

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THE 12TH OCTOBER 2022**

Present: **Celia Forbes** **Stephen Gell** **Ailsa Hule** **Jim May**
 Catharine Pusey **Paul Vernon** **Mike Wood**

Apologies for Absence: **Michelle Parry Slater**

Andy Ford has now been invited to be part of the Standing Committee, but was not able to attend this meeting.

Catharine Pusey opened the meeting at 8.15pm with a prayer.
Paul Vernon, one of our Church Wardens, chaired the meeting.

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 7th September 2022

The minutes were approved.

Matter Arising: Hamper Fund This is still in the process of being handed over to the Redbourn Care Group, but has been delayed during the holiday period.

2) Worship

The Pastoral Team have met and we are pleased that services and the normal functioning of St Mary's continue without a hitch. It was noted that some aspects of our worship have not returned to the pre-Covid practice.

Upcoming Services

6 th November 6.30 pm	All Souls service with Taizé, to be conducted by David Forbes
13 th November	The Remembrance service at the War Memorial will be conducted by Sue May
Advent Carol Service	It is hoped that it will be feasible to have two services, the first at Wheathampstead at 4pm and the second at Redbourn at 7pm The choirs from both churches will combine for these.
4 th December	Christingle
11 th December	Lights of Love
18 th December	Children's Nativity Service in the morning
18 th December	Carol Service at 7pm
24 th December	Crib Services in church
24 th December	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	Normal morning services at 8am and 10am

Parish Profile

A useful meeting was held with the Archdeacon and members of the congregation. The profile is now well into preparation. It is expected that the first draft will be available in two weeks for comment from the whole PCC. The profile must be finalised ready to be

signed off by the PCC on the 14th December. A Standing Committee meeting that had been arranged for that evening will now be changed to the formal "Section 11" PCC meeting.

Pew Sheets

Now that things are becoming more normalised, we plan to return to our previous method of issuing a church news sheet separate from the liturgical text pew sheet. It is planned to recruit further clerical assistance in the production of this each week, so as to reduce some of the pressure on the admin team.

3) Safeguarding Report

Jan Lang had provided a report. There are still two more PCC members who have to complete their training, but we still have time left on the timetable to complete this. 20th November is Safeguarding Sunday, and we will mark this with special prayers. There has been some query as to whether training for helpers at the Wednesday Club should be in the remit of St Mary's or the RCG. As the club is held on our premises, it was felt that we should be taking care of this. The management of the Wednesday Club has been in a state of evolution and needs to be clarified. There was some discussion regarding insurance for users of the Transept Hall.

4) Treasurer's Report

Mike Wood had provided up to date figures and reported that our finances at the end of the period were just slightly improved on the previous month. Mike feels that we appear to have been incurring more expenses than previously, although some of this may be down to ordering more in advance. It is kind of visiting Clergy who could have been entitled to ask for expenses, not to have done so.

5) Charitable Finance Committee

Friday 21st October – film show with organ accompaniment 'Phantom of the Opera'
18th and 19th November – If These Stones Could Speak - celebration of the life of St Mary's throughout history.

22nd December – Beer and Carols at the Cricketers. We are delighted that Rod and Louise McPhee will be returning to host the evening. The Cricketers have to hire a marquee for the evening, and have suggested that the proceeds of the St Mary's Quiz evening could pay towards this.

Mwupapwa – The final sum raised last year still needs to be sent to Tanzania, but due partly to deaths in the diocese of those dealing with the matter, this has been held up.

6) Premises

Jan Nelder has carried out some very minor works highlighted in the Quinquennial Report, but further attention needs to be paid to this, led by Catharine Pusey.

The heating in church needs to have better control, and an estimate for a new thermostat has been received, and a new controller, radiator thermostats and associated works totalling £1518 including VAT. It was agreed to proceed with this work.

The church boiler pump may be on its last legs and has been in situ for many years. This may also need to be upgraded before too long, and is currently under review.

There has been talk in the media of providing 'Warm Spaces' for people to go to if the need arises. We do not think this is feasible for St Marys building to be considered for this purpose, for several reasons: the building is not suitable for this purpose (not central to the village, no heating zones, too costly to heat), however much we might wish people to pop in to our building; the cost would be borne by relatively few (the congregation) as opposed to eg the Parish Centre where the cost could be borne by a wider group.

Now that two dogs are coming to church on Sundays, it was discussed whether we need to institute a pets in church policy. It was decided not to do so, and for the wardens and sidespeople to respond with diplomacy on a case by case basis.

Votive Candle Stand - we are considering moving the candle stands and the book of remembrance cabinet to the Lady Chapel. The flower stand would probably remain in place, so it is visible as people enter the building, and as it bears no correlation to the book. We feel that would provide a more intimate and quiet space for prayer and reflection. The space freed up will be better available for wheelchair users.

The empty vicarage is to be let by the Diocese for a defined period of six months. Although the income from the letting will go to the Diocese, the costs of refurbishment of the premises will come from the Diocese. Work has already commenced on the re-painting.

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

Next Meetings

16th November – Full PCC Meeting

14th December – PCC Chapter 11 meeting