

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, REDBOURN
MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 15th DECEMBER 2021

Present: **The Vicar** **Stephen Gell** **Paul Vernon** **Catharine Pusey**
 Jim May **David Mitchell** **Ailsa Hulme** **David Forbes**
Apologies for Absence: **Keith McAdam** **Michael Wood** **Celia Forbes**

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.15 pm

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 17th November 2021

The minutes were approved as drawn.

2) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3) Ministry and Worship

Covid 19

The Vicar confirmed that as St Mary's was already taking all necessary precautions to protect our congregation there would be no need to change our advice and guidance to people attending our Services over the Christmas period in light of the recent Government guidance.

The use of masks in the Transept after services was raised, particularly in light of the anticipated celebrations for Ralph Gould's 90th birthday this coming Sunday. The Vicar confirmed that he would put out a form of words to encourage people to collect their refreshments from the Transept wearing masks and then to move to the courtyard to continue fellowship unmasked if they were comfortable with that.

The Vicar confirmed that if too many people turned up for any of the services over the Christmas period, he would reluctantly have to turn them away.

Beer and Carols has been cancelled and will be online again instead.

Curate for 2023.

The Vicar confirmed that as a lengthy notice period had to be given of potential interest in taking on a Curate, we needed as a Church to consider whether we

wished to make an expression of interest to the Diocese at this point. We have a choice between a Self-Supporting Minister (SSM), and a stipendiary curate. The Vicar confirmed that as we as a Parish had to pay 100% of the housing costs of a stipendiary curate, it had cost us in the region of £60,000.00 to house Tim. Although the length of a Curacy had been shortened to 2 ³/₄ years, and although St Mary's was a good place for a curate to train, it was agreed that we should express an interest for an SSM only to the Diocese.

Sabbatical

The Vicar had been invited to take a Sabbatical in 2022, and he would like to take advantage of that. The Committee agreed that he richly deserved to take one. He will take it from May to July 2022, and use it for reading; taking a spiritual retreat; completing his Master's Degree; and possibly revisiting Mpwapwa. He thanked the Committee for agreeing to the Sabbatical.

4) Finance

Mike Wood had sent an email to confirm that as a result of transfer of £10,000 from Common Round Funds, we expect to be slightly in credit at the end of the year.

We have a large balance in the current account as a result of donations to the Hamper Fund. Jim May confirmed that there have been some planned giving standing orders cancelled, and the Vicar will encourage people to renew Stewardship Standing Orders rather than pay on the card machine.

5) Safeguarding

A report had been circulated from Jan Lang and Paul Vernon regarding the necessity for more training. All PCC members will need to complete the Fundamentals Course and the Domestic Abuse Awareness Course. Jan will attend the PCC Meeting on the 12th January to advise and confirm ways to complete these courses.

6) Fabric

The Architect had carried out the Quinquennial Inspection and his report was awaited. His fee would be in the region of £1,200 and it was suggested that this needed to be accrued in the accounts for next year. The Diocese has sought confirmation of the appointment of our architect and this is in hand.

7) Ancillary Buildings

A report was submitted by Jim May confirming that necessary works of damp proofing, redecorating and other matters to the Vicarage Cottage would cost £5,775. This expenditure was approved. However, doing the work would result in an increase in rent of some £3,254.40 per annum and so would be recouped in about 1 ½ years. It was anticipated that the works would be completed by the end of January and the Cottage relet by the end of February.

8) Children and Young People

Christmas Holiday Club will meet Saturday 18th December. There are 12 children between 4-8 years old booked. There are plenty of helpers.

A meeting will be held in January to discuss Children and Youth in the church more generally.

9) CFC

Pumps for Mpwapwa

We have reached £37,500 towards the cost of the installation of the pump. This will probably be enough to achieve the desired result of acquiring and installing the pump, depending on the rate of exchange, fees etc. John Davie will advise on this aspect. The funds will be paid into the Diocesan Funds of Mpwapwa and the Bishop of Mpwapwa will have oversight of the Project.

Emmaus

Emmaus will be our chosen charity for 2022. Heather Hurford, Chair of Emmaus, will visit to launch this on the 27th February.

10) Churchyard

2 vans of Community Payback people have attended in the last 2 Saturdays which has meant the Churchyard looks good for this time of the year. 12 people helped installing the Christmas trees last Saturday.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with Grace at 9.20 pm.

Next Meeting of Full PCC: 12th January 2022.