

St Thomas' Church Bradwell-on-Sea

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the PCC Zoom meeting held on Tuesday 03rd February 2021 at 7pm

Present

Chair: Rev. Steven Poss; David Thorpe; Theresa Reed; Jayne Hill, Graeme Eyre, Jean Bateman, Laurie Main, Roger Scurrrell and Richard Bettany

Apologies: Ella Hand

Rev. Steven opened with a prayer and a reading {Mark Ch 6 vs 1-6}

Approval of Minutes from 8th December 2020

These were approved.

Matters arising

Thursday Club members received a Christmas gift box of mince pies and a card. David reported the sad loss of Trudy who was 100 last May. Her funeral is scheduled for 15th February.

Correspondence

Theresa reminded us of the many emails that she religiously forwards to us of a regular basis.

David reported that he had received an email for the Bishop of Bradwell as we had used one of his sermons. He also commended us for the standard and excellence of our online production. The PCC thanked David and Laurie particularly and all involved in so many ways in assisting with these.

Rector's report

MMU

Steven reported that he had had a chance of heart regarding MMUs, for several reasons: -

Maldon MMU was now agreed and is going forward for approval

Conversation with Bishop John in October and his assurance that parish finances had been removed from scope.

Conversation with our diocesan Bishop, Dr Guli Francis-Dehquni, who also encouraged us to join.

There were a number of the PCC who strongly oppose this move (David, Theresa, Jayne, Roger, Richard, Jean) and a vigorous discussion took place.

It was proposed by David that we would not join at this stage, but if it was as good as it had been portrayed, (after the MMU was actually in service and was producing some positive output), that we may review this decision in the future. This was seconded by Richard.

School Governor's Board

Steven reported that it was proposed to create a central governing board for Southminster, Tillingham, Burnham and Bradwell with community boards in place for each school. In our case this would be led by Steven and the School Head Teacher and were designed to create a more focused approach in strengthening links between the Church and the School. Again, there was much debate on this subject, especially after the recent experiences and assurances provided when the Vine Trust took over and thereafter excluded any PCC involvement.

Living in Love and Faith Document

Steven asked us to read the first section so that we could discuss at the next meeting. Theresa agreed to circulate.

Services

Steven reported that the rotation of services around the churches for our virtual services was working well with good numbers of viewings (48 last week). Zoom communions were planned for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and he thanked Laurie and David for the very professional production of these.

Finance Report and Online Giving Option

Laurie had circulated reports before the meeting and reported that the finances were healthy, with expenses down (heating, electricity etc) but income down through no cash collections and wedding fees, but that our regular standing order giving was holding up. He also reported that we are now able to accept online giving using our QR code/links and monies had already been received by this route. We also now have a card reader to accept payments too.

David suggested that we should promote a collection for Down Hall who had lost 10 residents from Covid recently and suggested that we should aim to collect £1000 for the staff who had worked tirelessly in supporting the residents in extremely challenging circumstances. It would not be possible to secure Gift Aid recovery from this collection but could be done through our QR Code and website. Laurie and Graeme to look at advertising this.

Chapel Car Park

Steven reported that after a number of emails/meetings, progress was being made regarding a solution to the cost of maintaining and servicing this car park, with the possible introduction to a daily charge (£1 to £2) to cover costs, although this would be free to local residents. Steven will be part of the subgroup, along with David and Tim from Othona.

Fabric Issues

David outlined the recently published Quinquennial Report that demonstrated that the Church was in very good repair, with only a limited number of urgent actions required. David and Richard to prepare a plan for these to be tackled.

There is some work to be undertaken on the Trees and David proposed this, seconded by Richard and agreed by all, to allow an Archdeacon's certificate to be sought. There are some issues with MDC who have refused some aspects of this work but this will be progressed.

Reports

N/A

Forthcoming Events

Lent Course – via Zoom – daytime and evening – Subject The York course “Where is God?”

Lent appeal – School building for our linked diocese in Kenya.

David suggested Messy Church via Zoom, Children's Zoom meeting, Friday group for mothers and toddlers after school + tea for the children

Lent Calendars?

Easter Eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company

Easter – Online Services with a proposed outdoor service at the Chapel for Easter Morning with more detailed plans to be made at the next PCC meeting.

Past Events

Remembrance – Online Service with live Outside for the National Anthem

All Souls – a very lovely service

Thursday Club

Online Services were good with special involvement with the School for the Advent services – credit to the children and the school.

Christmas Card

AOB

DBS

Richard gave a short report on this and stated that the requirements for the role appeared to be expanding with more bureaucracy and agreed to complete the checklist on behalf of the PCC and to encourage all PCC members and Sidespersons to undertake the C0 and C1 Safeguarding training. Richard also stated that he was happy to continue in his present role as administrator but was certainly not qualified to take on the whole role and that if this was required, then an alternative post holder would be required

The next PCC meeting will be held on Thursday 18th March 2021 at **7pm**