

PARISH OF ST BOTOLPH'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in July 2020

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The COVID-19 lockdown prevented the PCC from meeting together in the normal manner. To enable the business of the PCC to continue, the meeting took place via email over a period of more than a week.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE IN MAY 2020

Proposal: "This PCC approves the minutes of the meeting held in May 2020."

Result: the proposal was passed

2. REPORTS

Proposal: "That these reports be received by the PCC."

Result: the proposal was passed

3. THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

Proposal: "This PCC notes:

- a. that total reserves are forecast to be less than £62,000 by the end of the year, assuming there is no further income from bookings;
- b. that it is already committed to repairs to the chancel roof (approx cost: £20,000);
- c. that it is also already committed to repairs to the church organ (approx cost: £14,000);
- d. that the ongoing annual Parish Share commitment is approximately £32,000; and agrees to make a decision about the viability of ongoing Parish Share contributions at its meeting in September."

Result: the proposal was passed

4. RE-OPENING OF ST BOTOLPH'S FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Proposal: "The Priest-in-charge and the PCC of St Botolph's acting jointly authorise dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11 and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 on the following Sundays in 2020: 5th July, 12th July, 19th July, 26th July, 2nd August, 9th August, 16th August, 23rd August, and 30th August. The reason for the dispensation is that in the light of the Government's guidance on preventing the spread of Coronavirus, there is no church in the benefice which can be used safely for public worship on those occasions."

Result: the proposal was passed

5. BOOKINGS AT ST BOTOLPH'S

Proposal: "This PCC notes the importance of being a COVID-secure location, and is aware of ongoing difficulties in recruiting volunteers to act as stewards to facilitate hiring out the building. This PCC therefore:

- a. seeks to allow Crafty Drama to use the hall facilities (but not the church itself) as soon as they are in a position to maintain it safely as a COVID-secure location for their clients;
- b. regrets it is unable to accept or permit any other bookings by any other hirers until 30th November 2020."

Result: the proposal was passed

6. SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR THE PCC TO CONSIDER

Proposal: "This PCC notes the paper prepared by the Vicar and is aware of the need to address the questions raised in it."

Result: the proposal was passed

The Vicar notes the PCC's wish for more information and guidance to be arranged to help with this process, most likely (in the first instance) from the Area Dean.

7. FAREWELL TO REVD AELLA GAGE

Proposal: "This PCC is grateful for the ministry of Revd Aella Gage at St Botolph's since 2014, and wishes to express this gratitude in an appropriate manner before his departure at the end of August 2020."

Result: the proposal was passed

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TO BE CONFIRMED