

PCC REPORT – MAY 2020

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) should have taken place on Monday 27 April 2020, but this has been postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions. Under special rules published by the Bishop of London in March the time limit for this year's elections (for churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives) has been extended until October, and a new meeting date will be announced in due course.

However, the PCC held an informal online meeting via Zoom on 27 April, and received updates on the many ways in which our parish continues to function in the new and difficult situation we find ourselves in.

For many people, the most visible of these is the regular online worship via Facebook, Zoom and YouTube: Jeremy reported that the 10.30 service on Easter Day had received 148 live views, 387 total views and 186 'reactions'. Online study is also continuing and developing, including the Lent Group and regular Bible Book Club meetings. Those unable to access these resources online have also been sent information in hard copy, including information about listening in to services on a dedicated phone line, which has recently been set up.

We also received reports on how our church is helping with practical action in the current crisis, such as collecting donations of food for local food banks and for Age UK and our neighbours at Henderson Court, and John Barker's ongoing support for the refugee family sponsored by our parish.

We heard about how the youth group organised by Ayla and Jan has continued to gather remotely, and about other activities involving our children and young people, supported by Maureen, our youth worker, including a project for the Junior Church to make and send cards to residents at Spring Grove care home.

Inigo, our Treasurer, gave us an update on how the pandemic is affecting our finances, particularly due to the absence of funds that would normally be received from weekly collections and visitors' donations, as well as a reduction in income from letting of the parish rooms. Anyone who normally puts money into the collection on a Sunday will be encouraged to make donations online while the church is closed, if they can, and the website has been enhanced to make this easier.

We are fortunate to have been able to retain our full-time music staff and regular freelance choral singers due to support from the Hampstead Church Music Trust, and many people have expressed their admiration for the work that the musicians have been doing to provide 'live' music (using remote technology) for our online acts of worship, especially over the Easter period.

The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled for Monday 18 May.

NICK WALSER (PCC Secretary)