

**St Mary's Eaton Socon BUDGET & CHRISTMAS PCC held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**NB: This meeting doesn't involve reviewing the previous meeting's minutes.**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Church Attendees:**

TR  
GC  
EJ  
JG  
RN  
DH  
TS

**Zoom Attendees:**

RP  
IC  
ML  
DC  
IS  
JF

The meeting opened at 19:32

**1. Reflection and Prayer**

T. R. opened in prayer and read Acts 9 verses 10 – 19 and shared his thoughts: Ananias had the faith to obey God who is ever faithful throughout dangerous and stormy times, as should we.

**2. Story Sharing**

T.S. shared how faithful God has been in the Kimbolton prayer group. Recently 13 people attended a prayer meeting including the school chaplain, and prayers have been answered.

J.F. Gave thanks to God and shared that the process of adopting a child was progressing well for him and Liz and that they are seeing God moving in their situation.

**3. Apologies**

None, full PCC

**4. 2021 Budget Presentation**

R.N. presented the 2021 budget, the detail of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Forecast receipts for planned giving 2020 = £118,593

Forecast receipts for planned giving 2021 = £115,035

Forecast total receipts 2020 = £132,424

Forecast total receipts 2021 = £130,861

Forecast total payments 2020 = £136,395

Forecast total payments 2021 = £138,594

R.N. stated that there is now a clear Covid -19 effect shown in our income, though on the plus side the Parish share for 2021 will be down slightly.

R.N. shared details of a proposed reduction in the working hours of office staff which if agreed could yield savings of £6,582 which would bring the 2021 forecast deficit down to £4,052.

T.R. thanked R.N. for his hard work and commitment to the job which was endorsed by the meeting.

J.F. requested details of the point of embodiment and duration of the planned staff hours reductions. R.N. answered that if approved it would be effective from 01/01/21 and run for the duration of 2021 being reviewed quarterly.

R.N. further stated that the Governments recent announcement relating to a scaled down furlough benefit may save £524 per month up to April 2021, though at this time full details have not been announced.

T.S. thanked R.N. for his excellent work and observed that as an organisation we need to protect cash management. He suggested that we may wish to review how we depreciate assets in order to protect our future P&L.

Provisional acceptance of this budget was proposed by T.R.  
Seconded by T.S.

Budget to be refined and presented to the PCC in November.

The question of capitalisation (or not) of the recently installed central heating boilers was raised and T.S. stated that it should not, which was accepted by the meeting.

T.R. presented a draft of the finance letter to be circulated to the congregation which stated that he church required £8,234 to balance the budget for 2020 and that increased planned giving was a better option than 1 off payments at year end. T.S. emphasised the importance of encouraging people to give dutifully.

R.N. stated that he would give a financial statement to the church on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting thanked R.N. for his excellent work under difficult circumstances.

T.R. stated that the Diocese was making savings to its budgets in response to the financial challenges presented by Covid – 19 virus. There will be a reduction in the number of Curates launched into training, central office redundancies and a general pay freeze to all staff. T.R. emphasised the need for this to be prayerfully covered.

## **5. Prayer**

T.R. led us in prayer 'give us this day our daily bread'.

G.C. prayed that the Lord would guide and lead us and for us to remember that God is in control.

T.S. prayed for R.N.'s presentation to the church that God would give him the words and the wisdom.

T.R. closed in prayer and asked for an anointing on R.N.

## **6. Christmas 2020**

T.R. announced that we are looking at a very different this year and presented his 5 ideas for services over the Christmas period, one of which was a drive in carol service along lines of the recent SNEC service at Long Sands. R.N. asked how the SNEC event had worked out, T.R. replied that it had been well received.

The detail of these services will be formalised at the November PCC.

G.C. asked if we may consider a Christmas eve streamed service to an empty church, as it may be a convenient option. T.R. stated that it was a good question which he would explore.

T.R. stated that he considered a smaller Christmas tree, in the 10 – 12ft region would be more appropriate this year.

R.P. suggested a socially distanced choir singing around the parish, T.R. to progress

T.R. presented poster proposals for this year on the theme of hope.

E.J. stated his approval of the theme of hope.

G.C. expressed his liking for the scripture passage on number 2 and asked if a scripture could be added to number 1 T.R. stated that it could.

Based on a show of hands picture number 2 won 7-5

The meeting agreed that both pictures were worth progressing.

R.P. proposed that we should get a reference to Jesus onto the poster somehow. T.R. agreed to progress this.

With reference to the forthcoming APCM T.R. thanked everyone for their contributions.

## **7. Prayer and Reflection for Nov 5<sup>th</sup> PCC**

G.C. stated that he would be happy to do this

The meeting concluded at 20:54 with the saying of the Grace.