

St. Thomas of Canterbury Wilbury

Extraordinary Meeting of the Parochial Church Council via Zoom on Thursday 4th February 2021 at 4.30 pm

Present: Revd. Jess McLaren, Shena Wright, Eddie Guy, Colin Sparshott, Carol Cannon, Tony Fletcher (by telephone), Kay Skingsley, Sylvia Wildey

The meeting began with prayer.

Jess had called the meeting to discuss a proposal for improving our ability to live-stream services.

At present this was done using Jess's phone on a tripod which produced an acceptable but limited result. If we wished to continue streaming services into the future, a more robust system would be needed. This could be used for funerals and weddings, live-streaming and recording.

Jess had learned that other local churches had improved their systems, and she had contacted Novum AV, who had come and demonstrated what they had to offer.

Their system featured

- Good colour and sound
- a remote control
- a fixed camera with up to 9 set angles
- zoom option

This would cost £1479 plus VAT, plus £441.51 plus VAT to include a sound link with the piano and other congregation sound. Total: £2304.61.

The diocese can offer a grant of £250 towards the cost and we have donations totalling £1300, leaving £754.61 to pay.

The system could be fitted on 19th February ready for use on 21st.

Discussion ensued, and questions raised:

- Possible infringement of privacy? – the camera would not focus on the congregation, but there could be designated 'private' seating areas of the church. People would not be filmed during Holy Communion.
- Could we contact another church to see how they get on with the system? – Jess would request this.
- Would the congregation be asked to donate towards the cost? - it was suggested that PCC pay for it, with the congregation invited to contribute if they wish.
- Would using the system increase the number of people accessing our services? – hard to say, but people are more likely to be attracted by well-presented material. Jess reported that our streamed Christmas services had attracted over 100 people.
- Could the liturgy, hymn words etc. be included? – that would be possible.

The WIFI link would need to be cabled from the committee room. **John Skingsley** to be involved in how this was done.

A faculty would be needed, which Jess had already spoken to the diocese about.

Some matters for consideration in the future:

- Relaying into schools etc.
- Care as to what was said on-screen (prayer for individuals etc.)
- Would we live-stream every service or just special ones.

There was a vote on proposals:

- To move ahead with acquiring Novum AV equipment, with contributions invited from the congregation.
- Jess to speak to another church who have the system already.

- When church is open again, further discussion to take place on use of the system.
AGREED. (Peter was unable to join us, but was in agreement.)

The meeting closed with the Grace at 4.55pm.