

PCC Jottings - 2 October 2020

Present: Paul Brewster (Chairman), Tim Gleghorn, Rebecca Armstrong, Amanda Aston, Mike Banner, Jane Brown, Brenda Carter, Shirley Fraser, Melanie Wortham, Fran Youings

Apologies: Laura Gracey

In attendance for agenda item 5 (the legacy of slavery): Stephen Bird

PCC heard thought-provoking presentations from Stephen Bird about Bath's and St Swithin's historical links with slavery, and from Becs Armstrong on the challenges posed by modern slavery and other social justice issues for individual Christians and for St Swithin's as a Christian community. Becs posed three questions:

- How can we apply Biblical principles to the legacy of slavery?
- How do we tell the story of our past clearly, authentically, humbly and confidently?
- In 2020, how do we follow Wilberforce's example by shining a spotlight on the injustices in our society and doing something about them?

PCC agreed to consider carefully and prayerfully over the next few weeks in preparation for a further discussion at the next meeting.

Tim Gleghorn thanked everyone who was involved in the new arrangements for physical gatherings on Sunday and noted that we now have to plan on the basis that the restrictions on use of the church building will continue for at least six months. This will be very challenging during the winter months.

Tim reported that there has been a good response to the Vision questionnaire. Further information will be given to the next PCC.

Paul Brewster reported on the current financial position. The management accounts up to September are predicting a deficit of £32k (which includes the £10k proposed loan to Church House Trustees) which would need to be drawn down from general reserves. (Pre Covid we were anticipating a deficit of £5k). Tim hoped that it would be possible to reduce the need to draw down reserves.

PCC agreed to a request from the Church House trustees for an interest-free loan of up to £10k to enable them to carry out some further repairs which are outside the scope of the insurance claim. It makes sense to do this further work while the scaffolding is in place. PCC asked the trustees to repay the loan within 2 years.