youth and family activities, and pandemic-enforced cancellation of Village Picnic, plus postponing of replacement doors project have been main causes of lower outgoings in 2020.
4. Holiday@Home activities in December funded via the restricted EHDC grant to the tune of £981.
5. As predicted it became necessary to draw down £10k from the Diocese loan to meet outgoings in 2021.

Other detail:

- Income was £12k up against forecast.
- £5.5k from the Donate button.
- Expenditure was £15k less than expected [3] *above*].
- Tithed donations have totalled £22k-£23k pa for the past two years.

b. 2021 Budget

- Income is anticipated to be £20k down on 2020.
- Expenditure about the same as 2020, but a note of caution on likely maintenance costs, eg new doors.
- Howard raised the possible impact of the output from the proposed Future Strategy Team (above), eg resource implications, and raising money from different sources.
- Although Donate through PayPal is an easy way of giving, David stressed the 1.4% levy on each transaction.
- We would also be wise to warn monthly mission recipients that we may not be able to maintain donations at the current level. Impact would be disproportionately greater with the smaller organisations.

Howard concluded by saying the end of year accounts are a real cause for celebration, and led a unanimous vote of thanks to David for producing them in time for the meeting. Above all, our thanks to God for His faithfulness.

7. **Teams**

- a. Personnel – Jill Williams has agreed to join the team. Howard to convene a meeting soon.
- b. Building. Nothing to report.
- c. Ministry Leaders. ditto.
- d. Mission Team. ditto.

HW

8. **Safeguarding** In response to a query, it was confirmed that the Safeguarding Policy document has been circulated. Otherwise nothing to report.

9. **Health and Safety.**

- a. Health and Safety Policy to be re-circulated.
- b. Evacuation Procedure needs review and possible revision. David D was asked to follow up.
- c. Electric socket near the memorial table now replaced, and front door lock repaired.

**HW
DD**

10. **Any Other Business.** None.

11. **Dates of next meeting:** 2 March 2021 @ 7.30pm. Doubts raised as to whether finance data would be ready in time. An extra meeting may be required.

Howard concluded the meeting with prayer.