

Notes from Worship Vision Group Meeting – All Saints Guildford

Thursday 11th June, 5.30 - 7pm via Zoom (during corona pandemic)

Members attending: David Barclay (LLM), Henrietta Harding, Richard Hemingway, Sue Hemingway, Carolyn Nicholls, Beverly Watson (chair), Martyn Whiteman (Occasional Preacher), Ryan Harding (Occasional Preacher), Marguerite Barclay

Ex officio: Alison Moulden (LLM trainee)

1. Minutes and action points from last meeting, 30th April 2020

No matters arose from the minutes and action points of the last meeting.

2. Permission for churches to open for private/individual prayer from 13th June (new date): implications for All Saints

Beverly reported that the church could now be open for private individual prayer from 13th June. Each church had to make their own decisions regarding safeguarding, times open etcetera, although the Diocese had provided a risk assessment template.

The Standing Committee of the PCC, which are meeting next week will make any final decision.

The meeting was then opened for general discussion.

Carolyn: she did not consider it was safe now, with people taking pew wood

Richard: it was possible we could use the chapel chairs (the hall chairs would also be available for use)

Martyn: was of the view that the church could only be opened for private prayer after the floor work had been completed

Alison: suggested that there could be a two-hour slot in the morning for those that were shielding or vulnerable, and that after that other people could make use of the facility

Beverly: there was no restriction on the numbers provided there was a 2-metre gap

Henrietta: recommended that when we were ready to open the church the Risk Assessment (note: yet to be completed) should be sent to all church members

Carolyn: cleaning would be necessary after daily use and suggested that perhaps the church should only be open for two days each week

Marguerite: suggested that a notice should be put on the Village noticeboard that the church was open again

Carolyn: suggested we could also use the village Facebook page

Richard: a notice should be sent out confirming that we were not opening on the 13th June

Alison: commented that it could be a very special experience going into the church when it was a completely open space

Marguerite: asked whether we could have candles and it was agreed that battery candles could be provided, and live candles if the church was manned

Allison: asked whether Trish was going to go back into the office to work which would give some security to the building (Beverly confirmed that they had already discussed this possibility)

Carolyn: there was a lone person working policy which would need to be followed

Marguerite: suggested that there could be a notice saying that if people wanted to talk then they should do so outside

Beverly: raised the suggestion of there being laminated prayers on the walls. The discussion proceeded and **Alison** said that she would be happy to prepare these and **Carolyn** suggested that perhaps they could be small tables where the prayers could be placed. Lamination would aid cleaning.

David: confirmed that he would prepare some Thy Kingdom Come prayers.

Alison: suggested there be a journey of prayer around the church walls.

It was agreed that that there would be a journey of prayer around the church walls and that **David** and **Alison** would liaise with each other to provide that

It was agreed that all the various comments and suggestions be given to Beverly and that from those comments she distilled a Proposal to put to the meeting of the Standing Committee of the PCC next week.

3. Looking back:

(a) Review of Online Services during May and June 2020 (Easter Season, including Ascension and Pentecost). Also dial-in Service. Viewing figures. Email feedback. 'Message Board' idea.

Henrietta: had found the online services engaging and were getting better. She recommended that we should retain an online service after lockdown

Marguerite: commented that the children's slot for Pentecost had been incredibly helpful for her and **Carolyn** said that it reinforced the main sermon.

Carolyn: appreciated the variety of the changing liturgy which she had found more able to concentrate on, than when the same liturgy was used on a regular basis

Richard: appreciated the variety of music and the amazing talent that we had at All Saints

Beverly: confirmed that there had been incredibly positive feedback on the choir's contribution (**Marguerite** also confirmed that she found their contribution most enriching). **Beverly** suggested that next time they could perhaps get a montage of choir members to be displayed.

Alison: commented that the children's slot seemed to be aimed exclusively at the younger age group and she considered that something for those children aged 6+ (up to age 16) would be useful. She commented that that group of children could not use Zoom unless accompanied with a parent, although they used it all the time with their friends. This presence then stifled discussion but was in line with the church current risk assessment provisions.

Beverly: agreed that the risk assessment should be reviewed.

Carolyn: commented that a children's group Zoom meeting could take place, provided there were two adults with DBS also in attendance.

It was agreed that the terms of the Risk Assessment relating to Zoom meetings including children would be discussed further off-line.

Beverly: confirmed that she was discussing with Jeanette the teaching and other input for junior and secondary school children

It was agreed that there could be a shift at the All Age service, from providing for infants predominantly, to providing for junior and secondary school children during the lockdown

Marguerite: confirmed that there was a real sense of family in the services and Carolyn was congratulated for involving many families who were not normally involved in services.

Beverly: confirmed that she and Trish were exploring a wider use of technology for the services and possibly for them to be streamed or zoomed

Marguerite: the Dial-in service had been very well received and Pauline, who has difficulty with her hearing, could hear every word. It was appreciated that the Blessing had now been included and Joy has instigated a phone-round for the 8am attendees to give each other the Peace.

Beverly: that was something we could consider for the whole church.

Henrietta asked whether any other elements of the service could be included in the dial-in service e.g. music

Beverly: advised that music does not work over the telephone line

Beverly: confirmed that there was a need to continue the online presence as well as having services in real time after lockdown

Henrietta: commented that the feedback which had been circulated to the meeting had contained some specific observations (eg. variety of music styles), various observations being about aspects that we have not had pre-lockdown

Beverly: she and Trish were exploring the Message Board idea for services, but this would not create interruptions in the service (addressing **Richard's** question)

(b) Review of Thy Kingdom Come daily prayers between Ascension and Pentecost

Martyn reported on the 16 services during the eight days of Thy Kingdom Come and how encouraging it was that 28 different people had attended the services, that in total about 200 had attended during the period and in addition approximately 10 different people had led either the worship, or the prayer themes.

He acknowledged that this level of attendance was almost certainly because it was for a limited duration.

One aspect which was particularly interesting and encouraging was the variety of how people presented the prayer time on their theme.

One person had commented that it felt like a family praying in in one room.

Beverly commented that prayer had certainly worked well using that medium.

(c) Review of Messy Church Holiday Club, May 2020 (Viewing figures: 70,19,12)

Beverly: lots of families had been involved in preparing these three days, which had been led by Jeanette and Rosemary. 70 families watched the first day, but there had then been a big drop-off.

Feedback had been sought and one person had suggested that the zoom link should be sent out every day, not just on the first occasion.

It was clear that those that had attended had probably been Onslow Infant school and from Toddlers Group. It had not been taken up by QE students.

Beverly commented that **it had been decided** that they would not continue Messy Church with QE, rather concentrating on eg prayer spaces, but would still have specific activities for that school. **Henrietta** questioned whether that decision was premature and whether it would bear looking at the content more closely, to see whether it could be tailored for older children.

Alison explained that when it had been successful at QE Pippa had introduced the event at a special assembly and also had an exciting activity. **It was agreed** that the group would consider further, but **Beverly** commented that from her experience she had found that Messy Church did not really work for juniors.

At this stage **Alison** raised the concern that the church should address the current issues of BLM as children needed guidance and were asking questions. There was a wide discussion with **Henrietta** commented that, appreciating she was a privileged black person, she looked at the positives for the future, rather than concentrate on the current negatives. It was suggested that perhaps we should get the children together to discuss these issues, but further consideration was needed.

4. Looking forwards:

(a) Worship Survey follow up (postponed until after corona lockdown/may now be out of date)

Beverly suggested that the results of the survey were probably now obsolete and that we would need to take new soundings, taking account, however, of the observations that had already been made. This topic was therefore on hold, but we would return to it in the future.

(b) Holy Communion: how could we offer this while the church building is closed?

There seemed to be general consent that people would value communion and it was suggested that either this was communion at 9:15 on Thursday (as previously, but over the Internet). [It was observed that some of the older people who attended that service would not have access to the Internet.] Alternatively, there could be another communion service during our 10 o'clock service.

Carolyn commented that we could have communion at a 10 o'clock Sunday service and people would then see what it was like. **Henrietta** commented that this would go across the current mixed format of the services, which seemed to be popular.

Martyn suggested that perhaps there could be a Zoom communion after the 10 o'clock service and before coffee.

It was agreed that **Beverly** would consider this further.

(c) Worship Rota for June, July, August 2020

This was approved and **Beverly** commented that she was very grateful for the preachers that we had now, in particular commenting on the involvement of Ryan and Lydia.

(d) Daily Prayer while church building is shut, and as it reopens **Martyn**

Richard commented that once this was started again in the church then it would be good to move to having three readings as previously.

Martyn put the proposal outlined in Beverley's email of 10th June.

Marguerite commented that some research was needed to see what people would be put prepared to assist in delivering a service and being responsible for a prayer theme.

Richard: encouraged more study of the Bible and **Beverly** confirmed that she had been looking at that aspect only that day.

It was agreed to adjourn for further discussion.

The remaining items on the agenda were adjourned to a further meeting.

Balance of item 4:

What are we learning from the online Services, that we need to continue when our church reopens?

Do we need to continue to offer a digital Service when our church reopens?

5. Worship Space:

Church furniture – update Beverly (Floor refurbishment 29th June – 3rd July. Chairs due 3rd August).

Prayer window in church foyer

6. Courses:

Alpha Course: Postponed to September 2020, if lock-down has ended

7. Safeguarding: update Role Descriptions for 2020 (JS, AM)(postponed until after lock-down)

Date of next meeting 18th June 2020 at 5.30; Zoom invite to follow