

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020  
AT 7.30pm VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Chris Gadd (Churchwarden)(Chair), John Hood (Churchwarden), Fr Colin Lawlor, Barbie Lloyd (Deanery Synod), Candy Williams (Deanery Synod), Sara Pask, Mo Peters, Marian Haughton, Malcolm Brewer, Ian Gibson, Anne Morgan, Sandra Hewett, Dawn Trimby (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

			<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
		<b>Opening Prayer</b> – Anne read the Leading your Church into Growth Prayer.	
1.		<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Lesley Handy & Lisa Toft (have left the PCC)	
2.		<p><b>Minutes of last PCC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> John Hood asked for the following amendment to the first bullet point of Item 4c) of the PCC minutes on 24<sup>th</sup> February to read as follows: “The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of F&amp;F on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the proposed new sound system have already been circulated. Following a visit to St Nicholas Church, Wickham who have a system installed by the same contractor it was proposed by Chris Gadd that we go ahead with the sound system at a cost of £3279.80 but we must not exceed the amount left in the legacy. Any issues can be resolved by the F&amp;F Committee. This was seconded by Malcolm Brewer, 7 in favour and 1 against. “ This amendment was forwarded to PCC members before the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b> <u>Page 3, Item 10 – Concerts in church</u> – all concerts have been cancelled under the present circumstances. <u>Page 3, Item 10 – Applications for Churchwarden, PCC and Deanery Synod</u> – Jane had received one application for PCC before the church was closed but for obvious reasons nothing has happened since.</p> <p><u>Concerts</u> – Malcolm said a phone call has been received from someone from the Royal British Legion Victory Brass Band regarding their booking for 5<sup>th</sup> July saying he had paid a deposit. Dawn and Malcolm have not received or banked any money. Maybe he has the wrong church? Malcolm will talk to Tony and they will investigate further. <i>[Post meeting note: Jane looked on their website and they do have a concert booked for the 4th July at St George's Church].</i></p>	MB
3.	a)	<b>Charity Treasurer's Report</b> The figures for February/March as provided by Lynne McNeill, Charity Treasurer, are as follows:  £81.16 was collected for The Blendworth Centre during February. £67.00 was sent to the Bishop's Lent Appeal.	
	b)	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <u>Income</u> ➤ All areas of income are not surprisingly under budget apart from	

		<u><b>ACTION</b></u>
	<p>Magazine sales and advertising and Investment Interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Income is 64% of what we expected at this stage of the year</li> <li>➤ Extra-ordinary income includes £5000 which was received as a legacy in January and was partly used to cover the cost of the new sound system</li> </ul> <p><u>Expenditure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Parish share has so far been paid in full</li> <li>➤ Insurance is over budget as the payments made include the proportion that relates to the hall and the hall will reimburse us for this</li> <li>➤ Savings have been made in various different areas due to the church being closed.</li> <li>➤ Expenditure is currently 89% of what we expected at this stage</li> <li>➤ Extra-ordinary expenditure includes £2847.61 paid out in March for the sound system</li> </ul> <p>We currently have £5200.05 left in our current account which will not be enough to cover the next payment of the parish share. We do have £7.5K in our buffer account which we could draw down to cover the payment. After that we would have to start to cash in some of our investments, however we have to bear in mind that they will most likely have lost some value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dawn has asked the Diocese if we can pay our Parish share over 11 months instead of 10.</li> <li>• Malcolm said he will struggle to send the Parish share cheque at the end of June and asked Dawn if he could use the buffer account which she agreed to.</li> <li>• Dawn said we will need to take some money from our investments to be able to pay the parish share after this month. John asked what the interest rates are. The money invested with the Diocese gives share dividends and takes longer to get out. Dawn has just received a letter from UTB to advise their interest rate has gone down from 1.65% to 1%. She has not done anything about getting money from the investments yet but she has emailed UTB and is awaiting a reply. Like everywhere else they probably have less staff at the moment so it will take longer. She will email again next week if she hasn't heard anything.</li> <li>• There is a Standing Order still paying Rod each month and Dawn will talk to Malcolm about this.</li> <li>• Chris asked if it was a direct effect from the church being closed that the standing orders are going down. Dawn said no it is from people dying rather than people stopping them. David Cavey however said quite a few people have cancelled their payments.</li> <li>• Dawn asked if there are any envelopes still in the safe and Malcolm said there may be a very few pink and green envelopes in there. Dawn said once the church re-opens for private prayer we might find more money put in the donations box in the porch which will need to be emptied on a regular basis and Malcolm offered to do this.</li> <li>• Mo asked if there are any more large payments to be made and Dawn said the parish share is the biggest outlay we have at nearly £7,000 a month. Mo said she would be happy to offer a short time loan if it would help. She was thanked very much for her offer but Dawn said she thought the Diocese would be happy to wait if the investments took a bit longer to get out so long as they got it in the</li> </ul>	<p>DT</p> <p>DT/MB</p> <p>MB</p>

		<p>end. Fr Colin said we should be getting a letter from the Diocesan Secretary shortly to decide on the next 3 months. Marian asked why we are still expected to pay so much at the moment. Dawn said we cannot get any help from the Government and part of our parish share covers Fr Colin's salary and if we don't pay our parish share it causes a problem for the Diocese. Fr Colin said that the Diocese have furloughed most of the staff at Diocesan House.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara asked how many months the £18,048 covered and Dawn said 3 months.</li> <li>• Dawn said we need to aim to pay our full parish share this year otherwise it will just be added on to next year.</li> </ul>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
4.		<b>Fabric &amp; Finance Committee Report</b>	
		<p>Minutes of this meeting already been circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John said nothing has happened regarding the tower roof yet.</li> <li>• Chris said he was speaking to Paul Read who has signed off the accounts and will let John have them.</li> <li>• John said until we have a clearer idea of the future we need to only do essential maintenance work.</li> <li>• Following a meeting between Chris and Malcolm regarding repayment of part of the loans this year, Chris sent an email to John asking him to email F&amp;F Committee proposing that, if they are in agreement, we write to the lenders and invite them to accept a delay in repayment and also offer the option of converting all or part of this loan into a gift so that Gift Aid may be claimed. Malcolm asked John if, following his email, people were in agreement with this. John said 2 people had not replied but the rest had agreed. Malcolm Brewer therefore proposed that we write to lenders inviting them to accept a delay in repayment and also offer the option of converting all or part of this loan into a gift so that Gift Aid may be claimed and this was seconded by John Hood and agreed unanimously.</li> <li>• John said that Tony Rice-Oxley has asked whether he can come back onto the F&amp;F Committee as he now has a new iPad and this was agreed and he will be invited back to the next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul>	CG/MB
5.		<b>Pastoral Committee Report</b>	
		<p>Minutes of this meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June have already been circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne said it is unlikely that Parent and Toddlers will start again for quite some time. When they do Colin and Rosemary and Vanessa have all left and Dawn Hyett is prepared to take it on for a while.</li> <li>• Vulnerable people – Anne said most volunteers have 4 people to keep in contact with and keep in touch with Anne – it is very successful and feedback Anne has received indicates people are very grateful. PCC's thanks go to all those involved. John said there is one person he has concerns about and he will contact Anne to discuss.</li> <li>• Fr Colin said we talked about Sunday School and have had a conversation with Lynn Winter about children not being included at the moment. Mo suggested getting a group of people together to record something for the children on a weekly basis which was very positive.</li> </ul>	JH

6.	<b>Update on Church Re-opening / likely requirements and restrictions</b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<p>Chris showed a video with an update from Bishop Christopher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fr Colin said the Church of England sent out papers a while back on the implications of opening churches for private prayer. They were shocked when the Government announced that churches would be opening from Monday without liaising with them at all.</li> <li>• There were no expectations that people would need to monitor the church but the Government have now announced “supervised private prayer”. This raises a number of concerns as to who will do the supervising given that a large proportion of our congregation are over 70 and the rest are either working or self-isolating. How do we ensure that people hand sanitise, safety concerns if you get someone aggressive coming in and who will do the cleaning. Do we section off an area which would need to be thoroughly cleaned afterwards. Some churches are talking about opening up for a very limited period twice a week and then shutting for 72 hours so they are not required to clean but this wouldn’t work for us as we have services on a Wednesday and Sunday from the church which is not allowed to be open at those times.</li> <li>• Not allowed to use taper or re-useable lighter for candles so would probably have to remove the stand. Would need to remove all toys, all books, leaflets etc.</li> <li>• Fr Colin said a number of people from the Parish have emailed with concerns.</li> <li>• Fr Colin attended a meeting today – a number of churches are not going to open, some were non-committal and very few said they were opening on Monday.</li> <li>• Boris Johnson on the news tonight has caused more confusion as he said churches are open from this weekend.</li> <li>• On the new risk assessment received a lot says “awaiting Government advice”. Yes we want to see our church open as soon as possible but Fr Colin said he is concerned about the large number of deaths, large number attending protests last weekend and sitting on beaches and is concerned for the congregation.</li> <li>• At the beginning of July churches might be allowed to open for a severely restricted number of people who will need to sit 2m apart and there will be no singing.</li> <li>• Ian said that he has been very impressed with the live streamed services and the number of people who are watching and has heard that we are thinking of carrying these on after the lockdown which he thinks is a great idea.</li> <li>• John said he is worried about one or 2 of our congregation who are almost suicidal because they cannot go to church.</li> <li>• Marian feels it is too risky at the moment and she thinks there is going to be a second peak.</li> <li>• Any mention of outdoor services? Chris said in the Church Times a Vicar is doing services outside for 6 people at a time and Mo said this might be a good idea for those people who are really desperate.</li> <li>• Barbie said it is exactly the same as what has happened with dentists who were told to re-open without access to all the PPE etc. She does not think we are at the stage where we can do this safely at the moment. She would prefer Mo’s option.</li> <li>• Fr Colin suggested that he and the Churchwardens meet together with the risk assessment form he has received by which time we may have further clarification from the Government. When we do</li> </ul>	

		<p>open we need to do so safely. Mo suggested inviting Barbie and Marian to the meeting as they have a lot of experience and this was agreed. Malcolm asked that the remainder of the PCC are kept up to date with the outcome of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fr Colin said funerals will only be able to take place in church with the Priest, no organist, music etc and he must decide how many people can attend and then there would need to be a deep clean afterwards.</li> <li>• Mo asked if we should have a notice on the door advising of the reason why St George's is not open on Monday and also announce at the streamed service on Sunday.</li> <li>• Barbie asked whether we should consider not having the bells as this is an invitation to church and some people may think it is open. John Pearce is the only person who knows how to do this and Chris said he thinks people like to hear the bells.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>ACTION</u></b> CL/C/Ws/MH /BL</p> <p>CL</p>
7.		<p><b>APCM</b></p> <p>We still do not know when this will take place. If churches come back in July with limited numbers we may be able to hold it then but it will have to be on a first come first served basis but the Diocese may say that we can't do that as all the congregation have a right to be there. When we do finally have the APCM we will need a Churchwarden, 2 Deanery Synod Reps, 1 Treasurer and 5 PCC members.</p> <p>David Cavey is reaching a significant birthday and has said he would like to pass on the Parish Giving to someone else but is not in a desperate hurry.</p>	
8.		<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
9.		<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fr Colin said it is illegal not to use a common chalice – Sacrament Act 1547 which is still in force today and is against Canon law.</li> <li>• Sara asked if there is anything in place to receive the Sacrament at all and Fr Colin said no he doesn't think there is a way of doing it.</li> <li>• Ian said he has been discussing with Tony and John Johnson the possibility of a fundraising event taking place as a raffle. John has a way of doing tickets on his computer. Do people think it is a good idea? We would have to think about prizes and how we get them to people etc. John suggested rather than a raffle we ask people for a donation to the church – perhaps as a Gift Day – could be called 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift Day. Ian will take this back to Tony, John and Shirley.</li> </ul>	IG
		<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm after saying the Grace together.</p>	