

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING

PARISH OF SANDERSTEAD

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27th AUGUST 2020

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Bishop Peter Price (Chair for item 20/29), Canon Martin Greenfield (Chair for items 20/24-28 and 20/30), Rosemary Kempzell, Rev Jeremy Groombridge, Indrani Balachandran, Lynne Davison, Linda Etheridge, Mike Fixter, Robin Gordon, Gill Pates, Margaret Quiney, Sue Thomas, Barbara Webster-Dudley, Richard Wragg, Sue Wragg, Kevin Wright, Chris Babbs (Secretary), Rosanne Morris (Support for voting system)

Apologies: Sarah Deacon, Jeremy Dearden, Veronica de Grass-Grant, Helen Howe, Judith Robinson, Marc Smith

20/24 Welcome, Bible Reading and Prayer

Canon Martin Greenfield welcomed everyone to this video meeting, replacing that planned for 31st March which had been cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. He read a passage from Mark 6 and then led us in prayer.

20/25 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th February 2020

Robin Gordon suggested two additions:

At 20/16 "Bishop Peter reminded the meeting that the Clergy are the authority and responsible for the direction of the Church."

At 20/19: "It seemed immoral that PCC members were voting on the future of the Parish knowing they were going to resign immediately afterwards."

There being no objection to these proposed additions, adoption of the minutes, as amended, was proposed by Linda Etheridge, seconded by Rosemary Kempzell, and agreed unanimously.

20/26 Matters Arising and Updates

There were no Matters Arising not covered by the agenda. PCC noted the decision made by correspondence and written updates, as detailed on the agenda:

- Clearance of the 2019 Report & Accounts by correspondence;
- Opening of church buildings for early years education (St Edmund's);
- Signing of the Novation Agreement regarding the telecommunications equipment installed in All Saints' tower.

20/27 Team Rector's Notices

Canon Martin Greenfield had no items which it was necessary to mention. However, in response to a later question, he confirmed that there had been no developments regarding the housing of Chris Newman (Children and Families Pastor).

20/28 Scheme to Dissolve the Team Ministry and APCM Arrangements

- (A) The secretary reported that the deadline for objections to the Scheme to dissolve the Team Ministry was midnight on 31/8/20. He had not heard of any objections. Assuming that remained the case, it was to be hoped that the Church Commissioners would formally “make” the Scheme in September and, in accordance with standard practice, it would come into effect on 1st October. He also asked PCC to note that he had been advised that APCM would need to carry out an abstruse piece of business to cancel the Southwark Instrument, executed under the 2005 Church Commissioners’ Scheme which would have been rescinded, to regulate the detailed structure of the Team.
- (B) As regards the APCM and Meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens, the secretary reported that the current requirement was for them to be held by 31st October. The diocese had indicated that this might be relaxed, but the further guidance had not yet been issued. In the circumstances he could only recommend that we continue to assume that the meetings would be held on 6th October by video conference, and that PCC grant authority to Standing Committee to take whatever actions might be required by new instructions. This was agreed.
- (C) PCC endorsed, as recommendations to APCM, the suggestions in the secretary’s paper on the size of the PCC and the application of the rules on three year rolling terms for elected PCC members.
- (D) In response to a question, the secretary felt that it would be neater to elect all members of the “new” PCC (except Rosemary Kempself who had one more year to serve as a Diocesan Synod representative), and then apply the rules on three year rolling terms. *[Secretary’s Note: NB Further reflection, and sight of the draft documentation for All Saints’ AGM, revealed that, in a finely balanced argument, my off-the-cuff reaction on this came down on the wrong side! It will be better if PCC members with part of their three year term remaining continue in office, provided they wish to do so, of course. They will NOT need to stand for election. Apologies! CJB]*

20/29 THE FUTURE OF ST EDMUND’S BUILDING AND DISTRICT

- (A) Bishop Peter Price recalled that this was the meeting which should have taken place on 31st March. A very great deal had happened in the meantime and Covid-19 had changed everyone’s thinking. What church life would be like once lockdown was fully over was very uncertain. However, he had a distinct sense that we were nearly there and that things were coming together – whichever way the vote went tonight. People had come a long way from their initial positions, helped by conversations and fellowship in the interim. He was very grateful to the proposers and seconders of the main motion & the amendment and, was sure everyone was immensely grateful to Rosanne Morris for all her work on the “Zoom” voting system. He was sure all would be able to accept tonight’s conclusion and move forward.
- (B) Bishop Peter then asked if there were any matters of clarification to be addressed before we moved to voting. Concern was expressed whether Clause 6 as currently worded would inadvertently breach charity law, with the reputational risk that would entail. The arguments for this view were explored, and also the counterarguments that that clause 6, particularly if amended, was compliant. Summing up, Bishop Peter said that clearly we could not be seen to be breaching the law, but needed to come to a decision. The point could easily be revisited in the event of any enquiry, so there was no reputational risk.
- (C) The amendment, proposed by Robin Gordon and seconded by Marc Smith, to replace the current wording of Clause 6 with:

“All residual St Edmunds funds net of those earmarked for SECG and net of a sum of £5,000 for continuing mission work at St Edmunds should REMAIN vested in Sanderstead Parish for the purpose of missional work in Sanderstead Parish.”

Was then put to an electronic vote. The result (including votes pre-registered by some of those unable to attend, as agreed at the February meeting was:

For: 18

Against: 1
Abstentions: 0

- (D) The amendment having been carried, the main motion, with the replacement clause 6, proposed by Canon Martin Greenfield and seconded by Rosemary Kempzell was then put to an electronic vote. The result (also including pre-registered votes) was:

For: 16
Against: 2
Abstentions: 1

[The motion, as passed, is at Annex A to these minutes, together with, for completeness, the schedule of roads transferred and the map.]

- (E) Bishop Peter thanked everyone very much. We now had a clear-cut decision. This was an interesting and challenging time for the Church. The effect of coronavirus was yet to be seen and it was not clear what Church would look like in the future. There were huge questions to face, and much to be done to rebuild church life. He was very grateful for the thoroughness and integrity with which all had approached the issue. He hoped Fr Grant Cohen's aspirations for St Edmund's would be fulfilled. He was grateful to the PCC for allowing him to participate in our community. Previous experience and friendships had made him very fond of Croydon. We would be in his prayers. Bishop Peter then led us in prayer for the future.

20/30 Close

- (A) Closing the meeting, Canon Martin Greenfield recalled that we had been through an extraordinary two years. So much had happened – some of it extremely painful, particularly the decisions by St Antony's and St Edmund's to cease public worship. We could now start to build for the future, albeit from a position which was not very strong. He was very grateful to those putting themselves forward for the two churchwarden positions and the PCC. St Antony's and St Edmund's folk were extremely welcome to join in the process, although he recognised that some might very well need a rest first. We had taken a decisive decision; and now there was much work to be done. Announcements would be made as soon as possible, and the secretary would draft an item to go out on e-mail. However, there was no need for the decision to be kept confidential pending the issue of that announcement.
- (B) All expressed their very great thanks to Bishop Peter for guiding us through this exceptionally difficult issue.
- (C) The meeting then closed with the Grace.

CJB 29/8/20

Annex A

SANDERSTEAD PCC 27/8/20

MOTION ON BUILDINGS AND BOUNDARIES

Sanderstead Parochial Church Council:

- (1) Agrees that the Parish Centre of Worship of St Edmund, King & Martyr, Riddlesdown, should be transferred to the Parish of St James, Riddlesdown, together with that part of St Edmund's District defined on the attached map and schedule;
- (2) Requests the diocesan authorities to initiate the development of a Church Commissioners' Scheme to give effect to the transfer;
- (3) Recognising that a Scheme will take some time to come into effect and that the current St Edmund's churchwardens will have no authority to act once the separate Scheme to dissolve the Sanderstead Team Ministry comes into effect, commissions (a) Messrs Richard Wragg

and Chris Babbs to continue to run the day-today operation of the building until arrangements can be made with St James's and (b) St James's PCC to direct the running of the building until such time as the transfer Scheme comes into force;

- (4) Agrees that a Memorandum of Understanding should be prepared for agreement by the PCCs of the parishes concerned, expressing their intent to work as partners in the gospel, sharing and collaborating with each other in ministry and mission, and providing for the use by agreement of St Edmund's building by the Parish of Sanderstead from time to time as required;
- (5) Agrees that the future management of St Edmund's Caring Group (SECG) should be agreed between the incumbents of the parishes of Sanderstead and St James', in consultation with the current SECG leadership; and that the restricted SECG Fund held within St Edmund's accounts should be transferred to whichever parish assumes the management role;
- (6) All residual St Edmunds funds net of those earmarked for SECG and net of a sum of £5,000 for continuing mission work at St Edmunds should REMAIN vested in Sanderstead Parish for the purpose of missional work in Sanderstead Parish.