

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

### MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

<b>Present:</b>	<b>The Vicar</b>	<b>Deni Ennals</b>	<b>Daphne Fisher</b>	<b>Celia Forbes</b>	<b>David Forbes</b>
	<b>Stephen Gell</b>	<b>Ailsa Hulme</b>	<b>Jim May</b>	<b>Sue May</b>	<b>David Mitchell</b>
	<b>Keith McAdam</b>	<b>Michelle Parry-Slater</b>		<b>Lesley Poulton</b>	<b>Catharine Pusey</b>
	<b>Kay Vernon</b>	<b>Paul Vernon</b>	<b>David Walker</b>	<b>Clive Williams</b>	<b>Mike Wood</b>
<b>In attendance:</b>		<b>Jan Lang</b>			
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>		<b>Brian Hayward</b>	<b>Sarah Hill</b>	<b>Ralph Gould</b>	<b>Julia Murphy</b>
		<b>John Davie</b>			

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

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

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

#### **2) Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The minutes were approved as drawn and there were no matters arising from either of the two meetings.

#### **3) Ministry and Worship**

##### **Review of arrangements for Sunday Services**

Generally, all had been going well but our current practice is not strictly in compliance with Canon Law as we have not been offering a Sunday evening service or using the Gloria during the morning Eucharist.

Stephen Boffey is happy to continue his sterling work filming for on-line worship.

##### **Living in Love and Faith**

The Church of England has been exploring relationships of all sorts and is anxious to have the subject discussed at parish level and receive reports back. A booklet has been produced along with a podcast exploring sexuality etc. A five-part course has been prepared for parishes either to attend in their own churches, or to combine with other churches where appropriate. Will will be leading the course at St Mary's for the five weeks starting next Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January. There is a list in church for those wishing to participate to book their places. Will is also the LLF Advocate for the Diocese of St Albans. The course can also be viewed on-line or there will be a zoom meeting limited to 300 participants on Wednesday evenings.

A watchful eye will be kept on the Mission Action Plan but probably not the moment to draw up a new MAP with the fluidity and uncertainty caused by Covid.

The members were split into small groups to discuss the feedback and report on the recent past services, and the pattern and content of future services. The following are some of the comments from the various groups:

Sunday evening services: Will we be joining with the other Redbourn churches, perhaps on a rotation basis? Could the style of services be more varied?

Do we want the choir to stay in the chancel, away from the congregation? There is a feeling of 'them and us' at the moment. Should the choir dispense with masks for singing? Difficult to hear the choir when masked.

Not thought practical for servers to resume duties at present and would feel superfluous

The new format pew sheet is fine, and cuts down on paper use

8 am service seeing fewer people, 12 noon service not missed apparently

Could the first Sunday family service be much less formal, more inclusive for the children and make more use of the children we do have?

From our discussion, three priorities emerged for St Mary's in 2022:

1. Work with children, young people and families
2. Small group work for nurture, study and discipleship
3. Welcome ministry

As well as these areas, we also need to look at our Stewardship and the Transept roof

#### **4) Finance**

Mike Wood had circulated a report of the projected position at 31<sup>st</sup> December. He stressed that this was not the finished article and a lot of refinement has yet to be done. Ruth Hughes currently has the cash book to work on. Mike had also circulated some comments and explanations. Regular giving has held up during the pandemic, but we will need to address this in the very near future. We have been living off the refund of some £9000 from the gas provider which had been wrongly charged. Next year will be different! We have no current income from the cottage since the tenant has left, and the repair work will be carried out shortly, so that we can sign up a new tenant in the spring.

The Sum Up terminal is proving a good source of income, and it catches up receipts from various different activities. £23960 was passed through it during the year, and the management cost is minimal. Coffee on the Common is an excellent income stream. The response over the last two years for the CFC appeal has been outstanding, and the money donated will be sent to Mpwapwa in due course.

The Trustees need to be updated so that the signatories for the CCLA Account may be amended.

An updated computer accounts programme has been purchased. We need to encourage better use of standing orders in order to cut down the ad hoc giving.

#### **Budget 2022**

Members were asked to flag up known differences from previous years. We await the Quinquennial Report to see how that will affect our finances.

#### **5) Safeguarding**

We were very pleased to welcome Jan Lang, our Safeguarding Officer to the meeting. Jan took us through the new arrangements being set up and the various training needed. Jan is very willing to give tuition for the on-line courses for those who are not so familiar with computer use. The report Jan had submitted before the meeting set out what would be needed. We also note that we should set up a Social Media policy. Will thought that Kate Ford might be willing to oversee this as she is the main lead on our website and social media.

#### **6) Fabric Report**

The Quinquennial Report is still awaited. The Fire extinguishers were serviced before Christmas.

## **7) Hamper Scheme**

Deni gave a verbal report at the meeting and sent the following notes after the meeting: The background -- last year we did pick up three of families from the family centre in St Albans their referrals came via the NHS , in the light of this, this year, we were approached by the family centre in St Albans requesting us to provide hampers for the their top 14% of families experiencing severe poverty and this amounted to 40 families. I felt there was no way we could take on such a high number of families, not because of financial restraints, but more because of logistics and people power. It is worth mentioning at this point that families who live outside Redbourn are not funded by Redbourn donations but by the Herts Community Fund. I discussed the family centre request with Will and he suggested I contacted Jono Tregale the new vicar at St Pauls in St Albans. Jono was a little nervous but did agree to support eight to ten families and we agreed to cover between us about 50% of the request. The geographical area we covered was huge with deliveries of hampers in St Albans, Wheathampstead, Harpenden and Hemel and clearly this is not sustainable and I will work to encourage other churches to be involved next year. Following this agreement, I then spoke to the Archdeacon who is very keen for the Cathedral to be involved next year and a meeting will be arranged in the new year to discuss this. St Paul's supported 15 adults and 27 children via 10 hampers and here in Redbourn we supported 110 adults and 83 children via 47 hampers. The overall total being 125 adults and 110 children via 57 hampers. In Redbourn we supported 64 Redbourn children with Santa presents. The Herts Community Fund also provided money for fuel but the release of the grant was very late so we contacted the families and topped up fuel cards and keys for those in urgent need and in January we will complete the fuel support.

## **8) Children and Young People**

Ailsa had provided a full report prior to the meeting. She reiterated the need for children to be drawn more into St Mary's, the pandemic having taken its toll on both young children attending as well as the teenagers.

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

Stephen Gell had submitted a report prior to the meeting. The great success of the Pumps for Mpwapwa appeal has been phenomenal and we are very grateful to all who contributed both financially as well as practically. The new recipient for the coming year is Emmaus.

## **10) The Churchyard**

David had submitted a report prior to the meeting. The PCC approved the purchase of a new gate for the churchyard extension and repairs to the gate post and fence at the main entrance.

## **11) Ancillary Buildings**

Jim May had nothing further to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 10.05 pm.

Next P.C.C. Meeting:        Wednesday 23 March at 8.15 pm