

Notes from Worship Vision Group Meeting – All Saints Guildford

Thursday 18th June, 5.30 – 6.30 pm 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)

Minutes and action points from last meeting, 11th June 2020

Matters arising:

Church opening for individual prayer

It was confirmed that the opening was being announced on the village Facebook and on the village noticeboard.

Reference was made to Robin's comment at the standing committee of the PCC, namely that there should be ventilation

The previous meeting had suggested that there be electric candles but these would need cleaning and add to the work needed each day; this might be reconsidered

We had several Try praying booklets and it might be possible to use those.

ACTION: Carolyn confirmed that she would review these points

Items held over from meeting on 11th June:

4. Looking forwards:

b) Holy Communion while building remains closed:

There was discussion about Holy Communion after the service on 28th June.

One comment was that people had felt excluded from the previous communion. It was suggested that people be invited to take bread and wine, but this would not be in line with current regulations.

Beverly would, however, make it clear that she was taking communion on behalf of everyone and it would be during the last 8 to 10 minutes of the recorded service so that people could attend if they wished.

IT WAS AGREED that: we offer an online Communion at the end of the Service on Sunday 28th June, to give the whole congregation an opportunity to experience this.

d) Daily Prayer:

Beverly explained the proposal in the Agenda.

Saturday prayer would continue but only one Zoom invitation would be sent out to cover that as well as morning prayers (note plural, not prayer).

It was confirmed that there would be two readings as stated in the news sheet and a psalm.

The Church of England website would be used for the liturgy, but there would be fewer Canticles.

It was confirmed that the dial-in facility would be available and that people using that would be able to pray out loud and join the prayers.

There would be one section for ex tempore prayer with different themes.

Alison suggested that different liturgies could be used and that there could perhaps be "church in the field" (Carolyn confirmed that the latter was currently not permitted). It was agreed that different liturgies would be considered further at the next meeting.

It was suggested that people needed stability and continuity at the present time, although Alison pointed out that seekers might need something new and fresh.

It was agreed to limit the time on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday to 30 minutes and the proposal amended accordingly.

IT WAS AGREED that: We offer Morning Prayers on Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays at 9.15am, from 22nd June onwards via Zoom. This will use the framework of Morning Prayer, but with fewer canticles and more time for extempore prayer. Those who attend will have the opportunity to lead and choose topics for prayer. (This allows for the Thursday Communion to be reopened at a later date, if required). The time would be limited to 30 minutes. The Saturday prayer would continue as now, but all prayer times would be sent out on one Zoom invite.

e) and f) 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?

There was then discussion about how we go forward when the church reopened for services. The proposal in the Agenda was considered and Sue commented that this was a good way forward, providing flexibility and took account of current and changing regulations. It was agreed that Vision group leaders would be encouraged to speak to all their members.

IT WAS AGREED that: we hand the responsibility for this to a Strategic Team (Beverly, Carolyn, Henrietta, Trish), who will consult with all the Vision Group leaders on this issue. Members of the Worship VG will be welcome to offer their thoughts to the Strategic Team for consideration.

5. Worship Space:

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

Beverly confirmed that all the money necessary for the new seating had been collected: that the floor would be refurbished on the 29th June and the chairs would be delivered on the 3rd August. The wardens were getting the church ready; wood had been requested and the rest would be taken by the company doing the flooring.

There was a vote of thanks for all the work undertaken by Carolyn, the project manager, and the other wardens.

[Alison left the meeting for another appointment.

b) Prayer window in church foyer – people to take responsibility for producing prayers

Beverly asked whether there was anyone prepared to be responsible for the prayer window in the church foyer. The prayer tree had been used and Annie had provided prayers for Easter and Pentecost.

Carolyn wished to have the prayers changed once a month and it was suggested that someone outside this group should be asked to take on this responsibility: Rosemary Woodcock was suggested.

Beverly pointed out, however, that there was a safeguarding issue using someone outside the group.

It was agreed that Rosemary would be asked, but that someone in the group would be responsible for passing any material she suggested.

ACTION: It was agreed that Beverly would speak to Rosemary.

6. Courses:

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

Beverly reported that there had not been much take up for the proposed Alpha course and the five or six were already committed members of the church, whereas the course was really designed for those exploring the faith, relying upon relationships being built through a meal and also a weekend course.

Other local clergy had found that there had been a large take up for courses in their congregations. As a result, Beverly had reviewed the courses available in our library and was proposing that we promote the Pilgrim course.

This course revolves around living the Christian life and Beverly was keen for the whole congregation to be encouraged to take the course, as it was designed for both committed Christians and those "on the fringe".

There were eight modules, each comprising six sessions, and Beverly proposed to run the first one herself using Zoom and utilising breakout rooms.

Dave was very positive about the course having reviewed the material, and Carolyn was anxious for anything to be run which would build firm Christian foundations.

It was proposed that the course would run weekly in a six-week block initially, and then there would be a review.

If we proceeded it was necessary to decide whether we should start now or in September. Beverly was keen for a "summer school" with the existing groups closing down, conscious of the fact that by September we might be "back to normal".

Other modules in the course might be run post September, depending upon the take-up.

IT WAS AGREED that: we offer the Pilgrim: a course for the Christian Journey to the whole congregation. This is a series of eight six-week courses which can be studied over the course of a year. Authors of the Course are Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, Paula Gooder, Robert Atwell. www.pilgrimcourse.org The course would start on the 8th July running for six weeks, being of one-hour duration starting at 7:30.

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

Date of next meeting: 16th July 2020 - 5.30-6.30pm via Zoom

[Martyn Whiteman, 19th June 2020]