

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

### MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON THE 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 IN THE CHANCEL

**Present:** The Vicar      Deni Ennals      Daphne Fisher      Celia Forbes      David Forbes  
Stephen Gell      Ailsa Hulme      John Davie      Jim May      Sue May  
David Mitchell      Keith McAdam      Lesley Poulter      Kay Vernon      Paul Vernon  
David Walker      Clive Williams

**Apologies for Absence:**      Ralph Goold      Brian Hayward      Sarah Hill      Julia Murphy  
Michelle Parry-Slater      Mike Wood      Jan Lang      Catherine Pusey

The Vicar opened the meeting at 8.15 pm with a prayer, and welcomed everyone back to meeting in person, suitably distanced and fully masked.

#### **1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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

#### **2) Ministry and Worship**

Ailsa Hulmes's training as a Reader finishes shortly and she will be licensed at the Abbey on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30 pm. Ailsa thanked the PCC for their gift of her new robes. All will be welcome to attend the service. The Rev. Tim Vickers will be licensed as the new Vicar of St John's, Harpenden on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. There will not be capacity at St John's for uninvited guests, but the service will be on YouTube at 3.p.m.

The last few months have been busy following the relaxation in the Covid rules. There have been quite a number of baptisms, weddings and interment of ashes.

There then followed a lengthy discussion on the implications of re-starting the Sunday morning 9.30 am services in church.

The 8 am Communion services held in church will be socially distanced and suitably masked. It was noted that the number attending has dwindled during the pandemic, but it is hoped that the numbers will revive, and it may be that some will be happier to attend this service than the more populated 9.30 am service.

Numbers attending funerals need to be controlled. At one service in particular, a vast number of people attended, making the premises more hazardous than should have been.

Changeable weather has impacted on our outdoor services this year, and several had to be cancelled.

Ventilation in church is a matter to be decided – do we keep the main door open in winter and windows open? Do we want to be paying for heating that is going out of the building at a fast rate? Do we heat the building minimally and keep the door closed? In view of the fact that quite a number of our congregation are elderly, will they be content to sit in the cold for a sustained time? Our 9.30 am services resume in church on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. Social distancing will be maintained in the side aisles with more space available, and families and couples encouraged to use the pew space.

There will be less singing, but the congregation will be invited to join in from behind their masks.

The choir will be seated in the chancel, away from the main congregation, but will also have to sing fully masked. The Choir will rehearse in the Transept which will be kept fully ventilated. The adults will meet at 8.15 pm, after the children have left and the room has been aired.

There will be no altar servers or processions. The Communion will continue to be by way of bread only. We propose to continue with only two bible readings also shortening the service slightly. It is our paramount desire to reduce as much risk as possible, maintain the cleanliness of the building and its fittings. It is important that no one should come to church who does not feel well...just in case. Will has arranged for the delivery of 40 lateral flow tests to church each month, and members may wish to test themselves regularly, and especially if there is any doubt as to their fitness. There is no plan to continue the weekly on-line service, although we may still offer this for such occasions as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday etc. Thought needs to be given as to how we could cope with increased numbers in church on these special Sundays. For example, we may have to double the crib service to four instead of two. We will endeavor to resurrect our young peoples' groups, although to start with, this will be only one group for all ages. We will also resume the serving of tea/coffee after the service, although people will be encouraged to spread themselves out, into other parts of the building.

Thoughts for the future – we will set up a contingency plan should the Covid pandemic erupt further.

It can be seen from the above that there will be challenges to overcome as we continue God's work at St Mary's, and we do urge you to pray for a safe outcome.

### **3) Finance**

Mike Wood was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a report. We still expect to be short of funds by the year end, and this will have to be addressed. Coffee on and off the Common has resumed very successfully, and is now covering in excess of its costs. We thank Sue May and all her volunteers for rallying round. Deni reported that she has issued some vouchers for food etc. when urgent requests have been received. There is still quite a bit of money left in the Hamper Fund.

### **4) Safeguarding**

Jan Lang had provided a report showing that we are now fully compliant with requirements.

### **5) Fabric**

The tower clock is chiming perfectly although the hands are still stuck at midnight! Smiths of Derby now confirm that they have sorted the problem with the mechanism and will be providing a replacement part shortly, at no cost to us.

### **6) Youth**

Teddy Tots are about to recommence their Friday meetings inside. They hope to incorporate some of the ideas they have been following with Forest Tots. There will be three Family Breakfasts during the Autumn on a Saturday morning. This will be open to all, not just to young children. It is planned to get the young children involved in an art project.

### **7) Charitable Finance Committee**

Stephen had provided a report and details of forthcoming events. The Arts Festival taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September will be promoted with flyers on the bottle stall at Classics on the Common. We hope that the Arts Festival will very well supported as there will be plenty to see and buy.

## **8) Churchyard**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It is still essential that we recruit more volunteer gardeners. We have been grateful to St Albans Council for allowing us to have the emptying of our three green bins for free, as we are of charitable status.

## **9) Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

## **10) Any Other Business**

On behalf of Teddy Tots, Kay Vernon requested that we find a way to attach things to their notice board that does not require the use of drawing pins. Kay and Jim will discuss this. The solution needs to be environmentally sound.

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

## **Next Meetings**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Full PCC</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Standing Committee</b>