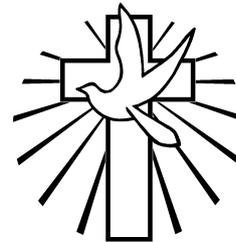


CHRIST CHURCH, EPSOM COMMON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No. 1127945



Summary of the PCC meeting held on Sunday 31 May 2015

The PCC held this additional meeting (fuller details of which are in the displayed minutes) to consider whether we could meet the request of Little Hands Nursery – which has been given notice to quit the Scout HQ at the end of this term – to operate in the Church Hall from September.

This has been a fast-moving affair. In the light of urgent work over recent weeks – of which more below – we decided to give a green light to the proposal by approving “Heads of Terms”, being the framework for the formal licence that will be required and on which work continues. The aim was to provide sufficient assurance of a way ahead for Little Hands not to have to begin arrangements for closure, with the consequent loss of what has become a valuable resource for the local community.

It should be emphasised that this is not something we have sought. Indeed, because of the potential complications, we have tried hard to help Little Hands to find some other solution to its need for new home, but without success. The hard issue facing us was whether to make some potentially difficult changes to allow Little Hands to continue or to force its closure.

Various practical issues presented themselves. The Nursery has substantial storage needs that are way beyond what is available in the Hall. The proposed solution is to install a storage container at the rear of the Hall into which Little Hands can move its kit at the end of each day, leaving the Hall clear for evening use. That installation will require Planning Permission for which we have agreed to apply.

More difficult than that, however, was the potential impact on present daytime users of the Hall during the week. A key issue for the PCC has been the continuation of Wheels & Squeals, and we pleased have negotiated arrangements with Little Hands so that the Wednesday morning slot continues to be available for them. Little Hands also accept that there will be exceptional occasions when Christ Church needs the Hall, and the proposed Licence also makes provision for that. Many of the other issues should be soluble by more creative use of all our accommodation – and by scheduling more of our (perhaps surprisingly limited) day-time use of the Hall into school holidays.

There is no doubt that accommodating Little Hands will mean some changes for Christ Church, and change is not always comfortable. But there are also substantial positives. Having Little Hands on site sits very comfortably with our 2020 Vision of closer integration with the community. And, while this was not the primary consideration, the substantial additional income from the rental – some of which will of course go on increased maintenance and other costs – will be useful.

Stained glass repair: Sadly, a section of the 1879 “Northey” window in the South Aisle was vandalised in early May. We took the opportunity of this early meeting to agree to apply for the necessary Diocesan permission for the repair – the cost of which, less the usual excess, should be met by our insurers.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be at in the Hall at 8pm on Monday 15 June.

Roger Morgan

PCC Secretary

☎ 01372 745013

✉ pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk