

Minutes of PCC Meeting - Monday 18th May 2020

Present: Beverly Watson (Chair), Marguerite Barclay, Rebecca Brown, Rob Burch, Clare Byrnes, Rob Crossingham, Simon Doran, Eve Gunn, Henrietta Harding, Robin Holdsworth, Chris Lambert, Julie Lodge, Lara Milne, Simon Moulden, Carolyn Nicholls, Paddy Payne, Jo Smalley, Trish Tye (Secretary), Martyn Whiteman.

Apologies: none

1. Approval of minutes

1.1. The minutes of the meetings held on 27th April 2020 were approved.

2. Transforming Church Plan

Beverly explained that all churches in the Diocese have to put together a plan of action. We created our first plan about 4 years ago and updated it 2 years ago. It is now time to review again, partly as much is done. Alison Moulden and Jeanette Whiteman were invited to this part of the meeting as chairs of the Eco Vision Group and Children & Young People Vision Group respectively.

We then went through the goals in the current plan.

2.1. "Making Disciples" – led by Beverly Watson

Most of the goals within this area have been achieved. Although we looked at the pattern of regular worship as part of the worship survey, we need to do more in this area.

Beverly noted that it is interesting what has happened during lock-down. More people are watching our online services than would attend on a Sunday. We believe people are forwarding links to their friends and we have had a lot of feedback on the services. We are gathering information on what people enjoy.

The Pastoral Team are connecting people in new ways during this time and there is a great sense of unity when we're not actually physically together.

The meeting then went into a period of discussion about this area and any new goals that we might want to set ourselves.

Comments included:

- Encouraging regular attendance is really key

- It has been shown that church isn't just about the building. How do we continue to reach out to individuals?
- We're experiencing a different type of worship, so it's good to see what we learn from that.
- We now have a unique opportunity as we have had to change our style and we need to capture that.
- Communities have been brought together by COVID-19. We need to think about what we do as a congregation to be involved in the community.
- We need to think about communicating to the wider community and get out to the new people we have established contact with.
- We have shown that when we communicate digitally, we are connecting with a lot more people.
- We must capture feedback now as there's a danger that we'll forget
- The new plan should include a course, perhaps Alpha.
- When we're able to have church services again we should continue to run online services in parallel. It's much easier for people to transition to the building if they have experienced us online first.
- Continuing online services will also support those who have concerns over the physical setting.
- A great advantage of the online service is that you can watch at a time that suits.

2.2. "Growing youth and children's ministry" – led by Jeanette Whiteman

Jeanette explained that this plan was put in place prior to her taking the vision group chair role in September.

The Matrix youth hub has had relative success, although not a huge number attending. There has been an issue finding volunteers. The highest attendance has been around twelve, but usually more like six. Carolyn thinks that it is great for getting youngsters together, but there is no spiritual input.

We need to look at our youth and try to think about how we can encourage and develop their faith. Are we providing anything meaningful for the youth at All Saints?

The meeting then went into a period of discussion about this area and any new goals that we might want to set ourselves.

Comments included:

- We are about to go down in numbers at Quest because of numbers coming through. We shouldn't panic as we do have gaps in our age ranges. It is, however, difficult when you get below a critical mass.
- There are many families being contacted by the pastoral team, they just don't tend to come to church.
- It's important that we connect with parents as well as the children. The Toddler Group is very successful with Jeanette, Carolyn, Rosemary and Trish all helping Vanessa. We see a large number of children and parents/carers. We hope to do Messy Toddlers once per term – aiming to bridge the gap between the hall and church. We could introduce a few Christian songs at the end and a bible story in that setting. We are able to share with them, when appropriate as we befriend them.
- Messy Church in the schools is well attended and Beverly has a big impact at QE through regular assemblies and some teaching. The children also come to the church two or three times per year.
- Our work in schools is a huge opportunity to connect with the local children. Jeanette has a vision of being able to disciple and nurture their spiritual growth.

2.3. "Improving church buildings" – led by Robin Holdsworth

Robin commented that we have achieved a lot in church and hall. There are some outstanding issues, which lock-down hasn't helped, including finishing the Reading Room, the library roof and the blinds in hall.

Robin raised the question of what our buildings are doing for the community in Onslow Village? Should we do a lot of work if the people aren't coming? How quickly should we move? Should we plan short or long term? Do we worry about long term or just deal with immediate issues, e.g. toilets and the kitchen?

Beverly thanked Robin and the premises team; it is phenomenal what we have achieved.

The meeting then went into a period of discussion about this area and any new goals that we might want to set ourselves.

Comments included:

- In terms of planning – one way to look at it is the Church of England’s net zero carbon target in 10 years’ time. This will probably direct what we do in the first instance. When we understand what that means, other things may come from that. We will definitely need to do things to the building.
- When we looked at our vision for the building, we didn’t entirely agree what 10 years ahead looks like. However, when we address a short-term problem, it is at least in keeping with the longer term ideas that we have.
- Storage is a continuing issue and one that is important to the Montessori Nursery.
- What we need from our buildings may be good to look at again when we go back to ‘normality’. We are currently in a period of transition. By September, when we develop this plan more, we might be nearer to knowing what is needed.
- When we reflect on the whole amount of work, we need to think about how ambitious we should be. We’re often low on volunteers. We need to make sure the totality is achievable and prioritise to best use resources.
- This would be a good time to continue the chair appeal. We have about £3.5k to raise. A show of hands suggested that we press on with the appeal.

2.4. “Become a bronze eco-church” – led by Alison Moulden

Alison took the Vision Group lead over from Trish and after achieving our Bronze award. We are trying to get silver award and we’re very close. We need to do more in the ‘outreach’ category and this is difficult when church is closed. We had been planning an Eco Fair, but are now thinking we could have an Eco talk instead.

Proposal: That we hold an interview/talk with Bruce Parry a noted environmental author and film maker.

Proposed: Simon Moulden; **Seconded:** Eve Gunn; Unanimously agreed.

The event will be held over Zoom, but with people registering for free via EventBrite. We will advertise to the wider community as an All Saints’ Event as part of our Eco Church credentials.

2.5. Summary

Beverly summarised this part of the meeting commenting that what we had discussed was a good start and that we would encourage the Vision Groups to think more about their goals. We will revisit this as a PCC in September.

Marguerite commented that in the worship survey, 40 people said they'd be prepared to pray for the church. Could we facilitate that somehow?

3. Safeguarding

3.1. Safeguarding Policy

Julie explained that at this meeting, we needed to adopt the Safeguarding Policy.

Proposal: that we adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and delegate responsibility of it to the Safeguarding Team.

Proposed: Julie Lodge; **Seconded:** Paddy Payne; Unanimously agreed.

3.2. Montessori Nursery Reopening

The Diocese has given advice on the process PCCs should follow for nurseries opening in church buildings.

Proposal: The PCC delegates responsibility to the safeguarding team to check that Montessori have met the criteria for reopening.

Proposed: Julie Lodge; **Seconded:** Paddy Payne; Unanimously agreed.

4. Trusteeship – questions for discussion

The PCC had all been sent the Trustee Booklet from the Church of England and now had an opportunity to ask questions about it.

Julie as if we were insured against personal liability.

Action: Carolyn to look at the paperwork in the office.

We agreed that we need to keep a balance between keeping within means and walking in faith. We think we got it right with the chair appeal by saying that we would only proceed once the funds had come in. If the money doesn't come in, we might have to admit that our vision was wrong.

Carolyn commented that we step out in faith when we commit to giving 10% of our giving to our missions.

5. Approvals

5.1. Online Quiz – 6th June 2020

Proposal: That we hold a second Zoom Quiz on 6th June, run by Robin and technically facilitated by Trish.

Proposed: Rob Burch; **Seconded:** Carolyn Nicholls; Unanimously agreed.

6. Dates of future meetings

Standing Committee – 16th June 2020

PCC – 20th July 2020

PART 2 (*Confidential items*)

(none)

Note: The [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) is referenced here for your convenience.

Minutes approved on 20th July 2020

Signed: