

THE PARISH OF CENTRAL EXETER

Draft Virtual Minutes for the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council To be held online to end on 3rd April 2020

All members were sent the agenda and notes and given the opportunity to ask questions on the draft agenda. Responses to the final agenda were received from Revd Sheila Swarbrick, Keith Walton, Jessica Claridge, Betsy Allen, Richard Skinner, Sue Blow, Viv Asher and Celia Smith.

1. The PCC agreed that because of the Coronavirus emergency the meeting would be conducted by means of online correspondence.
2. **Prayer:**
Keep us good Lord
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen
3. **Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 15th January 2020:**
The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 15th January were confirmed as an accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising/Questions:**
No matters arising.
5. **Parish Activities:**
 - 5.1 **Services.** All services in our churches have been cancelled until further notice. We shall have to close all the churches. We are exploring alternative ways of communal worship without actually being physically together.
 - 5.2 **Recommit Exeter Central Parish as a Fairtrade place of worship (online application)**
Message from Fairtrade - As a part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations last year, we relaunched our Fairtrade Places of Worship Award scheme. Fairtrade Places of Worship were integral to the success that the FAIRTRADE Mark has seen so far. Twenty-five years on, we know that the need for Fairtrade, and the fair deal this small but powerful Mark represents, is as acute as ever.

We are asking all Fairtrade Places of Worship that first committed over two years to recommit and then do so every two years onwards. This new online commitment process has been created to make sure that we can capture the incredible scale of activity from Fairtrade faith groups across the country. This form is quicker and more straightforward than our original application form, which should allow your group to focus more on spreading the word rather than paperwork, and celebrate the impact you are having locally, which drives change globally.

The PCC agree to recommit to being a Fairtrade church
Action: Mary Keaney to complete the online application with Sheila and probably to include her and Sheila's details as contact
 - 5.3 **Use of St Pancras by Orthodox Church**
Please see letter below. Sheila and the churchwardens are happy to agree to this request which will require the formal approval of Bishop Robert.

Dear Reverend Sheila

Re: Use of St Pancras Church, Exeter

I am an Orthodox Christian Priest living in Exeter and serving a small international community of people of the Moscow Patriarchate. My bishop is Metropolitan John of Dubna of the Archdiocese of Churches of Russian Tradition in Western Europe, who lives in Paris, next to our Cathedral of St Alexander Nevsky in the Rue Daru.

I am also a Psychotherapist, working in the NHS and in Private Practice. In my professional role, for nearly twenty years, I have sought to serve the clergy and people of the Diocese of Exeter by convening Reflective Practice groups and in other ways; currently, I am a member of the Diocese's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Advisory Panel. If need be, there are other clergy of the Diocese of Exeter who can vouch for me.

My community meets for Vespers on Saturday evenings in my practice rooms in Exeter. However, these are too small. Besides we would like to meet in a church. We would like to use St Pancras Church, as it is without pews and so especially suitable for Orthodox worship. Besides, we understand that St Augustine of Canterbury brought relics of St Pancras from Rome when he came to this country. The church, which is thought to be built on the earliest Christian meeting place in Exeter with its dedication to St Pancras, witnesses to our underlying unity, before the church was divided by the Great Schism of 1054.

To begin with, we would like to use St Pancras for Vespers on Saturday evenings and work towards serving a Divine Liturgy there on Sunday morning, once a month.

I work closely with Archpriest Benedict Ramsden of the Diocese of Sourozh in serving other communities who meet in South Devon and Cornwall.

The coronavirus may mean that we are not able to meet for a while but we make our request now in the hope that an agreement will be in place for when services can resume.

With good wishes,
Hieromonk Porphyrios

The PCC agree to the use of St Pancras by Russian Orthodox Church at a time to be confirmed once the Coronavirus emergency is over.

Action: Sheila to forward the Russian Orthodox request to Bishop Robert in due course.

5.4 Preparation for APCM. The C of E has said that APCMs should be postponed until October and consequently everyone stays in post until that time. Nevertheless there are issues you need to be aware of, and we may as well get the Annual report agreed now rather than later.

Annual Revision of Electoral Roll. You need take no action unless you wish to come off the electoral roll.

Reappointment of PCC members at the end of their 3 year term. Sue Blow was appointed a member in 2017 and has indicated that she would like to continue for at least another year.

Approval of Annual Report and Financial Statement. (Attachment) Please note the statement you received earlier had the wrong year's figures in the 2018 columns of the financial accounts. This has now been corrected. The new amended account final 3 has been attached.

The PCC approved the Annual Report and financial statements for the year ending 2019.

5.5 Payments for Jim P and Julie R during the period of closure

This request has come from PCC members and not the recipients.

The PCC agree to continue payments to Jim and Julie during the period that the churches have to remain closed.

Action: Keith Walton to inform Jim and Julie about the decision to continue with payments

5.6 Elections of churchwardens

The PCC agree, in accordance with C of E regulations, that Keith may continue to stand as churchwarden after more than six years in this office.

6. Church Buildings:

6.1 St Stephen's: Garden update. We have a gardener willing to take this on, but any start will have to wait until the end of the emergency.

6.2 Loop system. Keith noted that he had the engineers check the system out and they replaced a faulty part, but there still seems to be a problem. However we may not be able to pursue this further until the end of the current emergency.

6.3 St Olave's: The contractors are having to postpone start of the work. Faculty approved for the installation of CCTV and for the conservation and display of the banner.

7. **Deanery Synod Report:** (Attached)

8. **Safeguarding and Health & Safety:**

Safeguarding report (Attached)

9. **CTAX/CTCE/CMS/Correspondence:**

Lent groups started but have been postponed.

Provisional date for a city centre united service is 15th November at Sidwell St Methodist with a climate emergency theme (midway through the Glasgow talks).

Ruth Sayers letter from Devonport has been circulated.

The parish has received a 'thank you' letter from Bishop Robert for Common Fund contribution in 2019.

Now during this Covid 19 emergency there are numerous email letters from the Diocese to do with the changing situation.

10. **Date and Place of future meetings:**

The next scheduled regular meeting is in June. This may also have to be an online meeting depending on circumstances.