

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2022 IN THE CHANCEL OF THE CHURCH**

**Present:** The Vicar      Deni Ennals      Daphne Fisher      Celia Forbes      David Forbes  
                 Stephen Gell      Sarah Hill      Ailsa Hulme      Michelle Parry Slater  
                 David Mitchell      Kay Vernon      Paul Vernon      David Walker      Clive Williams  
                 Mike Wood      Ruth Hughes

**Apologies for Absence:** Julia Murphy      Ralph Goold      Sue & Jim May      Catharine Pusey  
                 Brian Hayward      Keith McAdam      Lesley Poulton

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.15 pm

**1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes were approved as drawn and there were no matters arising.

**2) Ministry and Worship**

**Lent**      the Lent programme is in full swing, and although there have been fewer people attending, the feedback has been very good.

**Leading up to Easter**      There will be the usual Palm Sunday procession from the Cricket pavilion to the church, and this year this will be filmed. In Church there will be a reading of the Passion. During the first three evenings of Holy Week, Jonathan Smith, the former Archdeacon of St Albans, will preach. The Church will be stripped on Maundy Thursday, the Vicar will wash the feet of a number of the congregation. On Good Friday there will be an All Age service, the Walk of Witness and the Good Friday Liturgy will be offered in the Church at 1.30 pm. Easter Day will start with the Dawn Vigil, followed by a Parish Breakfast leading into the 8 am Communion Service. We plan to have the 10 am outside, weather permitting. The Vicar will be conducting a Baptism service later that morning.

Easter Monday sees the pilgrimage to the Abbey. The Diocese is trying to encourage greater participation in this, and St Mary's, as one of the closer parishes to the Abbey has been asked to be a 'Hub Church' for those from further afield to walk from.

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted a little, we are trying to get back to a more normal routine. Masks will be discretionary and we will aim to return the chancel to its proper appearance. It is suggested that large gatherings, e.g. weddings, funerals etc should be encouraged to promote the use of masks. Following on from the Easter service, we will aim to hold all our 9.30 am services in the churchyard. If the weather is expected to be poor, then a notice will be put on the website so that people do not bring chairs with them unnecessarily.

**The Queen's Jubilee celebration 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June**

The Community Group is organising a large party on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. We have agreed to host this and expect to entertain 500 people to a sit-down lunch on the long drive. Tables and chairs have been booked along with various entertainments. The cost of tickets will be £5 for children, £10 for adults and £30 for a family. The Community Group will be in charge of the finances. By virtue of the event being held on our premises, we will do a risk assessment and advise our insurers.

## **MINI MAP**

Will had circulated some points of plans for the immediate future. This is not intended to replace our Mission Action Plan as such, but to highlight some of the more immediate actions needed. It was suggested that our Gospellers Group could be revived by working in conjunction with St John's church where Tim Vickers is now the incumbent. The Mini Map should also include safeguarding as part of our welcome strategy. The deprivation of some of our villagers will also be highlighted, e.g. Food insufficiency, heat poverty etc.

### **3) Finance**

This was the last PCC meeting before our APCM and therefore our Treasurer had provided draft accounts for the year 2021. There will still be a few minor adjustments to be made before the presentation of the document at the APCM. Mike took the members through the figures and gave opportunity for questions at the end. There was a full explanation detailed along with the figures. Mike Wood, Ruth Hughes (our Independent Examiner) and Jim May were thanked sincerely for all the work they do over the year and how much they are valued. It was noted that there is likely to be a shortfall in our finances in ongoing years which must be addressed and Ruth suggested that a Stewardship Campaign should be circulated to the whole village, not just our members, in the very near future. We will need to increase income but it may be necessary to look at areas of expenditure as well.

Adoption of the Draft Accounts was proposed by Kay Vernon, seconded by David Mitchell and passed nem con.

### **4) Safeguarding**

Jan Lang had circulated a report prior to the meetings and there was nothing further to add.

### **5) Fabric**

Our architect is working on his Quinquennial Report and expects to send this to us in the next couple of weeks. An energy audit will be carried out shortly. The Fire Service will be doing a site visit to update their records in case of a major incident.

### **6) Hamper Scheme**

Deni was disappointed to report that the partnering of the scheme with other bodies and organisations is not going very well currently. In addition, it is hoped that by next Christmas the recipients will be Redbourn folk only with other local schemes running themselves.

There has been some lovely feedback from the recipients of the hampers. It is planned that some of the remaining funds will be used to provide mini-Easter Hampers for those who are suffering deprivation. Deni is also trying to arrange for the children to have an outing in the summer to Whipsnade Zoo, by coach and with a packed lunch. The Herts Community Fund are being approached for funds, and this would include the children taking part in an art project also.

It was noted that the St Albans and District Food Bank is now being operated from a unit at the Redbourn Industrial Estate and this is where our foodbank donations will now go.

## **7) Ukraine**

Will had circulated a long note and there was considerable discussion as to the implications of offering financial and accommodation help to refugees. It was decided that to offer the Vicarage Cottage would not be appropriate for financial reasons and given the uncertainty about timescales and whether a family or individuals to host would ever materialise. This will be discussed further at a later date. We will do all we sensibly can to help the refugees. Daphne Fisher offered to transport contributions to a general collection point for onward transmission.

### ***Update following the meeting:***

Will is aware of two homes in Redbourn that have offered to host Ukrainians. We will seek to support the hosts with this in practical and financial ways if that happens.

There is an update from Bishop Michael on the Diocesan response which can be read here: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/an-update-from-bishop-michael-on-the-support-in-the-diocese-for-ukraine/>

There will be a concert at St Mary's at 7 pm on 23 April to raise money for the aid response.

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

The number now attending the Children's group is increasing, but it is not yet feasible to split this into another group yet. Adult volunteers are still needed.

Teddy Tots continue to thrive, and there have been 25 adults and 20 children booked to have breakfast this coming Saturday morning.

## **9) Charitable Finance Committee**

The committee reached their target for Pumps for Mpwapwa and research continues as to how to transmit these funds to Tanzania economically. John Davie is researching this.

For the Queen's Jubilee celebration there will be a 'Hymns and Pimms' evening.

It is planned in the Autumn to have a presentation on the history of St Mary's with accompanying music. In October there will be a showing of the 1925 silent film Phantom of the Opera with musical improvisation.

## **10) Churchyard**

The Community Payback Team continue to do invaluable work. We would still like to have more of our own volunteers as well.

## **11) Ancillary Buildings**

The remedial work on the Vicarage Cottage is almost complete, and the agent has viewings lined up.

There was not further business and the meeting closed with the Grace at 10.15 pm.

### **Next Meetings**

**20<sup>th</sup> April**

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**15<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Annual Meetings**

**Full PCC**

**Standing Committee**