

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, REDBOURN**

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD BY ZOOM ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Present: The Vicar            Celia Forbes            Stephen Gell            Ailsa Hulme            Jim May  
                 Keith McAdam    David Mitchell        Alan Simkins           Paul Vernon           Mike Wood**

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.20 pm.

**1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

The minutes were read and there were no matters arising

**2) Worship**

There were proposals discussed at the last PCC meeting, and the following is discussion as to how things are working out in practice.

It was thought that generally things are going well. We have been able to hold a 9.30 am Sunday worship service outside in the churchyard since the last Sunday in July. This has been very well received with regular attendances of say, 70 people, all separated into their own socially distanced boxes. So far, the weather has been kind. As well as this, we have been able to have an 8 o'clock Eucharist inside the church as our numbers for this service do not exceed the allowance. There has also been a Wednesday evening Eucharist with as many attending as we always had before the Coronavirus appeared. Weekday Morning Prayer continues to see very regular attendances, and Evening Prayer is always offered, even though there is less take up.

In addition to the above, we have been excited to offer a regular Sunday service on line, via Youtube. This has entailed a lot of hard work from a number of people:- The Vicar, the preacher, readers, the Choir members etc. as well as our very able technical staff – Stephen Boffey on Camera, Paul Vernon and Kate Ford collating the material and choir and Jonathan Goodchild playing the organ. Thank you to everyone for their generous donation of their time and skills. In all, it is reckoned that some 110 to 120 attend in person, as well as those who watch by Youtube.

There have been far too many funerals, mostly elderly and non covid. With the limits to the number of mourners able to attend, this has been quite distressing. Ministry to young people as been very difficult, and it is difficult to see how this can be addressed in the near future – any ideas will be very welcome. The Autumn and Winter will prove very difficult. It is hoped that we will be able to involve more people in order that the burden is less on those who at present are doing all the work. Our choir have done a sterling job during this time when singing together is not allowed.

Going forward.....looking for suggestions...e.g. Could we perhaps have a link to the Transept to allow a bigger congregation? Use material that other churches have recorded? We need to build up our outreach. Will will contact the Parish Council re their plans for Remembrance Sunday.

Will has been working tremendously hard for the last six months, and it does not look as if the load will be lightened any time yet. Gratitude of all of us was recorded.

On a lighter note, the former Archdeacon of St Albans moved into the village last week. We extend a warm Redbourn welcome to him, and hope he will be able to worship with us when

his commitments allow. He was delighted to receive the gift that our congregation contributed to a while back.

### **3) Treasurer's Report**

The budget for 2020 was discussed, and thanks to the generous donations received in response to Will's appeal, we expect to at least break even at the year end, and maybe have just a small surplus to carry forward. Our bank balances are healthy, and we have been able to make use of our new accounts at the Co-op Bank. The direct debits/standing orders will be transferred over in due course. Our parish share has been paid in full. The Transept re-opens for hire purposes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Some of our old hirers have chosen to return, and also a couple of new ones. Fuel costs were a little higher than expected, and the contracts will be reviewed again when the current ones expire.

### **4) Churchwardens' Report**

We have a new plumber on call, i.e. Ambient Heating. The tower clock has been adjusted to show the right time and Smiths of Derby will be carrying out a service shortly. A wasp nest has been removed from the transept roof. A neighbour's oak tree has been trimmed back where there was danger of branches falling into the churchyard and causing possible injury. Will has carried out a risk assessment of all that is offered at St Mary's which will be reviewed regularly.

### **5) Ancillary Buildings**

The toilet roll holder on the Gents' loo has been repaired and a hand rail fitted to the wall.

### **6) Stewardship Report**

Nothing to report

### **7) Youth Work**

Teddy Tots have been meeting from time to time in the Churchyard, and there have been some things of interest put up for children to do and see. It was not possible to run the Holiday Club this year. Although much preparation had already been done, this will not be wasted as it will keep until next year. Fellowship Afloat has also been cancelled. We hope that although our young people cannot sing as a choir at the moment, it may be possible to get some of our young musicians to play for us.

### **8) Churchyard**

Ursula Bradley has drawn up a list of volunteers and sections of the rose beds have been allocated for much needed weeding. A reduced number of 'Payback Boys' attend, coming under their own steam, and are still making a valuable contribution to the workload. The labyrinth will be dealt with, the straw bales disposed of in due course and the grass mowed.

### **9) Charitable Finance Committee Report**

David Walker will be in touch with the authorities in Mpwapwa regarding the water project and its feasibility. A string group will be playing at the Patronal Festival – once outside if possible and once inside the church later on. If inclement weather, then there will be two concerts in

church. The Junior Choir plan to run a cake stall before the APCM, this being organised by Rose Chinn. Darcy Gibbs will be selling her homemade plum chutney before Christmas.

#### **10) Common Round**

Adverts are due to be renewed now, and Jim has been able to keep the fees the same as last year. In lieu of annual subscriptions to Common Round being collected from the subscribers' doors, an advert will be put in Common Round so that money can be paid direct to a bank account.

#### **11) Any Other Business**

Our APCM will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September following the morning service. There will be six vacancies for PCC, and four for the Deanery Synod. Proposal forms are available for nominations in the porch. The period of service will be 2.5 years as a result of the later date of our Annual Meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.18 pm with the Grace.

#### **Next Meetings**

<b>20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>APCM and Meeting of Parishioners</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Full PCC Probably by Zoom</b>