

Report to Christ Church Moreton Hall Annual Parish Council Meeting 4th May 2021

1. Introduction

It is just under seven months since our previous APCM, but it seems a lot longer as so much has changed over this time for everyone as well as the church. We have tried hard to adapt to what has seemed like a continuing changing environment due to lockdowns followed by easing and subsequent lockdowns with our aim being to sustain worship and pastoral support for our congregation and the wider community. This is reflected in the decisions made by the PCC and the actions we have taken.

2. Information

Our meetings were held on the following dates:-

APCM – Monday 19th October 2020
PCC- Monday 2nd November 2020
Monday 7th December 2020
Monday 1st February 2021
Monday 8th March 2021
Monday 13th April 2021

The changing regulations regarding Covid and how we have needed to respond to them have featured large on our agendas. This included holding all of our meetings on Zoom.

Covid documentation and protocols have had to be produced and our thanks must go to Heather for her diligence and efficiency.

To ensure that we are as Covid safe as possible, the layout of the church has had to change to accommodate social distancing. Online services via Facebook were developed during lockdowns and have continued during periods of eased restrictions for those not wishing to attend in person or for those shielding and this has been possible due to the technical expertise of Jonathan Corwin and our thanks go to him for the considerable amount of work he has done to enable our community to continue worshipping throughout the pandemic. Perspex screens have been purchased and installed to keep our worship band members safe.

Vatha has done excellent work in producing a weekly video for younger members of the congregation. This has enabled CCMH to retain many of its younger members of the congregation.

Home group leaders have provided excellent pastoral care during the crisis and contact has been maintained with all members of our church family through regular phone contact by our volunteers and the newsletter produced every week by either Jonathan Ford or Heather Lovell. A weekly prayer group is held on Zoom to spiritually uphold the work of CCMH and members of its extended family. Our thanks go to all those involved in keeping us in touch with each other during this challenging time.

Following the APCM we said farewell to Pam Hill, Nick Dorling, Enid Feinson and Gill Shaw and we thank them all for their hard work. The PCC has welcomed Tish Mortlock, Sam Reid, Graham Unsworth and Julian Kearsley.

Our work on Safeguarding has progressed substantially under Heather's leadership with training under the auspices of the Church of England going online for all those in responsible positions within the church and a new safeguarding policy was approved by the PCC.

Ownership of church land has been formalized and confirmed and the Bishop has advised that the boundary of the parish has been extended up to Sow Lane (including all the new housing, airport and commercial area.)

The excellent management of the church's finances continued under Colleen Hart's stewardship, minimum balances were agreed to ensure that no cashflow issued would arise and fund have been set aside to enable key building repairs and maintenance to be carried out. Discussion took place over an affordable parish share contribution, savings were made in running costs and the budget was met. Colleen will be greatly missed when she leaves office at the end of her current term and handover arrangements are being organized.

As Covid restrictions are lifted it is hoped that the majority of our lettings will return to the building and proposals have been discussed for establishing a fundraising group to promote new lettings and activities in the church to reach out to the wider community and generate additional income for the church.

The church insurance policy has been updated by Graham Unsworth and renewal quotes are currently being obtained.

Summary

Throughout this difficult time the PCC has sought to ensure the following:

- We maintain and adapt pastoral care.
- We sustain and innovate worship to adapt to the challenges of Covid
- We retain young members of the church through regular youth work.
- We sustain sound financial management.
- All members of the church are safeguarded.

Conclusion

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to all members of the PCC for their hard work. This is borne out by the recognition we have received from the Lord Lieutenant for our engagement with the community during this difficult time and the success of our rainbow appeal commemorating people who have passed away, those who have survived and the work of the NHS, carers and frontline services.