

Minutes of the PCC Meeting November 11th 2020 at 7.30 pm (by Zoom)

A reflection was led by Janet Bird

Present; Rev Canon Jo Loveridge, Leon Ajao (churchwarden), Nerine Chalmers (churchwarden), Andrew Belfield, Julia Gough, Martin Penny, Andrew Povey-Richards, Ann Stephens-Jones, Helen Briggs, Colin Bird, Janet Bird, Dorothy Toyn and Mary Penny (sec)

1 Apologies were received from Rosemary Bolton, Wendell Newbold and Brian Warburton.

2 The Minutes from Sept 9th were accepted as a true record.

3 There were no matters arising.

4 Co-options. Verity Tranter and Helen Briggs were proposed and seconded, and all were in favour that they should be co-opted to the PCC.

5 Elections: Vice Lay Chair for the PCC; Janet Bird. Standing Committee; Vicar, 2 Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Sec and Parish Administrator. Sub-committees; The Vicar suggested 5 committees and invited PCC to consider joining at least one of these. These are to be 1 Finance; 2 Fabric; 3 Fundraising; 4 Worship; 5 Social and Community. (At 8.05pm, Janet Oldham joined the meeting.) Each is to be chaired by a PCC member and each will write its own remit. There were offers from Leon to chair Fabric, Jo to chair Worship, Janet Bird to chair Social and Community. There were questions and discussion. Eg. Q Is Fundraising separate from Social and Community? A. We need to know where money is to come from. Q Should Fundraising be with Finance? A It is better to have both.

6 Finance and Sustainability. The Treasurer's Nov. Report had been circulated to members. Colin reminded PCC of the loss of income to the PCC owing to the cancellation of Festivals, Concerts, School Bookings and Other fundraising events, and called for a strategy to survive financially to be in place by the next APCM (expected in April). Discussion followed. Questions were raised eg. Q Will we be helped by the diocese? A No. Any help from the Church of England is going to parishes in the North where need is greater. Q Could we put our case to the people of Hertford to help us through the Covid Crisis. A Many have already been increasing their giving, and our deficit predates this crisis. Q Are we as a Greater Church, a special case as are some Cathedrals who have received money. A We do not qualify. The CRF money is for buildings of cultural importance eg Durham is but Carlisle is not. Q Are we able to fundraise on-line? A Within 10 days of lockdown (March 2020), we were ready to receive, and information about how to donate is on all our many videos. Sadly all parishes and charities are suffering a severe lack of donations.

7 Fabric. The Contract for Bell Refurbishment is signed. The heating maintenance is in hand. The hall has had to be closed again, probably until January. The Vicar spoke of the risk assessment for using the church for private prayer only and discussion followed regarding conflicting information on quarantine hours for the building. PCC decided that we will maintain 72hours for safety reasons.

8 From Consumers to Disciples. (introductory notes circulated) The Vicar asked for this item to be deferred owing to time constraint. Janet Bird and Martin Penny offered to begin discussing Kingdom Calling and welcomed others to join them.

9 Health and Safety. There was nothing to report other than the ongoing precautions against Covid virus transmission.

10 Safeguarding. Shanti Gordon has stepped down from being the Safeguarding Officer and PCC offers her their thanks. She will aid in the transition to the new Safeguarding Officer appointed by the PCC, Andrew Povey-Richards.

The meeting ended with The Grace at 9.15pm.

The next meeting will be fixed for January 2021.