

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, REDBOURN**

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

**Present:** The Vicar      Deni Ennals      Daphne Fisher      Celia Forbes      David Forbes  
Stephen Gell      Brian Hayward      Jim May      Sue May      David Mitchell  
Keith McAdam      Michelle Parry Slater      Catharine Pusey  
Kay Vernon      Paul Vernon      Clive Williams      Mike Wood      Jan Lang

**Apologies for Absence:** John Davie      Ralph Goold      Sarah Hill      Ailsa Hulme  
Julia Jeffs      Lesley Poulton

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

Will welcomed Catharine to the PCC, and particularly as our new Deputy Church Warden.

**1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Deni noted that the figures in the Hamper fund were not correct. As things have now moved on further, the figures will not be updated here.

There were no other matters arising and the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

**2) Minutes of the Extraordinary PCC Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Deni Ennals name was added to the list of those attending the meeting. The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**3) Post APCM Business**

Will spoke of the functioning of the PCC, and particularly mentioned the need for some new people to step forward to be part of the sub-committees, in particular, The Friends and Stewardship. Everyone was thanked for their work in the past year.

The following positions were filled:-

Lay Co-Chairman      Keith McAdam

PCC Secretary      Celia Forbes

PCC Treasurer      Mike Wood

Friends Representatives      Julia Jeffs, David Mitchell

Above proposed by: David Mitchell      Seconded by: Sue May      Passed: Nem Con

**4) Ministry and Worship**

The APCM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April in the Churchyard after the morning service was well attended. There were roughly the same number of people as attended in previous years. The only significant difference was that there was less interaction. If this has to happen again, we will definitely arrange to use a roving microphone.

We are now back to our usual pattern of services, i.e. 8 am Communion in Church, 9.30 am open air service in the Churchyard and an online recorded service at 9.30 am for those unable to be at church in person.

All the services offered in the lead up to Easter went well, despite the restricted circumstances. There was a lot to do to provide all the online productions, the Passion Gospel recording was particularly moving and it was a delight to see young people taking part.

The weather was very kind over Easter and, being outside, it was the first occasion that it was possible for the congregation to sing!

There will be a Deanery Ascension service held at St Nicholas Church in Harpenden. It will be necessary for anyone wishing to attend in person to contact St Nicholas's and book a place. This will also be shown online.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May a Pentecost Songs of Praise will be held at 4 pm on the Common outside the Methodist Church.

Our All Age service on the 4<sup>th</sup> July will be held in the Churchyard, and families and children are particularly encouraged to attend. It is planned to have a picnic lunch afterwards and a social gathering with games and activities (suitably distanced of course!)

Ailsa Hulme is nearing the end of this period of her training and is currently on a four-week placement at All Saints, Batford. She will be licensed on 19 September at 2.30 pm.

Weddings and Baptisms are lining up, so the Vicar is in for an even busier time. It may be that there are some memorial services too.

Our Patronal Festival will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, details have yet to be decided.

## **5) Finance**

Mike Wood had circulated the Budget for 2021 and took the members through this in as much detail as possible. It is immensely difficult to predict our financial prospects for 2021 and it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions. We could well be in deficit at the year-end unless we receive sundry donations through the year e.g. Legacies etc. We may need a Stewardship Appeal, or even a general appeal for funds, as we did last year. The response last year to the Vicar's special appeal was very humbling and enabled us to balance our books. The Diocese even recognised that many churches have been in difficulty and last year drew on their reserves to be able to reduce the Parish Shares, in our case by £5000. There is still money left in the Hamper Fund to be distributed as needs arise. Mike Wood and Ruth Hughes were thanked for all their hard work with the accounts.

Mike asked for authority to transfer some funds to our deposit account, replenishing some of the funds we had to draw on two years ago when our financial position was somewhat precarious.

## **6) Safeguarding**

Jan Lang, our Safeguarding Officer, was in attendance for the meeting. It is necessary that several policies are reviewed, amended and adopted as our policies for the coming year. These are the Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults, our Safeguarding Policy for Children and our Policy for Responding to Domestic Violence. The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and members were given the opportunity to discuss and query as necessary. The policy documents will be displayed publicly in the church and Transept Hall and also available via our website. The adoption of the policies:

Proposed by: Keith McAdam Seconded by: Kay Vernon Passed: Nem Con

There are still three people from the PCC who need to do their online training, and quite a number of those who help with other church activities. Jan Lang will be happy to help any who are having difficulty with this training.

The Vicar has also produced an Equality and Diversity Policy for St Mary's.

Adoption proposed by: David Forbes Seconded by: Paul Vernon Passed: Nem Con

The Vicar will be happy to provide access to training if this is required.

#### **7) Youth**

We are delighted that now the weather is better, Forest Tots has been able to resume. No other youth groups have yet resumed. Details of a mental health webinar will be sent round to parents of our church teenagers. We look forward to meeting up with all our young people again at the 4<sup>th</sup> July party.

#### **8) Charitable Finance Committee Report**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Keith McAdam suggested that it would be good to make a donation towards the crisis in India if at all possible.

#### **9) Churchyard**

Nothing further to add to the report circulated. The Vicar reported that he had bought a white line spraying machine – a bargain via eBay!

#### **10) Ancillary Buildings Committee**

An electrical inspection at the Vicarage Cottage highlighted the need for new smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and a new consumer unit.

#### **11) Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

#### **12) Fabric**

The Clock - even more repair and a new controller will be needed at a cost of £1387.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 10.20 pm.

#### **Next Meetings**

**9<sup>th</sup> June**

**14<sup>th</sup> July**

**Standing Committee**

**Full PCC Meeting**