

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford

Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 22 April 2020

Present

Richard Zair (RZ)
Tamsin Gilbert (TG)
Bryan Eccles (BE)

Neil Rowe (NR)
Ruth Atkins (RA)
Rachel Gaisford (RG) (for agenda item 4)

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and opening prayer</p> <p>RZ welcomed everyone and this included Rachel Gaisford for agenda item 4.</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of minutes from last meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2020 were approved as an accurate record.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>It was agreed for Anne Wilson not to be asked to be part of the Hardship Fund group at this stage.</p>	
4.	<p>Discussion of applications for Hardship Fund</p> <p>RG joined for this part of the meeting.</p> <p>The amount in the Hardship Fund is currently £1,000. Once other money is added it will be between £1,000 to £2,000.</p> <p>Webpage – NR asked for it to be updated to say generous donors rather than a generous donor.</p> <p>RG asked if messages could go out in the notices for extra contributions to the food parcels and a list to be added of what is required.</p> <p><u>Review of the applications</u> We have received four applications for funding from the Hardship Fund and acknowledged the payment is one off and not recurring. Each applicant will receive a letter, and this can include the offer of practical/pastoral care support.</p> <p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the fund for two applicants but at a lower amount than they requested • to seek to provide the item another person was requesting rather than providing funding • ask one individual to contact us if their situation changes <p>TG will draft the letters for all to review before they are sent out.</p>	<p>TG</p> <p>TG</p> <p>TG/All</p>

	<p>RA raised about Christians Against Poverty and BE has been looking at this and they are currently not accepting any more referrals due to how busy they are. CAP currently does not cover Marcham and Abingdon.</p> <p>BE volunteered to link with a colleague linked to CAP and see what he can find out.</p> <p>RG advised the CAB provide debt counselling; however, they have also suspended their service at the moment.</p> <p>It was agreed to be clear on the criteria for the fund to be used for COVID-19 related implications.</p> <p>RG left the meeting at this point: 20: 55</p>	<p>BE</p> <p>TG</p>
5.	<p>COVID-19 related issues</p> <p><u>Community larder</u> TG reported it is up and running. Needing to remind people they need to apply weekly for it.</p> <p><u>Pastoral care</u> Kate is leading on this and it is going well, and the phone system is working.</p> <p><u>Church services</u> RA expressed thanks to Rob Finch and the team supporting him with the live streaming of the services.</p> <p>RA shared about her recent experiences of using Zoom where people can be 'broken off' into rooms with fewer people and this could be good to try for the coffee/tea gathering after the virtual church service. TG will review what the Church Zoom account includes.</p>	<p>TG</p>
6.	<p>Finance update</p> <p>BE provided an update – following discussions with Cathie Little there is nothing new to report. One new contributor to the church and no one has so far reduced their contributions.</p> <p>BE for the next meeting will provide some key financial data.</p>	<p>BE</p>
7.	<p>Fabric update</p> <p>NR updated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV is now fully working • Recent incident of a youth throwing a brick at the church camera has been reported to the police and is being addressed. A new camera is in place • Infestation of mice found under the gallery and is being managed (a gap where the mice are coming in is going to be blocked up) 	

8.	<p>Youth and Children update</p> <p><u>Rob Finch</u> Youth during lockdown</p> <p>Obviously much of the Youth Workers time has been reallocated to make our virtual Sunday Morning meetings happen. But in addition to this, the following Youth activities/initiatives are ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Night Youth via Zoom. Largely this is a relational event, just to catch up with others but includes highlighting a Bible passage and either discussing some reflective questions during the meeting or providing reflective tools for during the week. • Youth playlists - young people can recommend Christian songs to be added to these YouTube/Spotify playlists that they think are good/helpful/suitable. • Youth YouTube channel - we've established a separate YouTube channel, exclusively for youth content - this is something that will remain useful once Lockdown is lifted. <p>Potential expansions: To build on this base, we have been liaising with our young people as to what they would find useful going forward, these may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short expansions on Bible passages with accompanying reflective questions to follow on from Sunday night sessions. • Shorter, mid-week Zoom check in sessions, just for those who would benefit from seeing each other without waiting a week in between. <p><u>Jill Rowe</u> Children and Families Work during lockdown.</p> <p>I am continuing to go into school once a week to tell a bible story to whoever is there. Most weeks its between 10 and 15. Last week I stayed on and helped with sewing! Friday club has continued remotely, delivering packs to families doors each week. We begin again this Friday with a new theme and hoping to link the children together with a short zoom to explain the new programme and read a story. I put an invite out on facebook and have now potentially doubled our numbers from 19 families to well over 30!! This will obviously be a bit more work photocopying materials and delivering but it's an amazing witness and a great way to connect with more families.</p> <p>I'm out and about every day and increasingly meeting children and families and having distance chats.</p> <p>COG is continuing via zoom and the kids are loving linking in and chattering to each other. We are learning what games work over zoom and have played bingo and countdown so far, as well as looking at bible passages (I forget how long it takes them to find the right passage), and we finish with the Lord's prayer which is hilarious and totally out of sync!</p> <p>Michelle is keeping Sunday kids going well with materials to access via the web site and some video links on the you tube the last couple of weeks.</p> <p>I'm in the process of trying to link up with toddler mums to see what support they might need.</p> <p>All church, Friday club and toddler mums received a potted plant on mother's day, all church members received a palm cross, and over 20 families received a good Friday activity pack.</p>	
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	<p>Last few days have been spent tracking and trapping mice in the church cupboards which has involved emptying everything out and sorting through, throwing away and cleaning. It would appear that mice love Pritt stick glue!!</p> <p>I am continuing with pastoral work as and when needed.</p> <p>Also looking ahead to linking in the uniformed organisations for the VE75 service on 10th May, and I've been involved with MCG, Parish Council and MAD news in organising virtual celebrations for Friday 8th. All details will be in May's MAD news and on the MAD news website. Basically, I'm keeping busy!!</p>	
9.	<p>Village update</p> <p>NR provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new facility is virtually completed – Thomas Homes can potentially hand the building over in early May • MUGA will be finished the last week of April • Final surface of the car park will be completed after lockdown <p>NR agreed to write a letter of thanks to Chris Brotherton.</p>	NR
10	<p>Health & safety / safeguarding update</p> <p>The Health and Safety Policy will need an annual review which is to take place and it will need to include lone working. It will be shared before the May PCC meeting.</p> <p>Insurance excess for the church policy is to be reviewed prior to its renewal.</p> <p>It has been reported a homeless person is staying in the Church grounds. NR has reported this to the local PCSO (23/4/2020).</p>	<p>TG</p> <p>TG/NR</p> <p>NR</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Church weekend plans</u></p> <p>May need to consider this being virtual and RA has volunteered to help with the planning following her recent experience of a virtual Fit Fish retreat.</p> <p>The meeting closed at: 21:30</p>	

The next meeting is on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

June 24; July 22; Sept. 23; Oct. 28; Nov. 25.

Extra report:

Confidential - Interim Safeguarding Report for Standing Committee and PCC. (April 2020)

In the past few months we have been in discussion with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser about an ongoing issue involving one family in the parish. We are following their guidance, maintaining support and working in cooperation with all necessary statutory agencies. We are also aware of a potential situation in future where a Diocesan Safeguarding Agreement may be needed.

Tim Jack, Acting Parish Safeguarding Officer.