**CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, ABINGTON**

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th June 2021 AT 7.30PM ONLINE**

**PRESENT:** Rev Byung Jun Kim (Chair), Bob Purser, Damian Pickard, Douglas Rutherford, Donald Loe, Lizzie Loe, Jim Mercer, Andrew Munns, Dianne Ward, Esme Cushing, Liz Kelly, Sue Harrison, Emmanuel Agudosy, Susie McKay, Alison Barnes, Melissa Tallack (minutes).

**001/21 OPENING PRAYERS AND DEVOTION**

The meeting opened in prayer.

**002/21 APOLOGIES:**
Cathy Tinsley and Paul Tharby.

**003/21 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th April 2021**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting and unanimously approved.

**004/21 RECTORS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Jun welcomed the new members of the PCC as some of the ‘bravest souls in the parish’ for volunteering to come onto the PCC. Jun also welcomed back the previous members who are continuing their term on the PCC.

Jun had two messages to share and started with a reading from Matthew (16:18);
*‘And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it’.*

*We* are the rock and Jesus Christ is the builder. Let him build his church through us. We are here to offer ourselves to do this.

When the PCC goes astray, we need to remind ourselves that it is not about us, it is not *our* church, it is his.

We are in a transition period, coming out of lockdown. What will we have learned when this is all over? Will we return to the past or create a different future?

We are reminded of the Israelites in Exodus (16:3):

‘The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.’

However, God sent manna (Numbers 11:4);

‘The rabble with them began to crave other food and again the Israelites started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite, we never see anything but his manna!’

And so the Islraelites continued to moan! They never ran out of things to complain about! Why?

This might happen to us as we find our way forward because it is human nature to want to rush back to what we had before. What is the answer? The answer is to take our time, to not rush back to something in haste. It takes a long time to create something fresh. Let’s first focus on recovery.

We have been through a lot and we need God’s help to regain our strength. The way we have responded and adapted has been remarkable and a reflection of the blessing upon us from God. There will be plenty of things to do but let’s first take some time to appreciate what we have and what we have done.

**005/21 MATTERS ARISING**
Election of Deputy Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer, Lay Vice Chair, Electoral Roll Officer.

Dianne, Damian and Andrew all volunteered to be Deputy Churchwardens (Dianne for one year only) and this was unanimously supported by the PCC.

Melissa will continue as Secretary, Damian as Treasurer with Susie as Assistant Treasurer (Damian noted, with thanks, that most of the hard work is done by Susie).

Bob will continue as Lay Vice Chair and Douglas was appointed as Electoral Roll Officer.

**006/21 SAFEGUARDING**

Esme will be arranging basic awareness training for all new members of the PCC – details for the online course will be sent out soon.

DBS checks for all PCC members needs to be undertaken (15 no.). Damian offered to assist Esme. Esme was confirmed as the Safeguarding Officer for this coming year too.

**007/21 TREASURERS REPORT**

Damain reported that he expected the finances to continue like last year, with income slightly ahead of expenditure but we do expect some additional building expenses this year.

**008/21 HOW TO DO A PCC MEETING WELL? WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A WISE PCC MEETING?
WHAT TRAINING DO WE REQUIRE?**

Jun sought ideas as to what we need to run a PCC well, what training might we require.

Some ideas that were raised:

* Understanding the role of the PCC – being a trustee comes with significant legal implications and responsibilities.
* Don’t spent too much time doing business so that we forget about strategy, vision and mission – we need to have the two in balance.
* Having a pre-prepared agenda.
* Reviewing the sub-groups and working groups – the way they work and report through to the PCC.
* Understanding the role of a PCC – what is its function.
* Safeguarding responsibility
* Ground rules for meetings and how we work as a group

Jun summarised the discussion and sought leaders:
Good trustees – Bob Purser
Good communication (i.e. how to set some ground rules) – Melissa, Alison and Dianne
Good disciples – Jun

Good stewards – Damian

**009/21 UPDATE ON THE RECOVERY PLAN, COMMUNICATIONS AND PASTORAL LETTER**

We are heading towards the next relaxation of lockdown but it depends what Boris Johnson says next Monday (21st).

We have to keep focussed on maintaining social distance and keeping the church clean, but will ultimately be guided by the Government. We expect the national church to issue guidance too.

Regarding patterns of worship, one of the main questions is whether we reinstate the 08:15 service on a Sunday. The Ministry Team have discussed this based on the data provided by Andrew. We wish to harness the opportunity that lockdown brought and therefore suggest we look at general reshaping of our worship and how to most wisely allocate our ministry resources.

We will set out some time at the next PCC to look at this and discuss our way forward. We will then invite views from the wider congregation. In the meantime, the 10:00 service, special services and Zoom prayer sessions will continue until a new plan has been agreed.

Donald suggested we consider meeting in the large room at the Parish Rooms for the next meeting.

On the communications front, during lockdown we issued pastoral letters at varying frequencies. We do not want to lose some of the progress we have made but we recognise this has been a huge task for Jun. We therefore propose that we move to monthly communications as a realistic and sustainable way to proceed.

It was noted that the vehicle for trivial notices has been lost (used to be the weekly bulletin), but we will find a way to include this.

Dianne offered to do any printing/copying if and as needed.

**010/21 UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSIONERS POST**

The role has been advertised for four weeks and we have received one application. This person will be interviewed on the 22nd June by Jun, Susie and Malcolm. The advert has been left running to see if any more candidates apply. The meeting was asked to pray for a successful interview.

**011/21 ANNA CHAPLAINCY**

Liz is going to become an Anna Chaplain. Jun suggested that Liz is commissioned during the patronal festival and asked the PCC to pray for Liz in her work. Liz will largely be working with St Christophers and Abington Park View but expects to get involved in the wider community.

**012/21 UPDATE ON THE DIGITAL CHURCH PROJECT**

The proposed work to install various new equipment by Hilltop will commence at the beginning of July (6-9th). This work includes two new screens in the chancel, two pan and zoom cameras (with 99 pre-set positions) and a major change to the mixing systems (analogue to digital) plus an iPad to facilitate the remote operation of the mixing system. A new microphone will be hung from the chancel roof to improve the feed from the Choir. Cabling will also be provided to enable a portable screen to help those sitting immediately in front of the Lady Chapel in order to see what is being projected on the screen. Basic training will be provided on Friday 9th July with a two hour training session the following week. Jun also called for volunteers to help and to take the opportunity of the training.

**013/21 RECEIVING ASSOCIATE PRIEST**

Reverend Rachel Hetherington at St David’s, Kingsthorpe (and also a long serving Chaplain at St Andrews) is in the process of moving her post from Kingsthorpe to St Christophers. Rachel felt that God has been calling her to serve at Abington and has asked if she could contribute to the life of the Parish. The Bishop has requested we consider appointing Rachel as an Associate Priest. This request was enthusiastically supported and approved by all present.

**014/21 BECOMING A CURATE TRAINING PARISH**

Jun has been approached by the Director of Ordinance to ask whether we would be willing to be a training post for a Curate. The PCC agreed that we would be happy to support this.

**015/21 PATRONAL FESTIVAL, PRAYER RIBBONS AND OUTDOOR SERVICES**

The patronal festival is on the 27th June (the Parish picnic is being held the day before). The Rural Dean is coming to St Peters and St Pauls (as it is St Peters patronal festival too!) to preside and preach for us.

Susie has come up with an idea regarding prayer ribbons. We will use the churchyard to create ribbons of prayer tied to the church railings as a symbol for all the prayers in the community. There will be an individual topic each week but people are able to pray how they wish. This project will run from the patronal festival for the next seven Sundays.

We plan for outdoor services on the 18th July, 5th September and 3rd October (all weather permitting).

Thank you to Susie for the ribbons idea and for all she and her support team have been doing.

**016/21 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The minutes from committee meeting swhich have been held were circulated ahead of the meeting. We will review the construction of the sub-committees at the next Standing Committee.

**017/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The bell tower captain (Claire) has requested we use St Peters and St Pauls to launch a return to the 9-11 Saturday bellringing session, which used to be held at All Saints. This was supported by all present. Donald will get in touch with Claire.

**018/21 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Parish Picnic: 26 June

Patronal Festival: 27 June

**019/21 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2021**

Next PCC Meetings in 2021:

 15 Sep, 17 Nov, 26 Jan 2022, 30 Mar 2022
The meeting on the 15th September will start at 8pm and will hopefully be held in person in the Parish Rooms.

APCM 2022: 1 May

Standing Committee: 1 Sep, 3 Nov, 5 Jan 2022, 16 Mar 2022

**THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE**