

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** 23 members of the electoral roll, 1 clergy member. Chaired by Rev. Henry Curran.  
This meeting had been postponed from 29 March 2020 due to the Coronavirus crisis.

### **1. Apologies**

Rosie Adsley, Lawrence and Monica Ward.

### **4. Vicar's Report and Vision**

*Henry's report and vision were recorded and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/HcNie3HgJYA>*

Henry thanked everyone for their support and generosity during the past six months of lockdown. Thanks to the churchwardens, standing committee, PCC, Connect Group leaders, morning prayer attendees and the whole church family, we have managed to keep the church going and to do a lot to bless one another and our community.

Each of us has been affected differently by the Coronavirus crisis, from those who have found it quite manageable to those who have found it hugely difficult. Some in the church family are excited and ready for gospel opportunities, others feel they are just keeping going, yet others are really struggling and have Henry's sympathy when they can't join in much with church. Some of us have experienced all of these. Henry asked us not to compare ourselves with one another. To those who are struggling Henry said we are here for you, we don't judge you but want to support you, don't give up on God or church but engage where you can. Henry reminded those who are excited to move forward not to judge others.

In Henry's sermon on 15 March just before lockdown began, he had said we needed to continue three things in church life – to care for and support the vulnerable, to keep proclaiming the hope of the gospel and to keep encouraging one another in the faith. Henry maintains that these should still be our focus.

Henry felt we had done quite well in supporting and caring for the vulnerable. The parish support scheme set up in March has been hugely appreciated and warmed some local people's attitude to the church. Many isolated members of the church family have been regularly contacted by telephone, but others have fallen through the net and we need to keep trying to be in touch with them. This needs to be the whole church's responsibility and not just those at the Vicarage, though church staff can help by forwarding post or phone calls. Henry asked us all to use the church prayer diary to pray for each other and as a reminder to contact people we would normally have seen at church. Henry thanked everyone who has been doing this already, and reminded us to redouble our efforts as we see a resurgence in Coronavirus and stricter lockdown.

Henry thanked us for our efforts in proclaiming the gospel by delivering cards to the parish and sharing posts on social media. 331 people had watched last Sunday's visitor-friendly service on Facebook alone. We can be encouraged by our part in this but still have room to grow in our evangelism as a church.

Henry read from Ezekiel 40:4 "Set your heart upon all that I show you" and reminded us that to enjoy and live out the gospel we need to help one another to set our hearts on it. Later this autumn Henry plans to set up a discipleship group for anyone who would value extra

nourishment, challenge and support to grow in their relationship with God, whether they currently feel close to God or not. This would involve a commitment to monthly evening Zoom meetings, a small amount of reading inbetween and a guided quiet day. This group is open to all who are interested, but without pressure for those who don't feel it is for them at the moment. We should let Henry know if we are interested in joining.

Our three priorities during the pandemic should be our continued focus and we should recommit ourselves to these today.

### **Vicar's Report and Vision – Q&A**

Jonathan Larsson asked whether our church vision statement is still valid and realistic or if we need to rewrite any aspect of it. Henry replied that the exercise of rewriting the vision statement would take unnecessary time and effort at this stage. In 2017 we felt God had called us to this vision, but we knew some details may be wrong. We have made big progress towards some areas, but others look further away than before. It may be that 2022 is not the time frame in which some parts of our vision can be achieved. Henry's three priorities for the current period come out of the vision statement.

Jonathan Larsson asked whether we are doing enough to support other churches in our area who may have less video expertise and resources. Henry replied that there has been good cooperation through the Anglican deanery and Midlands Gospel Partnership, but there are churches we don't have much of a relationship with and who may not appreciate our help. This may reflect a different theology of church – we believe church is family and being in touch is a priority, some churches of a different theology prioritise the ritual and sacrament which happens in their building. When requests for help with online services have come, Henry has responded generously where possible.

Kathryn Hubbard asked how much reading would be required of the proposed extra discipleship group. Henry replied that it would not be much, e.g. one chapter of a book per month.

David Gibson asked whether Henry intends to finish the sermon series on the 39 articles which we started before lockdown. Henry replied yes, but not yet.

## **5. Presentation of Written Reports**

### **a. Motion to Accept Reports**

Stacey Mutch proposed and Rebecca Haines seconded *that we accept the written reports presented at this meeting.* Passed.

## **2. Election of Churchwardens (2)**

There were two nominations:

Christopher Drew, proposed by Kathryn Hubbard and seconded by Stacey Mutch.

Rebecca Haines, proposed by Sean Gavin and seconded by Lydia Johnston.

*Chris Drew and Rebecca Haines were duly elected to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.*

## **3. Election of Deanery Synod representatives (2)**

There were two nominations:

Ian Knight, proposed by Diana Sanders and seconded by David Gibson.

Kathryn Hubbard, proposed by Rebecca Haines and seconded by David Gibson.

*Ian Knight and Kathryn Hubbard were duly elected to serve as Deanery Synod representative for a term of three years.*

**6. Election of PCC members (3)**

There were two nominations:

Joyce Cooper, proposed by Kate Curran and seconded by Maureen Voisey.

Deborah Hunt, proposed by Val Bowyer and seconded by David Gibson.

*Joyce Cooper and Debs Hunt were duly elected to serve as members of the PCC for a term of three years.  
One vacancy remains.*

David Gibson led us in prayer for the elected representatives. Henry thanked Lawrence Ward for his term of service on PCC and as Treasurer, and Stacey Mutch for her work as Treasurer more recently.

**7. Any Other Business**

None.