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

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th January 2022 AT 8PM PARISH ROOMS**

**PRESENT:** Rev Byung Jun Kim (Chair), Bob Purser, Liz Kelly, Esme Cushing, John Wishart, Prester Coleman, Donald Loe, Elizabeth Loe, Dianne Ward, Damian Pickard, Susie McKay, Cathy Tinsley, Alison Barnes, Andrew Munns, Jim Mercer, Douglas Rutherford, Sue Harrison, Peter Aiers, Melissa Tallack (minutes).

**059/22 OPENING PRAYERS AND DEVOTION**

The meeting opened in prayer.

**060/22 APOLOGIES:**
Emmanuel Agudosy.

**061/22 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th November 2021**

The minutes were proposed and accepted as a true record of the meeting by those present.

**62/22 RECTORS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

It is becoming clear that this year is going to be another test of our resilience patience and faith but in a different way. The virus is going to be around for some time and the question is ‘how can we adapt to this new way of life’?

As a parish we have responded to the changes very well. This has become clear after discussion with a number of other parishes. The concerns in other parishes revolved around division in the parish, with differing views on how to handle the situation. I have realised how fortunate we are to have each other in this parish. We don’t always agree on everything, but we have always stood together as one body of Christ and have always supported each other. This is what we can be proud of. Not because this is the perfect church but because of the way we love and encourage and support each other in the name of Christ. For that I give thanks to God.

The challenge ahead is complex this year, we need to be prepared to adapt again and again, not only in regard to the covid restrictions, but in the way people attend church and worship. Our online worship has been the most innovative and bold thing we have done. It is a great thing. Our average online worship audience is 40-60 and those who catch up later between 80-100. We have 175 subscribers on YouTube and 367 followers on Facebook. That’s twice the numbers in our electoral roll! What does this tell us?

One thing is clear; there are more people than we can physically see who are genuinely taking an interest in what is happening and what is said and shared in our services. This level of online audience is not necessarily experienced across other church channels. Why is this? Is it our fancy software and brilliant operators? Maybe partly, but the main reason why is because they see us as the people who want to be true to our God and our faith and this gives people hope.

So let us encourage each other, affirm each other and have faith in God who dwells in us. We will need faith to get through the challenges we face.

When we look around at the division in the world, the world is full of people ready to throw stones and blame, we are called to be the voice of faith:

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)

**063/22 MATTERS ARISING**
There were no matters arising.

**064/22 SAFEGUARDING**

Esme reported that there have been no safeguarding concerns reported since the last PCC.

The annual audit results will be circulated in due course to show progress against our plan.

Training – all PCC members need to complete the foundation level training. Most people have done this, but it is coming up for renewal. Esme will reorganise another session in church, in person for this coming November.

The safeguarding website has also been updated and Esme encouraged everyone to take a look as it is much improved and contains valuable content: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguarding-team.php>

**065/22 APPROVAL OF 2022 BUDGET AND TREASURER’S REPORT**

The financial report has been circulated. We ended the year with a £7.2k deficit due to some significant maintenance investment made.

Our cash position is similar to last year so we end the year in a fairly good position from a balance sheet perspective.

We received approximately £800 in donations to the Christmas charities (The Leprosy Mission and West Northamptonshire Afghanistan Relief Fund). The money will be split equally between the two charities.

The planned giving this year was £5k lower than expected and so it may be time for another stewardship campaign.

Our running costs are approximately £1,500 per month (some of this cost is covered by the Ekins Trust grant currently).

The 2022 budget has also been circulated. The budget is a break-even budget (we are budgeting for a small surplus of £396). This also takes into account a lower planned giving expectation (to match current actual). The budget was approved by all present. Thank you to Damian and Suzie for preparing the budget and reports.

**066/22 CHRISTMAS REVIEW**The Crib Service was held outside this year due to the Covid situation and we had approximately 100 people attend. Everyone appreciated being together and it was very interactive. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our faith.

The Carol service was excellent and was well attended by many people outside the congregation and the choir was amazing.

The numbers attending midnight mass and Christmas morning were the highest number we have seen in many years and interestingly this year we did not circulate the usual Christmas cards advertising the services.

The outreach of the churchyard has been amazing this year.

Some people attending the Christmas services this year were relatives of people in the area, this was apparent through conversations Liz and others had with people who attended.

**067/22 COVID RECOVERY PLAN**

A draft plan has been circulated for discussion.

The situation is more difficult than when the conversation started about a month ago when a rapid plummet in numbers was expected. This expected pattern has shown not to be the case. Unfortunately a rapid increase has followed a rapid decline. It is unclear what the pattern is going to be in the coming weeks and months.

We want to make progress without being reckless and this has been the basis of the plan. We are proposing a relaxation during Lent and a further relaxation at Easter when we can move back to a more traditional form of worship.

The main objective is to agree on the threshold (500 per 100,000) for when the relaxation can proceed. The current case figures are based on the PCR tests, however people do not have to have a PCR test now if they don’t have symptoms. Instead people self-register lateral flow results. The expectation is that this will lead to about a 30% under-reporting and so the numbers will become increasingly unreliable.

However, the meeting agreed the threshold of 500 cases per 100,000 was appropriate in the absence of any other metric. Donald Loe proposed the plan was accepted; Dianne Ward seconded the motion. At the vote, 13 PCC members voted ‘for’, three ‘against’ and there was one abstention. The plan was therefore passed.

Reinstatement of the 8 o’clock service:

The 8 o’clock service will be reinstated from the beginning of Feb or March and will be held monthly on the first Sunday of each month to start with. It was recommend that it commence at the beginning of March, in line with the relaxation plan.

**068/22 PLAN FOR LENT GROUPS**

Prester is preparing the content for the Lent Groups. Bob has offered to lead one group and the Ministry team will also lead another on a Thursday morning. Rachel Hetherington will also lead a group based at St Christopher’s. Jun asked for further volunteers to lead a group but there were no volunteers forthcoming.

It has been decided to bring back the weekday Eucharist during Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday we will reintroduce traditional liturgy (without the washing of feet but more focussed on stripping the altar and the vigil).

A decision on the Good Friday service is yet to be made, whether to seek to express it in a fresh way or follow the traditional liturgy. More details will follow.

The service on Holy Saturday will be the traditional vigil service. Jun welcomed any suggestions regarding the services during Holy Week.

**069/22 BISHOP DONALD VISIT 15TH MAY 2022**

Bishop Donald will come and preside and preach on the morning of Sunday 15th May and also conduct confirmation and provide first communion to our confirmation group members. We have yet to confirm whether the adult baptism will take place on the same day too. We will also include a conclusion of the brilliant railing ribbons project. The congregation will be invited out to bless the ribbons and release them. Celia, Suzy and Jun are discussing how to create something memorable out of the ribbons.

We will also organise a lunch in the church room on the same day. Lizzie will organise, Sue and Melissa will help.

**070/22 REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION**

Junior church currently welcomes nine regular attendees. Liam is helping with the online service.

Three children will start Holy Communion preparation and will also attend the service on the 15th May.

The Tots group has started back small. Cathy will advertise to attract new families.

On Monday 14th Feb between 10-12.30 there will be an event for the children attached to the church. The theme will be ‘God’s Love for Us’ to coincide with Valentines Day.

Cathy has been reviewing the storage in the parish rooms. Four boxes of materials used by the banner group are available to individuals or groups who could use them. Dianne will ask Jeanette whether she wants some of the items back before offering these more widely.

More outdoor events are to be planned this year.

**071/22 REPORT ON ANNA CHAPLAIN MISSION**

Liz continues her contact with Abington Park View and has started doing bi-monthly Holy Communion. Where possible she has also been supporting St Christopher’s and attends every Friday service in St Ragener Chapel.

Liz is also completing free online training modules.

In addition, Liz has been undertaking visits for home communion. She has also been asked to lead the intercessions at Weston Favell. Liz continues to liaise with the other Anna Chaplain in the area.

**072/22 APCM DATE 1ST MAY 2022**

Please can completed annual committee reports be sent to Melissa by the 9th March 2022. Melissa was requested to add Claire Dean (Tower Captain) for a bellringing report too. Melissa to send out reminders to those not on the PCC (for example the uniformed organisations and Tim Dolan).

**073/22 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Buildings Committee confirmed that the main expenditure on the rooms has now been completed. The Robinia tree in the churchyard however is still to come down.

Fire risk assessment – we must make sure at each service that the protocol for unlocking the vestry and tower room door are being followed. The Christingle and Candlemas services have been identified as higher risk and a large sand bucket or bowl of water will need to be provided on these occasions. Also a fire drill is required to make sure people are familiar with the various ways of exiting the building. The names within the current risk assessment will need to be redacted to ensure compliance with data protection.
Lady Chapel work – Prester drew the buildings committee attention to the Piper window where spots of paint need removing.

A review of the sub-committees still needs to be undertaken at the Standing Committee to create a plan for next year.

**074/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Alison asked whether anything can be done about the heating in the church – Andrew will set the heating to come on two hours earlier during the cold months and windows will only be opened once the congregation start coming in.

We are sad to announce that this will be Peter’s last PCC as he is taking up a post as the 34th Master and CEO of the Charterhouse in London and as a result, the Aiers family will be moving to London. We are very grateful to Peter for everything he and his family have brought to our parish. Peter starts his new role on the 28th March and will be moving to London shortly after.

**075/22 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

None noted.

**076/22 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2022**

Next PCC meetings: 30 Mar, 25 May, 14 Sep, 16 Nov

APCM 2022: 1 May

Standing Committee: 16 Mar, 4 May, 5 Sep, 31 Oct (changed from 2 Nov)

**THE MEETING FINISHED WITH THE GRACE**