

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Thursday 20th August 7.30pm

Present: In the Chair: Revd Andy Batchelor
Maureen Dale, David Hollis, Sylvia Brazier, Julie Batchelor, Mary Bacon,
Brenda Hill, Jonathan Elvy, Janet Western, Rhona Teale, Arthur Watts

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

No matters were reported to the meeting

4. Apologies for absence

5. Chair's Report

Since the start of lockdown our buildings have been closed. We moved onto an online version of the service. Andy registered his thanks to everyone involved. He has had some communication from people outside of church through the virtual services, including one who wanted to set up a regular donation. We have been sending out a newsletter throughout lockdown. Funerals and Weddings in church have restarted complying with current restrictions though many weddings and baptisms have been postponed until next year.

Andy has attended virtual meetings of the DDO team, Archdeaconary committee, and Mission Community. He has also been working with South Walney School including appointing two new teachers.

Maria is taking over the church web site administration and Denise and Jonathan are taking over the Facebook site.

Andy will be moving on the 30th September, last Sunday at St Marys is the 27th September.

6. Appointment of Vice Chair and Secretary

David & Maureen proposed Rhona will be the Vice Chair and will Chair meetings in the Interregnum. Jonathan and Brenda proposed Roger who has kindly agreed to be Secretary. All in agreement.

7. Treasurer's Report

David presented his report on the cash position for the period from 1st January to 16th August. He expressed his thanks to Sylvia who helped prepare the Gift Aid claim.

There has been no fundraising and hall bookings income. Fees income is low. Halls expenditure is for insurance premiums. David has applied to not pay water rates

during the lockdown. Parish offer paid to date £14,000. We continued to receive donations to the church buildings fund, plus other income posted to David or through the bank. Even though our envelope income is well down, lots more people are paying by standing order or directly through the bank. Regular giving income is down by £2000 which is not as bad as David expected.

Overall, the position is better than it could be. When lockdown started, Monica asked not to be paid. Lorna has been furloughed and is now back at work.

Jonathan said that he is very encouraged that our income has dropped by 12%, and commended David for his work in the background.

Arthur and Rhona joined the meeting at this point.

- 8. Churchwardens Report.** Since our last meeting, the church has been open between 2-3 for private prayer, and there has been an attendance of around 20 people. We commenced our regular services on 16th August and 39 people attended our 9.30am meeting. Maureen registered her thanks to Monica for her diligent cleaning and Arthur for his maintenance expertise. We received a request for help with distributing meals from Spring Mount and a few congregation members responded. Hall bookings have commenced with Slimming World who have provided a detailed risk assessment.

We have had a request from Zumba for an evening or daytime booking, and a Keep Fit class. She wanted Saturdays and Wednesdays, and we have confirmed she could use the centre on a Saturday (however there is a wedding in early October) with a maximum of 15 people. Brenda has very kindly agreed to take on the bookings for the Centre. Mary & Steve have agreed to prepare the notice sheet for church.

9. Fabric Report

We are hoping to make some grant applications. Maureen commented that we need a small group to look at this. Denise Elvy has been helping. Electrical and other work is outstanding however nothing can be done at this stage.

10. Knox Street Hall

Roger advised the Solicitor that we would like to progress with the sale, in parallel the Surveyor prepared a land plan. The Solicitor was going to speak to the Board of Finance and then submit the proposals to the Land Registry. This process could take up to 12 months because of Covid. Andy thanked Roger for his work and commented that none of us could have imagined that the process would take this long. David commented that our insurers may refuse to further insure the building. The cost is currently £700 annually.

11. Safeguarding

Rhona commented that she must stress the importance of track and trace. We must all keep a record of the names and contact details of anyone who has been in our

buildings. Public Health England may require this information from us. Rhona is a little unhappy with the hall regards to making it Covid Safe. Entry from the car park door, exit via the fire exit. The only toilet available is the disabled one. Rhona has appropriate risk assessments. Andy thanked Rhona for her work on this.

12. Secretary's Report and Correspondence

We have received correspondence from the Diocese regarding lockdown. These have been read by Andy and the Churchwardens. Julie registered her thanks to Roger for taking on the role. Maureen gave a vote of thanks to Julie for her work to date.

13. Any Other Business

Maureen has requested a meeting with the Archdeacon to discuss the interregnum. She has also been in touch with Jack Knill-Jones as Rural Dean of Barrow to discuss cover.

Andy has received a letter from Monica. She requested that the Toddler Group moved to a Wednesday (as she had heard that the Contact Lunches might close). Andy reported that the Contact Team would like to step down (and they are currently unable to use the kitchen for the foreseeable future). Brenda said that she would keep the meeting up to date on developments.

Roger reported that the communications group has put together a document discussing what we do well and not so well, and have produced a list of actions to stop, start and continue. The use of Facebook; Zoom and the internet has been first class as an example of communications from the church. Roger will bring the group back together at an appropriate time and report back to the meeting. Andy commented that it is likely that there will be a need for a long-term online presence.

Mary asked the meeting if we want to restart doing the pew sheet. After discussion it was suggested that there would be a monthly sheet with all the readings for September initially, developing to a more regular notice sheet once meetings recommence. This would be added to the Facebook page.

The printer needs to be moved from the Vicarage. Steve and Mary have agreed to house the printer on behalf of the church during the interregnum. The meeting agreed. Julie and Andy will make arrangements for the company we lease the printer from to move it to Steve and Mary's house.

14. Meeting Dates

It was agreed the next PCC Meeting will be on 8th October in the church hall at 7.30pm.

15. Closing Prayers

Maureen led the closing prayers. The meeting concluded at 8.05pm.