

Worship Vision Group Meeting Notes – All Saints Guildford.

Thursday 5th May 2022, 5.30 – 7pm via Zoom

Members present: David Barclay (LLM), Alison Moulden (LLM), Henrietta Harding, Richard Hemingway, Sue Hemingway, Beverly Watson (chair), Martyn Whiteman (Occasional Preacher), Marguerite Barclay, Katherine Hopwood, and Annie Twidell

Apologies: none

1. Notes and action points from last meeting, 10th March 2022

There were various comments.

2. Looking back: Update and Review of Sunday Services since 10th March 2022

Mothering Sunday (27th March), Palm Sunday (10th April), Maundy Thursday Communion + Vigil (14th April), Good Friday 'Journey with Jesus to the Cross' + 'The Watch', Easter Sunrise Communion + Family Communion.

The full story of the Passion was not covered; **Action: Beverly** would consider how this would be done in Holy week in future.

Service sheets: Observations were made about the need for more direction eg "sit" etc.; comment regarding Benediction and also that we say the whole of the Creed, not responsively. **Action: Beverly**

Watch service set up, innovative and valued by many. One view was that on Good Friday the church should be bare apart from cross, and suggested not in a circle as the message was to "be taken out of the Church".

We need to be clear as to how we advertise the content of the various Easter services, so as (not to mislead) to give greater clarity about the content of each service. **Action: Beverly**

Sunrise service: agreed we should start earlier. **Action: Beverly**

3. School Services in Church and at school: Easter Services for QE (29th and 31st March in church, 10.30am). Toddler Group Easter Service (didn't take place). Update from uniformed organisations

Annie reported she had been in touch with uniformed organisations but no response. **Action: Beverly and Annie would liaise with each other**

4. Dray Court: Monthly 'in person' services have resumed, with a 'Mother's Day' service in March, and Easter Service in April.

Martyn reported that following the pandemic there was slow take up despite leafletting residents, sometimes all and other times just our "congregation". Service appreciated by those attending and Marguerite confirmed that residents took part and "owned" the service.

5. Prayer: *Thy Kingdom Come* planned for the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost (26th May – 5th June).

Martyn reported no services this year as clashed with Jubilee celebrations and half term. There would, however, be a labyrinth in the Remembrance Garden and prayer stations in church. There would be a commissioning service on 22 May when prayer journals would be distributed at the 10am service. **Action: Beverly would look into the 1 Peter study.**

6. Library: Librarian needed to take an overview of the library (Sue Hawkins does day-to-day maintenance).

It was suggested that any spare books could be offered to a secondary library in the Diocese.

The role would be advertised in the newsletter and also in the Deanery briefing. **Action: Beverly to liaise with Trish re our newsletter and liaise with the Deanery also drafting a job description.**

7. Looking forwards:

a) **Worship Rota for May to August 2022:** see attachment

Action: Beverly update Ascension Day entry; Alison preach 6 June; talk to Jeremy regarding August.

People had found 4pm service very meaningful. There was a suggestion of having Communion café-style at 4pm.

b) **Proposal to re-instate a Communion Service at 10am on the 3rd Sunday of each month:** this would be an 'All-Age Communion' (due to the fact that numbers attending 8am Communion services are so small)

There was a wide ranging discussion on this proposal. Finally it was **proposed** that the PCC should be requested to there being a trial in July and in September, if the second time was considered appropriate. This was **agreed** unanimously, save for one abstention.

c) **Use of the chapel for worship:** chapel in use again, with chairs stacked neatly. Proposal to sell 30 of the new chairs to alleviate pressure on storage (PCC decision required)

There was a full discussion with probably all taking part. Finally it was **proposed** that the problem of storing the currently surplus chairs should be referred to the premises vision group requesting that they review the situation and, if possible, come up with some storage proposals, alternative to storing the chairs in the Chapel, for our consideration on 7th July. This was **agreed** unanimously. **Action** Beverly to next agenda and advise Property Vision Group. **[Note! Appendix written following meeting giving background]**

(d) **Wearing of robes in Services:** we were referred to:

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/governance/diocesan-procedures-policies-and-regulations/public-worship/clergy-and-ropes> Superceded by a newer directive <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/canons-church-england/section-b#b18> circulated to the group.

Beverly opened the discussion by saying that during the pandemic we had got out of the habit of wearing robes. The topic needed to be brought to the PCC with a proposal, but Beverly **proposed** that we should postpone this discussion as it was not urgent business. **Agreed** unanimously. **Action** Beverly to next agenda.

d) **Choral Scholars:** decision as to whether we should work towards this for September (Jeremy in agreement).

Also **proposed** it be postponed. **Agreed** unanimously. **Action** Beverly to next agenda.

8. **Worship Space:** Proposal to keep some kneelers for use in church, and to dispose of those that are no longer needed (PCC decision required, pending response from the archdeacon as to the process involved). Congregation members would be offered the opportunity 'purchase' a kneeler/kneelers, and to make a donation to church funds in lieu of this.

Also **proposed** it be postponed. **Agreed** unanimously. **Action** Beverly to next agenda.

9. Courses:

a) **Lent Course 2022:** *Discipleship Explored* – complete, with an average of 20-25 people taking part, and three break-out groups in place.

This had taken place and had overall been well received; reference May magazine for observations.

b) Confirmation Course proposed for the summer term: a six week course (next Deanery Confirmation Service set for 11th September 2022)

This was taking place in the summer term.

9. Church Wardens: Update from the Worship Warden

Henrietta confirmed nothing to report.

10. Safeguarding:

Beverly confirmed nothing to report.

Date of next meeting: in person at the vicarage at 5.30 – 7.00pm 7th July

APPENDIX REGARDING CHAIRS; email from Beverly after the meeting

The situation is that for most of the week now, the church is in use for community groups. Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday the Youth Drama Group meets, and they clear all the chairs away - leaving the space 'empty' until the Thursday Communion. Carolyn sets out 25 or so chairs for the Thursday Communion, then puts them away again for Toddlers on Fridays. At the end of Toddlers, the leaders put out about 80/90 chairs for Sunday services. And as you know, we move them again for Tea Time Church at 4pm.

Moving the chairs is a tiring job, and has to be done by volunteers who use the church; and that's the main reason we don't have all 150 chairs out all the time. During the week 'spare chairs' are stacked neatly in the chapel. A month or so ago Henrietta set up the old blue chairs in the chapel (left hand side as you go in), so that the chapel can be used for private prayer at any time. The stacked chairs clutter the chapel to some extent, and some church members find that difficult; but it may be something we have to 'live with'.

So the question is, is there a better place to store the 30 or so chairs we don't often need. The Reading Room is now being used by community groups very regularly during the week; so we don't want to hinder that. The 'chair store' would be an obvious place; but at the moment we're storing all the Toddler equipment in there, so that the team don't have to carry everything over from the shed.

So storage is a problem. Moving the old blue chairs could be a partial solution; but that would need a Faculty, and could be controversial.

After the meeting on Thursday my sense is that we should keep all 150 chairs, but see if the Premises VG can come up with a storage solution. Building a good quality, water-tight shed outside might be a viable possibility.