

## St Thomas' PCC, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – Overview

Apologies for the lack of communication from me regarding the PCC's discussions since lockdown etc. Things have been a little out of routine! The hope is to provide these short overviews which are more accessible than the full minutes for those wanting to keep track of what's going on.

We began with a short discussion about the **possibility of removing some or all of the pews from the nave on a temporary faculty** in response to Covid restrictions. We believe this will enable us to make much better use of our building, especially for activities in which we welcome members of the community in need of company and support, but for which the hall imposes too low a limit on numbers. We decided to apply for such a faculty. If this goes ahead, it would be a temporary arrangement and would mean that some parts of the floor would not be especially pretty for the time being! We would need to find storage for any pews that are removed until and unless a permanent faculty is granted.

We confirmed our desire to use some of the 'Barbara Martin Fund' (a legacy left to the church some years ago, but which has only recently been released for use) to employ a **'building development manager'** on a part-time basis. This person would enable us to move ahead with exploring the possibilities of a reordering of the building (and necessary repairs to stonework) which we have spoken about for some years.

We decided to pause the process of employing a part-time worker in the wake of Louise's move to Belgium. Although we feel the 'worship and creative outreach' position we had earmarked may still be the right thing, we don't think we yet know enough about how things will develop in our church life as the response to Covid develops. We will look again at this towards the end of the year.

We chose **Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>** as the date for the next Annual Meeting. An annual report will be sent out a couple weeks before that. On that morning, our service will focus on hearing from people involved with different aspects of church life, and the meeting will follow on Zoom. We have **two spaces on PCC, as well as two spaces on deanery synod**. Mike Minihan will be stepping down as a church warden. There will also be the opportunity to join the 'electoral roll', which is essentially the way to say you are a member of St Thomas', before the meeting.

I gave an overview of our current activities. We hope to be able to run some groups in the church buildings during the week but are keeping abreast of changing regulations. We will be continuing the livestreams on Sunday mornings, possibly with a very small number coming to the building (especially those who can't watch online easily). Church in a Bag will be happening for families, as well as the occasional online all age service, and the hope of an in-person group for those aged 9+.

The situation in the deanery of York is also developing. I am having conversations quite regularly about plans for the future once my extended license (Bishop's Mission Order) comes to an end in just over a year. Realistically, it is highly unlikely that a full-time stipend (salary) can be allocated to St Thomas' alone, much as there is plenty of enthusiasm for what's going on here. Quite a number of other churches in 'east York' are going through changes, and we have very informally begin to see if there are ways we can support/work with St Wulstan's – currently we are sending a preacher every fortnight. This has been encouraging so far.

Dave Pennock updated us on finances. While there have been some reductions in income from not taking hall bookings, Sunday donations, etc, the finances still look healthy, for which we are very grateful.

Feel free to get in touch if you have questions about anything.