

MINUTES

Present: Revd. Henry Curran, Kate Curran, Chris Drew, Joyce Cooper, Becca Haines, Debs Hunt, Kathryn Hubbard, Ian Knight, Stacey Mutch, Jonathan Larsson, Fiona Houghton.

1. Bible Reading and Opening Prayer

Led by Henry from John 1.

2. Apologies

Rosie Adsley, Lawrence Ward.

3. Minutes of last meetings (18.05.2020 and 24.06.2020)

We agreed that these are a true record and Henry should sign them.

a. Action points and matters arising

None.

4. Finance report up to 30.06.2020

Stacey presented a finance report.

5. Restarting services

Henry had sent a report outlining the guidance received on reopening church buildings and making some proposals. We agreed with the general principles and spirit of the guidance. The Bishop is expecting us to restart meeting in our building in some form by September, and the prayer meeting format trialled yesterday would meet this requirement.

We added another specific implication for St. Mary's, which is the question of transport for some church members while lifts in cars may not be given.

The prayer meeting in the church on Sunday 5th July had gone ahead as planned. Those involved felt it had been helpful and valuable despite the restrictions in place, and was safely managed.

We agreed that the main Sunday service should continue to be online in order to maintain unity. We agreed to continue offering an additional weekly prayer meeting in the church on Sunday evenings for those who can and wish to attend, though we will reconsider if we feel this is becoming divisive by creating separate congregations. We were happy with the proposed sign-up system.

There was little interest in Connect Groups meeting in the church hall, as we wanted to preserve the unity achieved by meeting online. It is now also possible for small groups of church members to meet as permitted by law, but without singing together.

We felt positively about the idea of occasional meetings specifically for the over-70s and those with health conditions who are not recommended to attend normal meetings.

Action: Henry to find out whether there is appetite for this.

Action: Henry to communicate our plans to the congregation, adding that further steps towards meeting in person will happen in a clear and intentional manner.

Action: Henry and Ian to investigate live service streaming options in case this should become the best arrangement later.

Chris led us in prayer.

We had agreed to review opening arrangements every 3 weeks. **Action: all** to seek the views of the congregation, **Henry** to e-mail PCC every 3 weeks about whether opinions or guidance have changed. If a discussion is needed the PCC will meet.

6. **Ministry Beyond COVID-19**

We broke into small groups to discuss what we want, don't want and are not sure about when resuming normal church life after lockdown. See notes attached.

7. **Request from Sean Gavin for support as a Relay Worker**

We agreed to support Sean in prayer and with a gift of £1,000 for the academic year 2020/21. We expect this to take an extra £400 from reserves in 2020.

8. **AOB – August**

Becca asked whether we should give leaders a break in August as usual by shutting down some church activities. The staff team felt able to continue providing online services and Connect Groups over the summer with support from others. **Action: Henry** to make it clear that if people (including leaders) need a break from Connect Groups during August they should feel free not to attend.

9. **Dates of next meetings:**

- a. Standing Committee: If needed TBC
- b. 7 September 2020 (Evening of Study and Prayer)

10. **Determination of confidential items**

None.

11. **Review of meeting**

Appendix – Notes from item 6 discussion

padlet

Henry Curran 29m

St. Mary's Post Covid-19

Henry Curran 32m

What we DO want...

18 comments

- Anonymous 37m**
One family
- Anonymous 37m**
Different people praying
- Anonymous 37m**
Retain basic liturgy
- Anonymous 37m**
Sermon, prayer time, singing, kids work
- Anonymous 37m**
The Bible read and preached
- Anonymous 37m**
Singing!
- Anonymous 36m**
Mix of hymns and more modern songs
- Anonymous 36m**
Refreshments
- Anonymous 36m**
Fellowship time, community during and after the main service.
- Anonymous 35m**
Things which make church accessible to non-Christians, e.g. children and adults together
- Anonymous 34m**
Actively encourage inter-generational chat as part of the service
- Anonymous 33m**
online prayer sometimes
- Anonymous 33m**
Continue active involvement serving the parish like help scheme
- Anonymous 33m**
More opportunity for discipleship
- Anonymous 31m**
outreach to our parish
- Anonymous 31m**
More families!
- Anonymous 30m**
More Bible readings
- Anonymous 29m**
Better sound kit! (Hearing loop included)

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Henry Curran 32m

What we DON'T want...

3 comments

- Anonymous 35m**
The organ
- Anonymous 32m**
'Favouritism' - the same people always doing the same thing
- Anonymous 30m**
Things which cause division in the church family

[Add comment](#)

Henry Curran 32m

What we're NOT SURE about

6 comments

- Anonymous 37m**
The organ
- Anonymous 35m**
More than one service per Sunday
- Anonymous 34m**
more than 1 service!
- Anonymous 33m**
Kids groups on same theme as adult service
- Anonymous 32m**
online joining of connect groups (this is good if people aren't able to go to someone else's house in person!)
- Anonymous 29m**
Same sermon at both services

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