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

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM ONLINE**

**PRESENT:** Rev Byung Jun Kim (Chair), Donald Loe, Elizabeth Loe, Alan Sutton, Malcolm Ward, Jim Mercer, Damian Pickard, Andrew Munns, Douglas Rutherford, Ashely Ashiru, Alison Barnes, Esme Cushing, Dianne Ward, Bob Purser, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

**104/19 OPENING PRAYERS AND DEVOTION**

**105/19 APOLOGIES:** Jeanette Mallard

**106/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th March 2020**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Dianne Ward and seconded by Alan Sutton.

**107/19 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising for discussion.

**108/19 RECTORS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Jun reflected that this Easter will be one he will remember for the rest of his life as all church buildings across the country stood empty on Easter Sunday due to the coronavirus. He considered what this might mean to us; was it a warning of what could happen in the future for churches?

The situation also revealed how ‘ill’ our society and way of life had become but there was also an irony, when all the churches were in lockdown, how there was a great surge in numbers of people who flocked to join the online worship. Does this tell us something about where the church has been all this time and where it should have been?

Jun felt proud of everyone in the church at Abington and how we have all worked together through the pandemic. He asked himself, what could it be that God wanted us to do, we reached out to those in need but we also welcomed all ages to join in our worship, the music has touched our hearts and young people have taught us the bible through creative interpretations. But there is more work to do.

Alone in the church building on Easter Saturday, Jun was struck by a passage from Mark (chapter 16 verses 6-7): ‘Do not be alarmed’ he said, ‘you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’

Where is the Galilee for us? Where might we find the risen Lord in our community? Perhaps our calling is not about bringing back Christ to the empty tomb, but to go with him to Galilee and bring all the people who are called to meet him on the way. We ask God to help and guide us to follow Christ in these difficult times.

**109/19 SAFEGUARDING**

Due to very few activities being undertaken since the last PCC, there was nothing to update.

**110/19 FINANCE UPDATE**

Damian reported that we are down to just £30-40/wk additional giving now and are missing out on the Church rooms booking income. Online giving was used a lot when it was first launched but it has settled down to minor amounts now. If this continues in the long term we will need to look at alternative means of generating income and we need to continue to promote the online giving on the website. We will be short of money at the end of the year but due to variable expenses (such as utilities) also decreasing, it is not forecast to be a significant deficit. The Nursery is due back in September. Damian suggested an online stewardship meeting needs to be held.

**111/19 UPDATE ON APCM**

The APCM cannot yet be held as these meetings are required to be open to all. The deadline extension will therefore be continued for another 6 months. Church accounts are required to be approved at the APCM but accounts will need to be filed with the Charities Commission within ten months of year end. Damian will investigate whether they can be filed unsigned by the APCM. Jun also reported that home visits can now be conducted as long as they are in the open air (i.e. in the garden) and home Communion can also be given as long as appropriate social distancing measures are taken.

**112/19 PLANS FOR RE-OPENING CHURCH BUILDING AND NEW PATTERNS OF WORSHIP**

Bob confirmed that four documents had been circulated for review – procedures, risk assessment, layout and a record of comments received on previous drafts.

The current status of Northampton as an ‘area of concern’ has led us to reconsider the timeline included in the document and the advice is not to meet in the church building until the Director of Public Health lifts the status and we will plan to meet two weeks after that.

The suggestion of open air worship was discussed as an alternative. The practical difficulties were raised and discussed. Damian suggested we try to consider how we might meet as a community, however suboptimal is seems. Jun suggested we should always evaluate the risks of doing something as nothing is risk free. Bob asked Jun to consider whether we think this is going to be feasible and when would be the right time to do this, which needs to be assessed over the coming weeks. Jun is happy to prepare for a trial run.

Bob asked the meeting if they were happy to support the proposal to limit the people to 30 in the Church Service until we have got a system up and running smoothly. The PCC agreed that 30 was a sensible number to start with.

Dianne will run the booking system and this will only be able to be booked a week beforehand and bookings will be only by phone not email. The PCC membership need to monitor this arrangement so that it does not become too much of a burden to Dianne.

The timing of the service was discussed and it was agreed that we could keep to 10:00 if we can accelerate the bringing together of the physical and online service. All concluded that we should put our efforts into accelerating this instead of trying to arrange outside worship. Jun will chair a small working group consisting of Donald, Andrew, Melissa, Tim, Simon May and Peter Aiers to focus on this. We will aim for the last Sunday in August or the first in September as a target date.  
  
The possibility of Jun administering Communion to the congregation rather than the congregation moving around was discussed and the meeting agreed both arrangements were possible depending on the numbers attending.

Recommencing the church rooms activities was also discussed. Bob proposed our priority is to get the Nursery back up and running as we have a contractual obligation to meet and then the uniformed organisations may follow. The current recommendation for the Brownies is outside activities only. Dianne is keeping in touch with the uniformed organisations. After this, the antiques fair and other regular or casual bookings will be considered, but this will be kept under review and may not happen until the new year. We would need to create a risk assessment for the rooms but all users of the rooms will need to prepare and submit their own risk assessment too.  
  
The Ministry team will consider how to manage Harvest, All Souls and Remembrance.

Lizzie raised that some members of the cleaning team are not prepared to go into the church to clean until after 72 hours had passed and this may mean that if a wedding is held on a Saturday it may not be possible to get enough of the cleaning team together to clean before the Sunday service. In this instance, additional (and younger!) volunteers would need to be sourced. Alison confirmed that she would be happy to help if needed.

Damian raised the outstanding recruitment of the children’s worker. Jun confirmed that this remains on hold and under review and that Alison is happy to continue with the children’s work for now.

**100/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

Request for data to calculate the parish share calculation – Jun has actioned this already.

**101/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Rev Kirby from Weston Favell church has retired and Jun has been asked to act as Supervisor to the curate there.

**102/19 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

None

**103/19 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2019-20**

Standing Committee: 9th September 2020 time TBC

PCC: 2020: TBC

**THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE**