

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 14th May 2020, 8pm
Meeting held via Zoom during Coronavirus time

Present: K Bell (chair), A Grace, R Evans, S Danby, M Smith, I Wallis, N Massey, J Valpy (minutes)

Apologies: R Masters

1. KB welcomed everyone and later referred them to Ephesians 4.2-7 (Unity in the Body) and to St Paul's prayer - Ephesians 3.16-20.

2. Apologies were noted from RM.

3. Minutes from 11th March 2020 were approved by all.

Matters arising:

- Parish Administrator, Theresa Dodd, remains absent. The situation is being managed by HR at the Diocese. Meanwhile, Jane Templeton continues in the role of Interim Parish Administrator.
- Regular contact continues across all congregations, whether by phone, e-mail, or video meetings/services.

4. Finance (report previously circulated)

Current balances:

Main account: £ 8,814 (includes £2,095 gift aid for Roof Fund, not yet transferred)

No2 account: £ 43,331.55 broken down as follows:

Vicar's discretionary fund:	£	0	
Organ fund:	£	3,820	
Fabric:	£	4,850	
Regeneration (includes roof):	£	30,136	+£2,000 Red Lion Charity +£10,000 legacy +£2,095 Gift Aid
Children's Educational charity:	£	4,207	
Funeral Donation:	£	318	

Finances are now very tight following a drop in income during church closure and we have a shortfall of £1,500 per month. Weekly plate collections cannot take place and there is no income from weddings, although giving through Parish Scheme and Standing Order continues. We will be able to meet Parish Share payments for May and June, but not beyond that. Various actions have been taken to try to reduce expenditure (review of utility costs, suspension of water rates, early purchase of oil at a significantly reduced rate) and all Gift Aid has been claimed to date. Recommendations from the Diocese centre around a stewardship campaign (not an appropriate time for this) and encouraging people to join the Parish Giving Scheme.

After discussion, the PCC agreed to communicate the situation to the wider congregation. AG and KB to compose a letter, PCC to approve before circulation. It was recognised that we recently extended a plea for church funds, which people responded to, but times are hard for many now. We will also need to inform Diocese if we must suspend Parish Share payments. **Action AG/KB**

5. Fabric/Building/Roof project

Some electrical maintenance work is required in response to fire officer assessment; a small area of leaded glass needs repairing; the tower bell chamber bat door needs replacing/making safe. There is money in the fabric fund to cover these items. KB proposed and AG seconded that these works go ahead. All approved and AG will inform Barry to proceed. **Action - AG**

Donations have continued to come in for the Roof Fund, for which we are incredibly grateful. Including monies pledged, but not yet received, the current total is £44,231.

The PCC discussed the benefits of involving local media to raise awareness within the wider community of the funds needed to undertake this specific project. NM to speak to contacts at Wilts and Glos Standard and pass on AG's name for further info. **Action - NM**

6. Youth and Children

Informal Worship families meet via Zoom on Sunday afternoons. There are limitations, but we try to be all age appropriate using bible stories, songs, interactive prayers, and a family quiz.

MS will join a Zoom meeting with the Deanery group Dynamo to talk about the Mission Area and plans for youth and children's work.

7. Together we are Stronger

Cricklade Food Bank continues to provide for many local families and is running a delivery service during lockdown.

8. Churches Together

Carried forward

9. Jenner Hall

Carried forward

10. Deanery Synod

Carried forward

11. Policies etc

Safeguarding – All PCC members are required by the CoFE to complete a Safeguarding Basic Awareness course, C0 Online. Wardens and Homegroup leaders are also asked to complete Safeguarding Foundation C1 Online, and C2 level also (not available online). All certificates of completion to be sent to JV. This is the link to the safeguarding training <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> Set up own login and password and find the basic awareness course C0 and then C1, if required. **Action - ALL**

Lettings policy – Carried forward

Admin processes – actions/arrangements to be made by Jane Templeton (administrator). All parishes are supportive, and costs are minimal.

PCC membership – Ruth Evans has been formally co-opted onto the PCC (email agreement on 4th April 2020) and takes on the role of Acting Church Warden. The rest of PCC membership remains the same until APCM can take place, hopefully in the autumn.

12. Correspondence

A letter from Bishop Viv (in line with CofE guidance) gives permission for **one named person only** to enter the church building to say/record worship, prayer, etc. SD plans to record UTG services for Ascension Day and for Pentecost, one in St Sampson's and one in Holy Cross. All agreed.

13. AOB

Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative runs from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday. There are lots of ideas on the website for individuals, families, private and joint prayer. SD to suggest the UTG runs 24/7 prayer on 25th/26th May. **Action - SD**

14. Vacancy

We are now officially in a time of vacancy and all four PCCs met recently, via Zoom, with Archdeacon Christopher Bryan and Area Dean Alison Love.

Early steps in the process are the preparation of the Benefice and Parish profiles. MS proposed and KB seconded that AG be the representative for St Sampson's and she will begin pulling together information with one of two members from the other UTG churches. All agreed. Other people will be asked to contribute as appropriate.

The Vicarage may be let for a short period of time. Decision to be made by the Diocese.

Date of next meeting – Wed 24th June 2020

Provisional date for APCM – Sunday 18th October 2020