

## Minute of Dedham PCC Monday 23 March 2020

At 7.30 pm online with Zoom

### In Attendance:

Antony Wilson(ACW)Chair

Lynne Al Sad (LAS)

Vee Druitt(VD)

Peter Wilson (PCW)

John Reed (JR)

Suzanne Woods (SW)

### Apologies:

Christine Frost (CF)

Gabbie Watson (GW)

It was understood that this meeting could only run for some 40 minutes so discussion of previous Minutes would be postponed to a future meeting.

### Coronavirus Continuity Plan

ACW spoke about the infrastructure being set up to communicate with the local community.

This included the Parish Magazine, Church Chimes, social media and a weekly newsletter each Thursday. He also reported that the recording of church services had been successful – some 100 views had been credited to the Mothers' Day service and 30+ for the Taize service that same day. Services would continue to be recorded and available on the Parish website, including Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Evening Prayer on Thursday.

It was reported that the Church's Helpline had gone live today and LAS had already received calls in response. ACW said that helpers who visited people in their homes would need to be CRB checked. It was agreed that those with CRB certificates should email them to Charlotte for checking their validity for this operation.

It was noted that those people distributing the Parish Magazine could check that all is well with the recipients. JR pointed out that people who said they did not need help initially may, in time, find that aid is needed so it was important to check from time to time.

ACW spoke of the importance of prayer and would mention this in Church Chimes this week to advertise Saturday morning prayer for which he hoped to arrange a meeting via Zoom starting this Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March 8-9am

### Church Closure

Given that the church is now closed all day, every day the question arose as to how people wishing to give donations in lieu of weekly collections etc. might do this. It was agreed that such people should be encouraged to set up a standing order or send cheques to parish office/vicarage. ACW undertook to address this in the weekly news sheet. It was noted that any cheques received could be posted to the bank with an accompanying credit slip.

The question arose as to the employment of the caretaker/gardener. It was agreed that the outside work would continue and he would open and close the main gate each day for access to the churchyard. ACW asked for suggestions of work to be done in the church which would usually be done by others – or not done at all.

### School

ACW reported that 4-only children had been at the school today – the first day of schools closing to all but children of vital workers. However it was expected that this number may rise and that the facility would need to be open throughout the holiday period. ACW has encouraged the teachers to take holidays by rota.

### Finance

Noted that all had received the finance committee's report to the PCC.

ACW reported that the Church of England was exploring ways for central support to the church at this time.

### Buildings

PCW reported that faculties had been received for both hospitality suite and new toilets. That the work had commenced; most of the drainage was in place and linked up to the Vicar's vestry. The pump had been delivered. The joiner is making the unit offsite. A hole has been drilled through the metre thick wall to take water and electricity. Peter Gibbins' first invoice in the sum of £12,000 has been received against a total quoted of £50,000. However, it was reported that additional costs re drainage of up to £10,000 and archaeologists quoted fees of £5,200 should be expected, although the latter fees may be considerably reduced by the fact that no excavation work will be taken within the church.

The overall estimate is £80-85,000 but PCW is hopeful of the work being completed for £75,000. It was noted that the Friends of Dedham Church will contribute up to £35,000 and there is a pledge of £10,000. Therefore the PCC will need to fund the balance of the total from the Heath Fund which is currently £141,000 in credit.

A resolution was proposed that the PCC would contribute up to £40,000 towards the projects in the knowledge that it may be necessary to vote further monies in the future.

(SW proposed ACW seconded) the motion was carried nem com.

ACW reported that the wall between the church and vicarage had now been repaired by Peter Gibbins and that the cost of £1000 for this would be met by the Heath Fund

### Organ Report

PCW said that the issue is how to fund the project but that given the circumstances it should be on hold for the present. All agreed that the report was very clear and useful and asked that thanks be given to the Organ committee

Limited time online did not allow discussion of the report. It was agreed to have a single-item meeting in a week's time.

The meeting was terminated by Zoom but SW had been suggesting that, for following meetings, where possible, participants would link devices to their modems by an ethernet cable and, at least, have devices plugged into power. Both methods tend to give greater stability to the connection.

Date of next meeting Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm via Zoom