



cheltenham+minster  
st matthew's | church

### MINUTES OF THE PCC

MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> September 7.45 held remotely using Zoom

**Present:** Richard Coombs (Rector) Clare Salisbury and Bill Harvey (Churchwardens)  
Graham Nicholls, Ian Perry, Dan Wright, , Clare Dyson, Adrian Bowcher (Treasurer),  
Andy Ponting, Diane Bruckland, David Warren, Rupert Cox, Margaret Failes, Ken Syme,  
Liz Horder, Peter Ormerod, Holly Cupper, Clare Dyson, David Evans,

**Apologies for Absence:** Godfrey Tarling, Stephen Ayland, Michael Bishop

**Chairman's remarks:** Richard welcomed Tom Chapman who is on placement with him for September. It was agreed that Tom could observe the meeting.

Richard also spoke about our colleague Chris Chadwick who had recently died suddenly. We were reminded of the work that Chris had done at Deanery and Diocesan level as well as within our parish. In his memory Richard read from Psalm 139 v13 and on.

**Minutes of S&F Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.** During lockdown the S&F committee had met to conduct urgent church affairs. The minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> July were accepted as a correct record. One matter outstanding was the suggested rebrand information. It is hoped that the small sub group will be able to make a proposal to the PCC shortly.

#### **Rector's verbal report.**

Lockdown had started in March. Whilst nervous of how this might affect us the Church had risen to the challenge and we thank God for the skills we had available to carry us through. Pastoral support has been excellent, groups have met online, an Alpha Course was held online, S&F have dealt with governance, services have been pre-recorded and moving to live stream, the Minster has reopened for 11.am, daily updates and morning prayer had been made available on-line and Saturday Kitchen has started and grown. There are 42 members not on-line who receive daily contact. Thanks were expressed by and for the staff team.

A survey had shown that a high percentage of members want to return to live services although this is mostly at the older end of the age scale. Families are more cautious. The survey had also shown how skewed our age range is toward the older age group and Richard feels this gives us a challenge going forward.

The Minster has returned to live services with about 40 per week attending. 6.30 has also started more recently with 30-40 people. 10.00 may start on 4<sup>th</sup> October but we have problems with live

streaming. It is unclear how children's groups will work with social distancing; masks will be compulsory and a booking system is required.

**Staff update.** The staff team are now back working from the office and Rachel Hargreaves has joined as Operations Manager. Jayne Seward will revert to part-time children's minister. Annie will return from maternity to a ½ time role and we have recruited Joanne von Bergan to 'job share' as Youth worker. All staff will need to use their holidays before year end and are being encouraged to do so.

**APCM** The Diocese requires APCM's to take place by end of October. Ours will be held on-line during 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October with questions submitted in advance. Report and accounts were approved for signing and circulation. Richard will propose that PCC is re-elected en-bloc until April 2021.

**Saturday Kitchen.** A proposal that the Saturday kitchen would move inside from October was agreed. This will include some easily cleanable wooden chairs to maintain Covid-19 hygiene steps. We have already had safeguarding training in readiness for this.

### **Standing Items**

- a. Finance Matters.** i) A finance report had been uploaded by Adrian showing figures to end of August. Income is ahead of budget and costs are below so that we have an operating surplus of £24,000. ii) A budget is being prepared for next months S&F. iii) Andy had provided a report on giving which was holding up very well through lockdown.
- b. Buildings and Fabrics Report.** i) Minster organ is still in limbo as we await external reports. ii) Car Park works are not yet complete, but we are in contact with Pegasus. iii) B&F have suggested a change of church architect- technology failed at this point so Richard will speak with peter Ormerod after meeting.
- c. Safeguarding.** No current issues.
- d. GLOOP group:** No current issues.
- e. Prayer working group.** No current issues.
- f. Minster, Civic and Deanery matters.** Richard had spoken at a scaled down Battle of Britain memorial service. Remembrance Day is likely to be low key.

**Any other business:** The NIV pew bibles at St Matthews are becoming tatty and are not up to date with inclusive language. Apparently we have a special Bible fund which can be used to replace them.

**Closing prayer:** Tom Chapman close the meeting in prayer.