

KING CHARLES THE MARTYR CHURCH TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 8pm via Video Conference

Present: Rev'd Laurence Powell, Vicar, in the Chair, Michael Bacon, Mary Bishop, Norma Buck, Paul Clark, Elizabeth Doyle, Olivia de Lucy, Mike Eliades, Alan Lockie, Dr Richard Morrice, Julian McCrae, Rev'd Sarah Partridge, Linda Sorenson, Rod Taylor and Ruth Willis

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The Vicar welcomed everyone to this conference call meeting and Rev'd Sarah Partridge opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Rev'd Claire Allwood, David Bushell, Marilyn Dove, Lisa Halsall and Bridget Roberts.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2020

Rod Taylor proposed, Norma Buck seconded and it was unanimously agreed by all present, that the full minutes and the summary of the meeting on the 8th September 2020 be adopted as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on the 8th September 2020

4.1 Proposed Concerts in King Charles the Martyr Church

Rod Taylor reported that progress is being made on organising all the necessary licensing arrangements for streaming concerts.

4.2 Hall Hire

Paul Clark informed the meeting that he had prepared a letter as agreed.

5. Plans for Worship over the next three months

The Vicar updated the meeting on how church services were progressing. Although the pandemic rules continue to change on a regular basis, church worship can continue at present, albeit in a very different format to previous years. The bookable Harvest Festival Service went well. The maximum number of people who can attend some type of church services, such as baptisms and weddings has been reduced recently, resulting in a number of cancellations. Regular alternating services between 8am and 10am will continue between St Marks and KCM. Two evening services per month will also now start to be held on the weeks when an 8am service is held. The programme for the significant bookable services over the next three months including the Christmas period was outlined by the Vicar and discussed by the PCC. In order to comply with the rules of the pandemic, some of the major Christmas Services will have to be live-streamed this year with no congregation as it will be impossible to manage the numbers who usually attend.

6. Proposal for Live Streaming Services from KCM

Michael Bacon circulated a paper to the PCC outlining the equipment that was needed for live streaming services from the church going forwards. It was agreed that 'live streaming' is 'here to stay' and that the church is expected to have the ability to stream services, particularly for occasional offices, such as weddings and funerals.

A significant number of people log into the conference calls or view the services on Facebook. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the church needs to purchase the equipment.

7. Bible Study

Julian McCrae and other attendees gave feedback on the Bible Study that had taken place last Saturday for the first time since the lockdown.

8. Plans for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on the 19th October 2020 at 7.30pm

The Bishop issued an Instrument on 7th August 2020 allowing APCM's to be undertaken either electronically or as a face-to-face meeting before the end of October 2020. Given the increasing number of rule changes, KCM has decided to hold its APCM on-line at 7.30pm on the 19th October 2020, which will give some certainty that the meeting can go ahead. The two notices for the Annual Meeting and the APCM have been placed on the external Church Notice Board and the church website and the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending December 2019 are also available on the website. It was agreed that it could be difficult to try and recruit new PCC lay representatives during the middle of the pandemic and bring them up to speed with the way that the church currently has to operate. It was also noted, that another APCM should be held in six months time and that continuity would be beneficial at this time. It was therefore proposed that we amend the local KCM PCC rules, so that people do not have to have a one year break in between terms. This will enable the PCC to retain the current membership for the next six months until the planned APCM in April 2021. Two additional vacancies remain for elected representatives should anyone new wish to stand. The PCC voted unanimously to adopt this approach in this exceptional year during the pandemic. The nominations for the positions of Churchwarden and Deanery Synod representatives were also discussed, along with the agenda and format for the meetings.

9. Finance Report

Alan Lockie had circulated a financial update report to the end of September 2020. The Diocese will be notifying KCM shortly of the amount requested for next year. The Treasurer informed the meeting that he will construct a budget for the forthcoming year, although this will have to be estimated given the uncertainty created by the pandemic.

10. Fabric Report

Dr Richard Morrice updated the meeting on the progress that he has made on taking forward the urgent work that is required on part of the church hall roof. The architect is now seeking quotations on the wider work on the roof.

11. Standing Items: Safeguarding and GDPR

The meeting was updated on the relevant items.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

The next PCC Meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 8pm via a conference call. The meeting closed with the Grace.