

St Botolph's Church, Colchester

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 9th December, 2020

Held by email and correspondence

The Chairman opened the meeting by email with a welcome to all members especially David Branson who had been elected at the 18th October APCM. A prayer was included.

Those participating in the meeting dialogue by e-mail:- David Poppleton (chairman), Ron Levy, Ann Levy, Beau McKay, Pauline Palmer, Cynthia Hancock, Chris Kidd-Stanton, David Branson, and William Jolliffe (via post)

1. **Apologies for Absence** there were none, all members participated.
2. **The Minutes of the meeting** held 14th October 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and these were agreed as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising** Following the APCM the Chairman confirmed that Ron Levy and David Poppleton had been re-elected as churchwardens, also that Pauline Palmer was elected to the Standing Committee and Gill Poppleton had been co-opted as PCC Minute Secretary.
4. **Correspondence** The PCC had previously agreed to a request from Colchester's CAP (Christians against Poverty) for donations for Christmas Hampers. The congregation had responded generously, and the PCC were pleased that this had been well supported.
5. **Reports** (all reports are attached)
 - a) **Finance** The estimated account for the year-end had been circulated by the Treasurer. Members raised questions regarding:-
 - i) Our contribution towards vicarage repairs.
 - ii) The estimate of £2,000 for repairs and renewals in 2021.
 - iii) A contribution of £969.00 for the tower roof repairs.
 - iv) Our £1.000 towards the Vicar's P.A.The Treasurer replies were:-
 - i) This is the total for this year, agreed prior to our separation from St. Peter's.
 - ii) Repairs and renewals £2.000 is a provisional cost and may not all be used, it does not include any major projects such as the Sanctuary Arch or Organ work.
 - iii) This was a late cost that we had previously been disputed.
 - iv) This was a provisional sum to cover any late costs.
 - b) **Fabric** The report and ongoing discussions were accepted by the PCC. Cynthia Hancock proposed a vote of thanks to those involved.
 - c) **Worship Team** Report was accepted by the PCC. Thanks were given to the team.
 - d) **Bookings** The PCC accepted that bookings would remain few until the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions.
 - e) **The Deanery Synod Report** was circulated to the PCC prior to the meeting.

6. **The Way Forward** Ann Levy circulated a brief parish profile that can be sent to those who may be taking services in the future. Thanks were given to Ann.

7. **AOB** A written response to the Agenda had been received from William Jolliffe. This was circulated to all members by email. The following matters were addressed with response from the PCC.

a) William was concerned that this meeting had been by correspondence as he felt that such a small number of people should have been accommodated in church. The Chairman responded that having the meeting by correspondence had been more inclusive as, due to shielding, some members would not attend a physical meeting. This was endorsed by most of the members.

b) William offered to keep the paths around the church free from weeds during 2021. This was accepted with thanks by all.

c) William asked permission to fly the Union Flag on New Year's Day. (In the hope that 2021 would be a better one than 2020) The response from all other members was that this would be seen as a political signal and that the church should not be seen in such light. The PCC also proposed that St. Botolph's should have a 'Flag Policy' which lays out the parameters for flag flying and details the days each year that either the Union Flag or St. George's Flag could be flown.

d) Having observed the footfall in the priory on Sunday mornings, William felt that we should open the North Porch doors at times of services, in order to make our presence more obvious. After considerable comments it was suggested that, while many felt that we should do more to invite people passing through the priory into our church, the logistics of security, both covid-19 restrictions and physical, make this difficult. It was suggested that a portable display board could be placed along the north side of the church inviting passers-by to join our services.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday, 13th January, 2021 at 2.30 p.m. in church if permitted.

9. **Confidentiality** No item required confidentiality.

If further information is required, please contact a churchwarden – David Poppleton 01206 570725 or

Ron Levy 01206 574210