

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN
MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 11TH JANUARY 2023 IN THE CHURCH**

Present: Celia Forbes David Forbes Andy Ford Stephen Gell Jim May
Sue May Keith McAdam Liz Middleton Lesley Poulton
Catharine Pusey Kay Vernon Paul Vernon David Walker

Apologies for Absence: Deni Ennals Daphne Fisher Sarah Hill Ailsa Hulme
Julia Murphy Clive Williams Mike Wood Ralph Goold
John Davie Michelle Parry-Slater (available by zoom)

Michelle was unable to be present and the meeting agreed that David Forbes be chairman.

David Forbes opened the meeting at 8.15 pm with a prayer.

1) The Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 16th November 2023 and the Section 11 Meeting held 14th December 2023

The minutes were approved as drawn, and there were no matters arising which are not dealt with under the present agenda.

2) Worship

Advent saw a full and busy programme:- If These Stones Could Speak, Advent Carol Service, 9 Lessons and Carols together with a full Christmas schedule.

Specific thanks are recorded to Paul Vernon for his splendid leadership of the choir over the Christmas period.

Clergy to preside at our services have been fully booked up to Easter, and we are grateful for their leadership. It was noted that Rev. Diane Clark retires from her teaching duties as Chaplain at St Albans Girls School very shortly, following which she will not be available for a period of two months.

Recruitment of a new Incumbent - Our Parish Profile has been published on our own and Diocesan websites, in Pathways, and an advert will appear in the Church Times due out at the end of this week. The Profile has been praised from many quarters and we are expecting a good number of applicants for the vacancy.

Archdeacon Jane Mainwaring becomes Bishop of Hertford on the 2nd February.

Candidates will be shortlisted on the 6th February, from which 4 will be chosen for interview. Interviews will take place on the 20th February.

We will be looking for volunteers to show the candidates around the village, entertain them to lunch etc. NB Sarah Hill will be available to help in this capacity. The candidates will be expected to lead a bible study group among other things.

Policies - several policies may need to be reviewed and accredited, although some attention has already been given to this subject.

3) Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Officer had nothing further to report.

4) Treasurer's Report

Mike Wood was unable to report in person, and the figures for the year end will not be available yet. However, he did report that we are likely to end the year with a £13000 deficit which could reduce to £2500 if the rental income is offset against it. There was some discussion as to further funding the CFC from our funds in light of the current financial situation. The CFC efforts have raised £7500 this year for Emmaus.

It was proposed to revisit this once a new Vicar is in situ.

Proposed by: Lesley Poulton Seconded by: Stephen Gell Passed: Nem Con

It has been necessary for a new bank mandate to be signed to update current signatories etc. A copy of the mandate is attached to these minutes.

Proposed by: Kay Vernon Seconded by: Keith McAdam Passed: Nem Con

5) Churchwardens' and Fabric Report

It was proposed that the redundant Mothers' Union banner be given to the Beadle family, whose relative had made it several years ago. Stephen Boffey will be asked to photograph it for our records.

The PCC is happy to return the George Beadle banner to his family, and to display the new blue banner in the same place in the Lady Chapel. It notes the DAC position on this, and is also satisfied that the artist's family will take due care of the Beadle banner when it takes possession of the same.

Proposed by: Paul Vernon Seconded by: Kay Vernon Passed: For 11, Against 1 Abstained 1
The New Mothers Union banner will be added to the Church's terrier.

JG has filed a claim at the Employment Tribunal citing a number of items. We received notification of this on the 23rd December, delayed by the postal strike. Our response was expected by today, 11th January. Michelle has been in close contact with DAS Legal, and we are applying for an extension in time. It was noted that JG has not yet quantified his claim, although we are aware that he has done some work at St Saviours. We are still awaiting confirmation from DAS Legal that they will act on our behalf. *<STOP PRESS> By the end of 11th January, no extension had been granted, and the PCC's response (requiring much input by Michelle and Will Gibbs) was filed by DAS Legal at 11:40pm, just within the deadline.*

The APCM is due in April, and we have six members retiring who will need to be replaced. In addition, there will be members needed for the Deanery Synod for a further three year period. Mention will be made in church that nominees are needed and a proposal form will be made available.

Friends of St Mary's is our main source of income for funding work to the church. In the past it has cost, say, £50000 each five years to comply with the Quinquennial Report

recommendations. We need a campaign to reinvigorate the Friends which has been pretty quiet of late. Income has been thanks to the members subscriptions and the Car Show only.

Churchwarden - Michelle is finding it very difficult to balance her duties as Churchwarden with her work life and commitment to her family. It maybe that she will need to reassess her priorities in the near future. She may wish to have a meeting with the PCC soon, and mention was made of a possible extraordinary meeting on a Sunday to discuss this.

6) Ancillary Buildings

A tenant is renting the Vicarage from the Diocese for a six month period, arriving 12th January.

7) Stewardship Report

The Committee is due to meet shortly. The question of reinstating/not reinstating collection plates during the services will be discussed and a report submitted to the PCC. Since Covid, loose money is not always available. The use of standing orders direct to the bank will be encouraged.

8) Youth Work and Ministry to Young People

There was nothing further to add to Ailsa's report.

9) Churchyard Report

There was nothing further to add to the report already circulated.

10) Charitable Finance Committee

The Committee met on the 10th January, and discussed the beneficiary for the coming year. It will look at the opportunities arising to help impoverished communities. The committee will circulate suggestions to the PCC in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.35 pm.

Next Meetings

Standing Committee	8th February
PCC Meeting	15th March
APCM etc	19th April