

St Margaret's Church, Angmering

PCC Meeting Minutes Monday 22 February 2021 held via Zoom

Present: Canon Mark Standen (Chairman) (MS), Ben Lucas, Ann Jones, Roy Richardson, David Boreham, Keith Varney, Adrian Warburton, John Roberts, Jackie Johnson, Andy Kyte, Alan Butler, John Bawler (JB) Steve Bentley, Esther O'Toole, Sue Pauley, Hannah Jones, Tina Smith, John Heaton, Chris Harris, Matt Porter.

1. Welcome, Bible reading and prayer

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting. A time of prayer followed.

2. Apologies for absence

Derek Dainton, David Fordham

3. Minutes of PCC meeting held on 25 January 2021

Agreed subject to a minor wording amendment.

4. Matters arising and action points

The lone worker policy was considered at item 10 of this agenda.

5. Chairman's Comments

a) MS reported that there had been no take up for the Marriage Course and that this would be offered again when it could be conducted in-person which was the preferred manner. He highlighted the encouraging numbers attending the monthly prayer meetings. A talk by Brendan Martin on the regathering when lockdown is lifted was particularly well received. The Women Together and Men's ministry groups continue to flourish. A lot of time has been spent in seeking to keep individuals and groups engaged, connected and supported. A Lent series of talks - *Journeying with Jesus* - has been arranged and is starting.

There was discussion regarding the proposal for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by MS and Robert Lovell in 2022. Several - some from personal experience - spoke in favour. A fund would be considered to support those wishing to go on the trip but for whom it might be financially difficult. Generally there was a positive response and it was proposed by Ann Jones, seconded by John Roberts and carried unanimously that the proposal be endorsed by the PCC. It would be announced to the church shortly and further details given by means of a Zoom meeting for those interested.

6. Finance

JB reported that the voluntary income level was much the same as last year and was holding firm. He proposed for approval the Mission budget recommended by the Mission Group. Sue Pauley seconded and the meeting approved unanimously.

Mission Budget 2021

Guinnesses	£8,000
Arab World Ministries	£2,500
MAF - Watermans	£2,500
CAP Debt Centre	£2,000

Crosslinks - Admin.	£100
Crosslinks - Helen Sheridan	£1,000
SGP	£1,000
FEBA	£1,000
FSW	£1,000
Tearfund	£1,000
ECM - Downings	£1,250 (This represents two quarterly payments as they expect to return to Albania in the summer)
Sub Total	£21,350
Reserve for urgent needs	£720
Total Budget	£22,070

7. Discussion regarding resumption of in-person services

As a result of the Government road map which set out a relaxation of lockdown in stages MS asked the meeting to consider whether it is still necessary for us to continue to pause all 'in-person' services, or whether we can responsibly restart them. He reported that the feeling amongst the staff was that as soon as schools restart, it would seem unnecessary to keep our services for young families 'online only'. Some children were struggling to engage with online services, and it was felt that it would be good to offer in-person services for families as soon as schools resume taking children which had been announced as being 8 March. Regarding the 10.30 service it was felt that there was a good case for resuming the hybrid arrangement (in person and online) at the same time as other services are started even if the take up of in-person services is low although the effect of the vaccination programme is unknown. Many of the 8 am congregation are not engaging with online services, and would like to be able to take Holy Communion as soon as possible. Many have already received their first jab, and so may feel ready to come to services, although some may prefer to await the 2nd jab. This would mean that the in-person family service at 9.00 am could resume on 14 March with a 8 am Holy Communion service on 21 March and the 10.30 am on 28 March. All scenarios would be subject to booking and social distancing. There was a full discussion on these suggestions, with some Council members in favour and some urging caution, advocating that it was necessary to wait until infection levels in the local area could be assessed which was likely to be at the end of March or even in April. Some felt that, although attendance at in-person services was voluntary, a decision on them should not be made until after schools had returned and consideration could be given to the effect of this at the next PCC meeting on 22 March. Further discussion ensued during which Council members expressed views for and against an early relaxation of the current restrictions. In conclusion it was proposed by David Boreham and seconded by John Heaton that in-person services resume again from Palm [Sunday \(28 March\)](#) subject to what the Government may announce on 22 March and a PCC review at its meeting that evening. The proposal was passed with 13 in favour and 4 abstentions.

8. Discussion on ideas arising from January PCC meeting

A short time was spent considering these wide-ranging ideas and suggestions. MS encouraged members to respond further to him. Planning of events and activities post-lockdown would be required in due course.

9. Youth, Children and Families

Matt's written report circulated beforehand was noted with thanks. The 9 am service continued to be live-streamed but it was difficult to gauge attendance. The usual programme of groups for young people was continuing. Some assemblies at St. Margaret's school have been led via video link. He is in touch with families regarding their views services as currently presented and the issues of potential re-opening. He shared regarding his BAP which took place earlier in the day.

[Note to Church Family reading these minutes: if you would like to know more from Matt please contact him]

10. Safeguarding matters

David Boreham again encouraged Council members to undertake the appropriate safeguarding course available on the Diocesan website and to forward their completion certificates to James Nicholl. The Lone worker policy would be placed in and would be available in the safeguarding policies held in the church office. He highlighted the need in the current climate to be alert for domestic abuse.

11. Property matters

David Boreham reported that an electrical inspection and portable appliance testing would be carried out shortly and the church roof work at Easter.

12. Wardens' items

None

13. Correspondence

None

14. Any other business

15. The Grace

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 22 March 2021 at 7.15pm

Action

Protocol for replying to PCC-wide emails.	MS
Undertake Safeguarding course.	All

Mark Standen