

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON THE 6TH JANUARY 2021

Present: The Vicar Deni Ennals John Davie Celia Forbes David Forbes Stephen Gell
 Brian Hayward Sara Hill Ailsa Hulme Jim May Sue May Keith McAdam
 David Mitchell Michelle Parry Slater Lesley Poulton Alan Simkins Kay Vernon
 Paul Vernon David Walker Clive Williams Mike Wood

Apologies for Absence: Julia Jeffs Ralph Goold Daphne Fisher

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

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 11th November 2020

The minutes were approved as drawn and signed by the Vicar as a true record.

2) Matters Arising

Christmas Hampers

Deni Ennals, who had initiated the project gave a short report.

33 hampers were distributed before Christmas, and 2 after. 3 of these were outside Redbourn and were funded by the Hertfordshire Community Fund. Recommendations for recipients were received from the Health Centre and schools in the main. It was known that 20 families of travellers were in need of help, but did not apply. The hampers contained essential food, a gift for children in the family, and gifts for the elderly when appropriate. In addition 15 families were helped with the cost of gas or electricity. We received sponsorship from the community, the Parish Council, the County Council and Herts Community Fund who all gave generous donations.

There is still a fair amount of accounting to be finished, but there will at the end, be money left in the kitty. It may be that circumstances will mean that there could be a need for further help in the near future for some families, and we will be open to receive applications in this respect.

We were commended by the Hertfordshire Community Fund for the discreet and efficient way the Hamper Scheme had been handled. Huge thanks go to Deni Ennals and her band of helpers for all they have done and the time commitment they have willingly given.

3) Ministry and Worship

Will felt that the Advent Season was pitched right and was realistic. It was a large team effort to get everything organised and done. The breadth of what we offered gained a very positive feedback, and the preaching and music were praised.

The Lights of Love service was very important pastorally, with 70-75 people attending and £1100 donated for the lights to remember their loved ones. This was a service held outside, despite the cold, wet weather. The Beer and Carols evening was held by Zoom and was very popular with some 400 people tuning in. Participants were invited to donate to our Charity of the Year and this raised £1000 plus gift aid. Thanks go to Kate Ford for arranging all this.

Luckily, the new lockdown has not closed churches this time and we expect to keep services going as before, i.e. in Church where appropriate, and on line. A huge amount of time and effort is involved with this, both from the Ministerial Team and our super camera man, Stephen Boffey. Their combined efforts have been second to none, and cards of thanks have been received from far and wide to express appreciation. It was also good to receive a very nice email from Geoffrey John.

It is with regret that we note that as at 6th January, 61 persons in the village have tested positive for Coronavirus.

4) Safeguarding

The Vicar was able to report that the enquiry regarding an historic matter has been investigated and the matter closed.

Jan Lang is in the final stages of doing the outstanding DBS checks etc.

5) Finance

Our financial year ended on the 31st December, and it was therefore not feasible to circulate accounts this early. Considerable work has still to be done to bring everything up to date for presentation to the Annual Meetings. However, Mike Wood was able to give us a good, in depth analysis of the figures so far, and it seems likely that there will be a small surplus to show at the year end. Regular giving holds up well and is only down a little on last year. Our Parish Share has been paid in full.

It is thanks to the generous donations received by virtue of Will's special appeal earlier in the year that our finances are healthy. Mike has been liaising with Ruth Hughes during the year. The return to the Diocese for our accounts to the end of 2019 still needs to be submitted.

6) Children and Youth

Ailsa had submitted a report prior to the meeting. Ailsa reiterated her thanks to all who have helped in maintaining our youth work during the current crisis.

7) Fabric

The Churchwardens had notified changes to the terrier, i.e. new books of Common Payer and the provision of a votive candle stand. Paul thanked Jim and Sue May for the work they have done to put the Terrier on line.

The oak tree bordering the churchyard and a neighbouring bungalow is still giving cause for concern as it is currently unsafe. Mediations with the owner of the bungalow continue.

We have appointed a new heating company, who are due shortly to service the central heating boiler.

8) Charitable Finance Committee

Although it has not been possible to hold 'events' as such, there has been some revenue from the Beer and Carols Zoom, from Darcy Gibbs' sale of Chutney, Sue May's sale of Christmas cards and from the booklet Will has produced following his Wednesday chats for Active in Redbourn. We were able to send £3200 to Tanzania at the beginning of the year to get their water project started. There is money in the fund which will be added to during 2021 as we have decided that the beneficiary will carry over for another year. There will be a committee meeting arranged soon.

9) Churchyard

All is under control, but because of the pandemic, the Community Payback Team is unable to help at present. We will need to recruit more helpers once the vegetation starts to grow again. We will look into the possibility of planting more trees to improve the environment. We were fortunate to have been provided with two large Christmas trees, one for inside the church and one for outside

the south door. There was very positive feedback, and we are wondering whether to see if we can get a tree with roots for outside next year.

10) Ancillary Buildings

We have spent some money on the Vicarage Cottage to try to improve the damp problem. Jim May will photograph the tile samples he has so that we can have an idea of how the transept roof will look.

Sue and Jim May were thanked for the triumph of design and erection of the new Christmas crib.

11) Stewardship

Nothing to report.

12) Any Other Business

Deni has had some visors donated which will be put in church for sale.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.50 pm.

Next Meetings

10th February 2021

Standing Committee

17th March 2021

Full PCC