**Casterton District Church Council**

17th August 2020

**Present by videoconference link:** Richard Snow, Stephen Evans, Gill Sykes, Robert Cass and Anastasia Micklethwaite

Richard Snow opened the meeting with Psalm 75 and a reflection on it.

The notes of the meeting on 22nd June were approved

**Matters arising:**

Future Services/Use of church:

* It was agreed that the first service would be an evening Harvest Festival on 11th October at 6.30pm. The exact form of the service will be decided nearer the time and a decision made as to whether the church will be decorated.
* RS suggested that the Remembrance Sunday service on 8th November is just a short service at the War Memorial starting at 10.45am as more people attend this. It will be conducted by a member of the clergy.
* Christmas services will be discussed at the next DCC meeting when we may have a clearer idea of the Covid-19 situation
* AM receives the latest information for musicians about what is allowed as the pandemic progresses. She will keep the DCC informed.

School:

* AM is no longer working at C,SPS but will remain as a DCC member
* GS had contacted Will Newman and school will not be using church in the near future. School will liaise with GS when they wish to use it again so that all suitable measures are in place.
* GS will approach Will Newman to ask him if he would be willing to represent the school on the DCC or if he could appoint some member of staff who could speak on behalf of the school. It was felt important to have a link with the school.

**Finances**:

* RC reported that our funds are down £2000 this year from last year at £8700. Our income is lower this year than last year.
* We are now banking with Unity Bank
* RC explained the document which had been circulated prior to the meeting about the Parish Offer for 2021. After discussion, it was agreed to go with the proposal within the document and not make an offer at the moment as we are unsure as to what our exact income and expenditure will be as the pandemic continues. We agreed to review the situation in April 2021 and make a top up offer if that is financially feasible.

**Fabric:**

* Howard Smith visited Holy Trinity in July so that the information in Dove’s Guide for Church Bell Ringers could be made complete. He spotted some woodworm in a beam and will be sending on a photograph of it.
* Ian Hodge is looking after the clock. The chimes are now working correctly and the clock has been serviced.
* The grass in the churchyard is being cut regularly and the snowberry has been trimmed
* Externally, there are no problems
* The interior of the church is secure but it will need a good clean before there is a service. There is some plaster dust on the floor.
* SE will contact Stephen Pickup about turning the heating back on so as to maintain a reasonable temperature in church and so prevent the fabric becoming too damp as it will not be used very much initially
* There have been no further problems with the retaining wall
* GS will contact Victor Saville and arrange for the organ to be serviced before the Harvest Festival service
* SE will contact Anne Mills to see if she can play the organ at the forthcoming services. It was agreed that we will need to pay any organist that we use.

**Archdeacon’s visit and Quinquennial**

* The Archdeacon’s visitation to the Rainbow Parish will take place on 14th and 15th September. SE has expressed a preference for Tuesday 15th September to Merlin Hibbs. A certain number of the required documents are stored in the Parish Office.
* RS thinks that the diocese should send a letter about the Quinquennial inspection which is now due as the previous one took place in August 2015. He will check with Merlin Hibbs as to whether a reminder has been received yet.

**Other matters:**

The members of the congregation who have been ill are all making good progress

RS closed the meeting with the grace

SE will set up another videoconference meeting for **Monday 12th October at 7.30pm.**