

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON THE 4TH MAY 2022**

**Present: The Vicar John Davie Deni Ennals Daphne Fisher Celia Forbes
David Forbes Andy Ford Stephen Gell Sarah Hill Ailsa Hulme
Jim May Sue May Liz Middleton Michelle Parry Slater
Lesley Poulton Catharine Pusey Kay Vernon Paul Vernon
David Walker Mike Wood Jan Lang**

Apologies for Absence: Clive Williams David Mitchell Julia Murphy Keith McAdam

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.15 pm

1) Minutes of the Meeting held 23rd March 2022

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

The appeal for the Ukraine was well supported by donations to the tank, and by the donations for the concert. We are grateful to those who performed in the concert.

2) Post APCM Business

Our thanks to all those who stood for election, and to those who were re-elected. We are pleased to welcome Michelle Parry Slater as our new Churchwarden in place of David Mitchell who has retired after four years service. David is now standing for election on to the Diocesan Synod as our representative. A warm welcome was extended to Liz Middleton and Andy Ford as new members of the PCC. The Vicar went on to outline the workings and responsibilities of the PCC.

Appointments as follows:-

Lay Co-Chairman Michelle Parry Slater, replacing Keith McAdam

Secretary Celia Forbes

Treasurer Mike Wood

These officers were elected en bloc

Proposed by: Sue May Seconded by: Lesley Poulton Elected: Nem Con
Representatives

Churches Together David Walker Sue May The Vicar

Friends of St Mary's David Mitchell Julia Murphy

Proposed By: David Forbes Seconded by: Stephen Gell Elected: Nem Con

The Vicar asked for any further offers to be subcommittee members, in particular for the Stewardship Committee which is to be reconstituted in the near future.

Ministry and Worship

We enjoyed varied programmes for Lent and Easter and are particularly grateful to Jonathan Smith who kindly gave the addresses for the first three evenings of Holy Week. The numbers attending have still not returned to pre-Covid levels.

We had very good congregations at Easter including a number of family members returning.

The Easter Monday Pilgrimage to the Abbey included a few visitors from other churches in the Diocese, and we were particularly pleased to enjoy the company of the Archdeacon and her family.

Covid Review

We have been very careful to consider everyone's sensibilities during the last two years, and we are conscious that our caution has been rewarded. Face coverings have been encouraged, but these are no longer considered mandatory, but a matter of choice for individuals. The Vicar will put a notification on the website to this effect. The offer of wine from the Chalice will be available from the 15th May, but will be a matter of personal choice. We will not be reinstalling the communion rails at present, but communion will be offered from a standing station. We will not be allowing wafers to be dipped into the chalice as this can also be a method of transmission of germs etc. and is not permitted in this Diocese. We may reintroduce the monthly breakfast in the Autumn.

Our plans to have a separate Jubilee Event in the church drive have now been shelved in favour of joining in the Parish Council lead event on the Common. The Parish Council is providing £5000 towards the cost, and County Councillor, Annie Brewster is providing £1000 from her discretionary funds. Various entertainments have been booked between 11 am and 5 pm along with a pay bar from the Hollybush, cream teas etc. All this will be held on the 5th June.

3) Finance

Mike Wood had circulated the budget prior to the meeting, and Mike took us through the detail. Regular giving has suffered a considerable downturn, and we look likely to be seeing a deficit of some £13000 at the end of the year. This shortfall will need to be addressed in the very near future, in terms of trying to increase income through the work of the Stewardship Committee. We will also need to look very closely at our expenditure and a small working group of The Vicar, the PCC Treasurer, Paul Vernon and Michelle Parry-Slater was delegated with the authority to scrutinise the accounts and take necessary steps identified in order to reduce costs.

We are pleased to report that the Vicarage Cottage has now been re-let, and with an increased amount of rent.

Formation of the working group and the adoption of the Budget:

Proposed by: The Vicar Seconded by: John Davie Passed: Nem Con

4) Safeguarding

Jan Lang had already submitted a report prior to the meeting, asking for the approval of a number of points. This was discussed and agreed.

Proposed by: Paul Vernon Seconded by: David Forbes Passed: Nem Con

Jan reiterated that any changes of staffing in the various groups need to be advised. Some people still need to do their on-line training.

Approval of the current list of Activities

Proposed by: Ailsa Hulme Seconded by: Stephen Gell Passed: Nem Con

5) Fabric

The Quinquennial Report has been received from the architect. This is a very comprehensive document and a group will be convened to consider and discuss this fully and work out next steps in responding to the works arising from this report. There is to be a Zoom conference regarding Eco Church on the 18th June. Details will be circulated.

6) Children and Youth

We still have a small single group meeting on a Sunday morning for now. We hope to be able to run a Holiday Club in July in the first week of the school holidays.

7) Charitable Finance Committee

Stephen Gell had circulated a report prior to the meeting, and there was nothing further to add.

8) Food and Fuel Poverty

A fully funded trip to Whipsnade Zoo is being organised for families with children who are suffering from deprivation. Each child will be given £10 to spend, and all the expenses, e.g. packed lunch, coach fare and admission etc are being covered by a grant. The village school will help by providing the names of those who would be eligible. Easter Eggs were given to the children and other Easter gifts also.

9) Churchyard

There was nothing new to report.

10) Stewardship

This committee is shortly to be reconvened. Andy Ford, Catharine Pusey and David Forbes have offered their services.

11) Ancillary Buildings

A new tenant has been found for the Vicarage Cottage on a one-year tenancy agreement.

There was no further business and the meeting closed with the Grace at 10.15 pm.

Dates of future meetings

15 June	Standing Committee
13 July	PCC Meeting
7 September	PCC Meeting
12 October	Standing Committee
16 November	PCC Meeting
14 December	Standing Committee