



EXTRA ORDINARY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Minutes of a meeting held on Zoom on Thursday 14th January 2021

Present:

Revd. Canon Dr. Jeremy Worthen (Chair) (JFW)	Helen West (HW)	Revd Andrew Brown (AB)
Sally Lees (Vice Chair) (SL)	James Beck (JB)	Revd Bruce Watson (BW)
Phil Sibbald (PCC Secretary) (PFSS)	Jill Humphreys (JH)	Revd Caroline Mansley (CM)
Shirley Leslie (PCC Treasurer) (SEL)	June Wenborn (JW)	Revd Cathie Aldis-Saunders (CAS)
Derek Goodwin (Church Warden) (DG)	Ken Blanshard (KB)	Revd Dawn Stamper (DS)
Jerry Fox (Church Warden) (JF)	Laura Lawrence (LL)	Revd Eve Lanchantin-Piggott (ELP)
Alison Gunther (AG)	Lesley Wraxall LW)	Revd Richard Bellamy (RB)
Arthur Waters (AW)	Lorraine Andrews (LA)	Robert Sharp (RS)
Dawn Evans (DE)	Morag Sharp (MS)	Sarah Ansell (SA)
Gavin Williams (GW)	Paul Needham (PN)	Wendy Prior (WP)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Libby Varley and Jane Appleton.

1: WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYERS

JFW opened welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a time of prayer.

2: DWELLING IN THE WORD:

JFW lead the PCC in the dwelling in the word.

The scripture dwelt on was Matthew 6: 24-34.

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[a]? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

PCC then went into pairs in breakout rooms to discuss what words or phrases stood out to them and the paired person reported back to the meeting what stood out for their paired person.

3: HOPES AND FEARS FOR ASHFORD TOWN PARISH

JW explained that It's 2025, and you're at a PCC meeting where the Team Rector is presenting the first draft of the annual report and setting out the latest news about what's happening in the Parish.

The PCC again broke out into break out rooms to discuss hopes and fears.

HOPES:

- to see the Ashford parish working together in a stronger way and becoming a truly inclusive church.
- to see thousands of people come to Christ.
- to see all denominations working together.
- increased parish links.
- for baptisms to grow so much that we need to do coaches to the seaside.
- to build stronger relational bridges with other organisations that we are able to help people in a more complete way.
- church presence in new estate,
- new dynamic engagement
- working together but still different like parts of the body
- evangelistic courses
- funky dynamic website.
- more generosity in spirit
- growth in numbers beyond our capacity
- wider pastoral care

FEARS:

- not cooperating together
- churches closing
- losing clergy
- standing still - not growing
- not being able to afford to carry out the mission that God has placed in our hearts.
- bankruptcy after the Pandemic.
- to be stuck in the same place having not made any progress.
- still on zoom!
- we remain in our own little hubs of our own parishes

4: PRIORITY 1: MISSION ACTION PLANNING:

This document was issued to the PCC prior to the meeting and will be filed to the signed file copy of these minutes.

JW explained the working behind this document and who, he thought might be involved in taking this document forward.

A good discussion took place with regard to this document and it was agreed (with a few updates) by the PCC to take this document forward.

JW Thanked everyone for their comments and contributions and further updates would be made at the February PCC meeting.

5: PRIORITY 2 – 6 2021:

This document was issued to the PCC prior to the meeting and will be filed to the signed file copy of these minutes.

JW explained the working behind this document and who, he thought might be involved in taking this document forward.

A good discussion took place with regard to this document and it was agreed (with a few updates) by the PCC to take this document forward.

JW Thanked everyone for their comments and contributions and further updates would be made at the February PCC meeting.

6: TIME OF PRAYER:

The PCC again went into break out groups for a time of prayer.

7: CLOSING PRAYERS/REFLECTIONS:

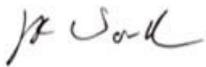
In closing **JW** reflected on what had been said in the Hopes & Fears section of the meeting.

He then closed the meeting in prayer as the PCC prayed for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

After the prayers there were comments on how they felt this PCC had gone

JF – *This has to have been the best PCC meeting I have ever attended in my entire church career.*

SL - *I have a sense that God is encouraging us to look for the nuggets of gold in our work across the parish that have emerged from the COVID fire and that we need to build upon.*



Revd Canon Jeremy Worthen
13th February 2021