

Monday 14.00 – Virtually by Zoom due to Corona Virus Restrictions.

Attendees: Rev. Robert Zachar (Chairman), Chris Chare, Bernard & Jenny Gilbert, Derek Goodger (Circuit Steward), Eileen Hill, Mavis & Peter Rye, Martin Smith, Alan & Sue Thorn.

Apologies: John Gorham, Beryl & Peter Woods.

The Following Reports were circulated before the meeting:-

Church Accounts as at 28/02/2021 and some projections into the future, from Chris Chare.

Property Report from Peter Rye. Safeguarding & Pastoral from Mavis Rye.

Minister's Report from Robert Zachar.

Conference Digest 2020.

Finances: A healthy balance was reported, £5619.14 being held in HSBC, £11451.85 in CFB and £42.85 cash making a total of £17,113.85. We have received into CFB £1,200.80 from HMRC as gift Aid for 2018/19 with thanks to Ro for her work on this. We currently pay £6,888 per year for assessment and this we agreed at the last meeting to increase to £8,000 for the year starting 01/09/2021. A calculation of the assessment for the coming year was in excess of £13,000 which we could not afford. DG commented that we had met our obligation despite being a small congregation. We agreed to review our contribution at the end of this church year.

Property: Peter reported Handrails and ramps are now in place. One of the heaters in the Hall is not working correctly. BG to investigate. **(Action)** He is also working to provide an automated timer to be installed, so that heating would automatically come on for services etc. before we arrive.

Safeguarding: Mavis reported that all was in hand. Jenny and Mavis were awaiting arrangements for attending or online Advance module Training Course. Chris reported that his DBS had been renewed for a further 5 years.

Pastoral: Ernie is not so mobile. Val Trice is still recuperating in a nursing home. Peter and Beryl have Medical issues. We have 16 current Members. Margaret Crystal from former Rainham Methodist church stays in contact with our members as well. We bade a fond farewell at the virtual February Coffee Morning to Michael and Ro Read-Leah, as they have now moved out of the area. Robert asked if a rota could be arranged, of those willing to provide intercessions to be included in the weekly notices. Agreed. **Action Robert**

News from the Circuit: Derek was able to report that no-one is to be stationed for Sept 21 for the Chinese church and 2 other churches north of the river. Two candidates came for interviews, but declined our offers.

He also reported that an initiative to possibly fund the facility of showing the circuit services on screen in all our churches so that Congregations can share in the services provided. The Circuit is expecting churches to reopen in due course but the YouTube services will continue.

The Methodist Conference in June 2020 was launching investigations into ways to help small churches cover the various administrative and other roles that the Church requires, by joining small churches together to ease the problem. Discussions are to take place at local level soon.

Election of Officers: The list was circulated as part of the Agenda. Discussions took place and a vote was taken to elect all on block.

OFFICE HOLDERS FOR ELECTION – MAY 2020

Office	Date started	Nominations proposal
Treasurer	01/09/2016	Chris Chare continues
Church Steward	15/03/2021 01/09/2021	Jenny Gilbert* Eileen Hill
Joint Property Stewards	17/06/2011	Peter Rye is Willing to continue Bernard Gilbert
Safeguarding Officer & Pastoral Secretary	17/06/2016	Mavis Rye is Willing to continue
Church Council Secretary.	15/03/2021	Chris Chare
GDPR rep.	15/03/2021	Jenny Gilbert
Communion Stewards	17/06/2016	Mavis Rye Continues Bernard Gilbert Continues
Music Co-ordinator	03/12/2018	Barnard Gilbert continues
Worship Leaders^	17/06/2016	Chris Chare Continues Jenny Gilbert continues
Gift Aid Secretary	15/03/2021	Chris Chare
Lettings Officer	15/03/2021	Mavis R. take phone calls and arrange dates and times Someone - person to open and lock, take the money
Caretaker/Gardener ?		?????

*In these roles, these people act as Circuit Meeting representatives.

We are looking for a Church Cleaner possibly employing Ro's who was also doing the Church. This to be followed up by Robert. Rate and a job Description to be put together and a start date when we return. To be discussed at the next Church Council Meeting. **(Action)**

Regular Church Hirers on hold. We need a person to open and shut Hall for ad hoc ones. Mavis will be monitoring the church emails. She has also contacted the Newington Magazine to change contact details. **(Action)**

General Data Protection Regulations:

An annual GDPR audit is required for all churches in the Circuit. Jenny Gilbert is in the process of doing this and will contact all members on our list to obtain their continued permission to hold their Contact details. A short form copy of our Privacy Policy will be circulated and also attached to the noticeboard, when we re-open the building.

The post of Gardener to be advertised. Hopefully someone in the village will volunteer to keep it tidy. **(Action)**

Reopening of the church will, hopefully, be for Pentecost Sunday 23 May 2021, although we may join St Mary's in the orchard, if they are meeting there. If so, we will postpone our church re-opening until the following week. We have been invited to Sittingbourne on Easter Sunday 10.30. Attendees need to book their place in advance. **(Action)**

AOB: Alan raised the subject of donations to other parties. This is to be discussed at next Meeting. **(Action)**

Riding Lights Theatre passion publicised. See Weekly notices.

Meeting closed with prayer. 15.15.