

KING CHARLES THE MARTYR CHURCH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council
held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 8pm
via a Video Conference

Present: Rev'd Laurence Powell, Vicar, in the Chair, Mary Bishop, Norma Buck, Paul Clark, Elizabeth Doyle, Olivia de Lucy, Marilyn Dove, Mike Eliades, Lisa Halsall, Alan Lockie, Dr Richard Morrice, Julian McCrae, Rupert Preston-Bell (for items 1 - 6), Bridget Roberts, Linda Sorenson, Rod Taylor, Ruth Willis

1. Welcome and Prayer

The Vicar welcomed everyone to this conference call and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Rev'd Claire Allwood, Michael Bacon, David Bushell and Rev'd Sarah Partridge.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2020

Elizabeth Doyle proposed, Mike Eliades seconded and it was unanimously agreed by all present, that the minutes and summary of the meeting on the 29th June 2020 be adopted as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on the 29th June 2020

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered on the agenda.

5. Re-opening of the Church for worship

The Vicar updated the meeting on the re-opening of the church for public worship. The risk assessment that was initially undertaken for re-opening the church for private prayer has been updated to include the additional requirements for public worship. This is kept under constant review by a small team including the Vicar and Churchwardens and amended as new guidance is issued. It was agreed unanimously by all present to amend the capacity of the church in line with the new government guidelines and that the Sunday schedule of services will also be changed to include alternating 8am and 10am services in both St Marks and KCM. The PCC agreed to continue delegating further changes to the clergy team so that they can respond to the rapidly changing guidance and ensure that the Church complies with the Government and Church of England guidance on operating during the pandemic.

Action: Vicar and Clergy Team

Dr Richard Morrice and the Vicar will investigate whether a faculty is required for either the forward altar or the church watch screen.

Action: Vicar and Dr Richard Morrice

The Parochial Church Council passed a resolution that the celebration of Holy Communion did not take place within the Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, on Sunday the 5th July 2020. The reason for this decision being that all places of worship in the United Kingdom were closed for public worship on March 16th 2020 as an attempt to stem the spread of Sars-Covid 2. (commonly known as Covid-19) Places of worship in England were permitted to re-open for public worship on Saturday 4th July 2020 if they adhered to Government and national Church of England guidelines. This Parochial Church Council did not feel that appropriate measures had been implemented within the church building of King Charles the Martyr to allow for the safe celebration and distribution of Holy

Communion on Sunday the 5th July 2020. This Parochial Church Council approved measures which allowed for the celebration of Holy Communion within the church building on all Sundays thereafter. The Bishop of Rochester indicated that such resolutions could be made retrospectively of any church closures for private and public prayer and the celebration of Holy Communion on Sundays. This resolution was proposed by Marilyn Dove, seconded by Paul Clark and unanimously agreed by all members present.

6. Proposed Concerts in King Charles the Martyr Church

When the lock-down was implemented by the government in March 2020 all church concerts stopped. It was agreed that a small working party including Rupert Preston-Bell, Michael Bacon, Paul Clark and Rod Taylor will investigate the possibility of resuming concerts and undertake work to put in place the appropriate risk assessment, new procedures and licensing arrangements to comply with the Government's and Church of England pandemic requirements and guidance before any concerts take place.

Action: Rupert Preston-Bell, Michael Bacon, Paul Clark and Rod Taylor

7. Hall Hire

Since the pandemic lockdown has begun to be lifted, the nursery has been the only organisation that has hired the hall for a very small number of days. A Hall Committee was re-formed during the summer to explore how the hall can be re-opened for hire in the Autumn. A unanimous vote agreed that the hall could be re-let from Monday 14th September on the condition that the Hall Committee implement the risk assessment, special conditions, cleaning requirements and monitoring arrangements that they have developed. The Hall Committee will continue to update these new procedures in line with the Government and Church of England guidance as changes occur.

Action: Vicar, Marilyn Dove/Hall Committee Members

It was also agreed that a risk assessment will be completed to explore whether the monthly Saturday Bible Study session can be resumed in the hall's upper room.

Action: Vicar and Julian McCrae

8. Finance Report

The PCC Treasurer, Alan Lockie, had circulated a financial update report to the end of August 2020. In comparison to this time last year, income is down primarily due to the reduction in collections, whilst costs have slightly increased. Whilst KCM is fortunate to have significant reserves it was agreed that it would be helpful for a number of measures to be taken that will hopefully start to address the imbalance in income and expenditure.

Action: Vicar and Alan Lockie

9. Fabric Report

Dr Richard Morrice reported that he is meeting with the roofer and the architect on the 10th September to investigate the urgent work required to the roof of the Church Hall. Builders are also being sought to replace the right hand rail to the hall front entrance.

Action: Dr Richard Morrice

10. Plans for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - 19th October 2020

It was agreed that the APCM will take place on-line during the evening of the 19th October.

11. Move of Photocopier/Working Arrangements in the Church Hall

Investigations continue to try and improve the working conditions in the Parish Office.

12. Date of the Next Meeting - 6th October 2020 at 8pm

The meeting closed with the Grace.