

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 17TH NOVEMBER IN THE CHANCEL OF ST MARYS CHURCH**

Present: **The Vicar** **John Davie** **Deni Ennals** **Daphne Fisher**
 Celia Forbes **David Forbes** **Stephen Gell** **Sarah Hill**
 Ailsa Hulme **Jim May** **Sue May** **Keith McAdam**
 David Mitchell **Lesley Poulton** **Catharine Pusey** **Kay Vernon**
 Paul Vernon **David Walker** **Clive Williams** **Mike Wood**

Apologies: **Ralph Goold** **Julia Murphy** **Jan Lang** **Michelle Parry-Slater**

The Vicar opened the meeting at 8.15 pm with a prayer

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 1st September 2021

Item 10 The means of fixing things to the notice board will be investigated by Jim and Kay, to see if an easier method can be found as drawing pins are not easy to insert.

There were no other queries, and the Vicar signed the minutes as a true record.

2) Ministry and Worship

The change over from worshipping outside to back inside the church has worked well. The attendances are good and we have been able to retain some of the new people who joined us outside. There have been a few bottlenecks at the church door, both arriving and leaving, but we do try to address this. The services have been shortened slightly to be around one hour, and we are encouraging the use of face masks at present. After service refreshments have restarted. The children's groups are restricted to just the one at present, and some new helpers are urgently needed so as to lighten the load.

Covid rates have now declined from the high numbers found recently, but we will continue with our present strategy until the new year when we will review things, e.g. wearing of masks. Our choir is now singing from the chancel, adequately spaced out. The choir find it difficult to sing in face masks, and there was indication that the congregation would prefer to sing the hymns unmasked.

It has been challenging to deal with the increased numbers of attendees at baptisms and funerals, but the Vicar has coped admirably.

Advent and Christmas

21 st November	The new Archdeacon of St Albans will preach for us
28 th November	Advent Carol Service at 6.30 pm
5 th December	Concert by Symphonia Academica at 3 pm Christingle Service at 5 pm outside, with uniformed groups
12 th December	Lights of Love in the garden of rest – short service at 6.30 pm
18 th December	Children's Holiday Club for which we have received a grant of £250 towards the cost of materials etc.
19 th December	Usual morning services, including children's nativity and we hope a Presentation by the Redbourn Players
24 th December	Crib Services – as a walk through the church drive with tableaux between 3 pm and 5 pm Midnight Mass
25 th December	8 am Communion and 10 am Family Service
26 th December	8 am Communion and 10 am Family Service

We will also be offering during four Tuesdays of Advent, an Advent Address and Compline service at 9 pm on a Tuesday evening.

2nd January Epiphany
9th January The Baptism of Christ

Churches Together - The Christmas Card will be delivered to every household in the village next week. This will be undertaken by an outside service.

Lifts to Church – at present we have four requests for lifts, but due to necessary restrictions this is labour intensive. An appeal will go into the pew sheet for more volunteer drivers. In addition, those who need to use a wheelchair will need help getting into the church whilst their drivers park their cars.

Living in Love and Faith

The Vicar has taken on the overseeing of this project for the Diocese. Will had provided an overview of the scope and how it will be implemented. There is a wealth of information on the Church of England website which everyone is encouraged to become familiar with. It will be necessary to run five evening courses. Depending on numbers, this may be offered to other churches to join our group. The course would probably consist of a film/talk presentation, and then discussion in smaller groups. The conclusions would then be drawn together for onward collation and conclusion.

3) Finance

Mike Wood has provided budgets and report up to date. Although we are still below the income we actually need, there is some available cash in the Common Round account, and some income available from our property lettings. Mike was pleased to report that Coffee on the Common and in the Village Hall have made a very good return, and are being well used and appreciated.

We are still reaping the benefit from the refund from the gas company received last year. Mike has applied for grants for reclaiming VAT on some recent works. He is planning to update our very outdated accounting software at a cost of £15 per month. This will also have the benefit of our auditor being able to access the detail online.

The necessary change of Trustees for our CCLA account, listing Will Gibbs, Mike Wood, Sue May, Paul Vernon and David Mitchell as our named trustees was proposed by:

Keith McAdam Seconded by: Ailsa Hulme and passed Nem Con

Thanks to Mike for his continued hard work.

4) Safeguarding

Jan Lang, our Safeguarding Officer, had provided a report, and there was nothing further to add except our thanks.

5) Fabric

The Churchwardens had provided a written report.

The Energy Audit will be undertaken.

The new architect will undertake the Quinquennial next Wednesday. The Friends of St Mary's have some funds which they will release to help us implement necessary works, in particular the reroofing of the Transept.

6) Christmas Hampers and Poverty in Redbourn

Deni Ennals gave us an insight into the amount of poverty and deprivation existing in Redbourn. This ranges from children having no shoes to wear, families trying to exist on next to no income and being unable to afford heating for their homes.

St Mary's had income left from last year's Hamper Fund which we were able to use to help in emergencies by providing heating help, supermarket vouchers and grants towards electricity costs. The Hamper Fund is continuing for 2021 as well. The Parish Council and others have contributed to swell the funds.

It is the intention that St Mary's will not continue to administer the fund after this year as a new group (hopefully with a charitable status) will be formed in the village from interested parties. A working party will start in January to achieve this.

We are grateful to Deni for all the time and effort she has put in during the last year.

7) Children and Young People

Ailsa had provided a written report, and Kay Vernon reported that the monthly brunch offered in respect of the Teddy Tots was doing well. The participants will be asked if they wish to continue monthly, or perhaps termly.

8) Charitable Finance Committee

Stephen Gell and David Walker had provided written updates.

We are on the final stage of providing cash for pumps for Mpwapwa, and as a last boost we have launched a crowd funding appeal. This raised £2185 on day one for which we were amazed and very grateful. A flyer will go out next week which will reach all villagers.

The Committee has suggested that we support Emmaus next year, as our national recipient.

Proposed by: Stephen Gell Seconded by: David Mitchell Passed: Nem Con

Our thanks go to the committee for their determination and hard work.

John Davie reminded us that we need to investigate the best and most economical method to send money to Tanzania.

9) Churchyard

David Swift has not drawn up a winter rota for helpers. We have the continued help from the Community Payback team, which is sufficient at this time of year. David has spent only £225 on equipment repairs.

Jim May presented a report on 'The Queen's Green Canopy' - an initiative to plant trees to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The PCC is very happy to support this, and a pack of 30 trees will be ordered.

10) Ancillary Buildings

The current tenant moved out of the Vicarage Cottage yesterday. This will now give us the opportunity to inspect, and organize maintenance and repairs before a new tenant moves in.

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

Next Meetings

15th December

Standing Committee

12th January

Full PCC