

## Minutes of meeting of the North Buckingham PCC

7.30pm on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Via Zoom

*It should be noted that this meeting followed guidance on online PCC consultation during COVID-19 restrictions. Written notice of the electronic meeting and an agenda were sent to all members of the PCC. The meeting was quorate.*

*Present: Details withheld for reasons of GDPR*

*Apologies: Details withheld for reasons of GDPR*

1. *Welcome and Opening Prayer*
  
2. *Minutes of extra PCC meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

These were unanimously approved as an accurate record.

3. *Covid-19*

a) *Update from the DCCs*

Akeley: A DCC meeting has been held. As the school hall is out of use until September because of the virus, all services including August's parish communion will take place in the village hall. Following this, it is possible that September's services will take place in Dayrell church, but the location will be confirmed in the parish magazine. A risk assessment is in place for Akeley.

Leckhampstead: the DCC will meet soon, but a risk assessment is already in place.

Lillingstone Dayrell: A risk assessment is in place. The church is currently locked between services and may remain so until parish communion in the middle of August.

Lillingstone Lovell: Proposals were circulated to the DCC and risk assessments are in place, including for the bells (meaning that only 5 of 6 may be rung). Yesterday's positive service raised no issues other than the need to remind people to practise social distancing in the churchyard following the service. No singing took place. Perhaps the verses of any hymns played could be printed out for people to follow without singing aloud. They can be taken home afterwards. The issue of using hymn books is that they would need to be picked up following the service.

Maids Moreton: the DCC has been emailed by the wardens with details of measures and the risk assessment which has been put into place. Invitations are sent out ahead of the services to the parishioners who are requested to email the wardens if they wish to attend (thus introducing a 'booking system'). The church can accommodate up to 25 people per service. The response to the invitations has been positive and as a result there has been more contact and communication with the congregation. The church is cleaned every day and areas have been taped off. The return to use of the comfortable, fabric chairs has been

welcomed, and the church is well-ventilated. The congregation use hand sanitiser upon entering the church. Three services have been held so far and all is going well, the only issue being the need to remind people to keep their distance from each other when coming in and not to gather in the aisles after the service, as this can produce a bottle-neck.

It was felt unlikely that people would need to be turned away from any parish communion service.

NBP is one of a minority of parishes opening its churches again. HT has explained to Bishops Alan and Steven that there are three reasons behind the decision:

- So that people do not lose their connection to the church as the centre of the community
  - To enable older members of the congregation, who have been isolating, to regain social contact
  - To meet government expectations that society starts to return to normal.
- Each church has its own risk assessment.  
**Each DCC to forward its Risk Assessment for electronic filing on behalf of the PCC.**
  - No other Health & Safety issues were raised.

b) *Covid support group for wardens*

HT raised the point that there are understandably many different views and interpretations of the guidance issued about procedures during the pandemic across not just the parish, but also the diocese. He proposed that we could have a support group which could look into all the guidance and legal information, which is constantly being updated. This group could provide help to our wardens, if they wanted it, to see how to interpret any new guidelines. Although each church is different and will act accordingly, the wording in the documentation is not clear. BT would be happy to look into any queries to try to help out, if asked to do so by the wardens.

Concern was expressed about the need for the parish to adhere strictly to the published guidelines in order to avoid risking lives and to prevent the PCC being held responsible for any deaths. It was felt that the PCC should be aware of any differences in procedure between the DCCs. It was noted that the government guidance is contradictory and not black and white. As such it is open to different interpretations. The only clear answer would be to keep the churches closed, which is not what the PCC wants. The responsibility to implement guidelines and procedures is not just a legal responsibility but also a moral one. We must have risk assessments which clearly follow guidelines in each church. All necessary procedures must be put into place, but people are ultimately responsible for their own health and thus also their own behaviour in the churchyard.

It was confirmed that no wine would be shared at any church across the parish in line with published regulations and that nobody objected to having just bread.

c) *Update on livestreaming of services*

Livestreaming is difficult for the parish because we do not have suitable equipment. We have been offered a donation of £400-£500, but equipment is either much cheaper than

this and of a poor quality, or far more expensive. If churches apply before September, £4,000 is available per church from the Development Fund (although there are not sufficient funds for all churches to be successful). We would only need one set of equipment as it could be shared by the parish.

**HT to forward details so that each church can apply to the Development Fund.**

4. *Other news from the DCCs*

Akeley: The new build will still be going ahead, along with fundraising for the project. A meeting will take place next month regarding the financial situation.

Leckhampstead: The first service for 4 months took place inside the church, with a congregation of four. The outside Pet Service was well-attended, with 38 people, including 12 children, and lots of pets. The church warden expressed his thanks to the co-organisers. Leckhampstead is focusing on fundraising during this period of shortage. Four new people have set up standing orders to the church and all 74 households will receive a letter asking them to participate in fundraising for the church.

Lillingstone Dayrell: Two services have taken place in the last two weeks including a baptism, with about 20 people present. Thank you to MC. Next week's Akeley service will be followed by a memorial service in Dayrell church. At present there is no further progress on the gutters.

Lillingstone Lovell: A discussion regarding the field has been opened with the field owner who says that the future of the field has not yet been resolved.

5. *Finance Update*

Akeley has already paid its parish share in full. All the other churches should also be able to pay their share in full, so the parish is relatively financially secure.

6. *Messy Church & Youth Group*

One session of Messy Church has already been broadcast online and another is to follow over the summer. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst the younger people of Leckhampstead, which is very exciting. Virtual assemblies will take place at Maids Moreton School every week next term. These are being accessed not just via the NBP site, but also through the school's own platform, so viewing numbers are higher than it may appear. An increase in pastoral needs is anticipated after the summer. In October CP will be attending training by Professor Chris Southgate on "Congregations, pastoral response to Covid and the emerging post-Covid landscape". She will make notes on behalf of the PCC.

7. *APCM (19.10.2020)*

This may now take place online if it is still deemed too dangerous to take place in the normal way. If it is a virtual meeting, we will need to plan carefully in advance how to distribute reports beforehand, and how to enable everyone entitled to attend to join the meeting and to speak if they wish.

**PCC secretary to forward Oxford diocese's latest guidance on APCMs to all members of the PCC for consideration.**

8. *AOB*

- JR asked if NBP could donate money to the Lebanon Disaster Fund. The PCC treasurer agreed.

**JR to investigate and to liaise with treasurer.**

- PCC secretary reminded the PCC that the Ride & Stride is set to go ahead on September 12th.

**Secretary to forward details to committee members.**

- CP announced an open prayer meeting in the rectory garden on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. The aim is to pray for everyone regarding the Covid situation.

#### 9. *Closing Prayer*

HT thanked members of the PCC for their attendance. MC closed the meeting by leading the Grace.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

AC

23.07.20

*The next scheduled PCC meeting is the APCM followed by a PCC meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.*