

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN**

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE TRANSEPT ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

**Present: Russell     John Davie     Deni Ennals     Celia Forbes     David Forbes  
         Stephen Gell     Ailsa Hulme     Jim May           Sue May           Keith McAdam  
         Lesley Poulton     Catharine Pusey           Kay Vernon         Paul Vernon  
         David Walker     Mike Wood**

**Apologies for Absence:     Andy Ford     Liz Middleton     Clive Williams     Sarah Hill  
         Chris Hill             David Mitchell             Sally Pryor**

Ailsa opened the meeting with a prayer, and then Paul Vernon, Church Warden, welcomed the newcomers to the PCC and gave an outline of how the PCC works. He explained that we have a standing committee which meets on alternate months and deals with a lot of the 'housekeeping'. All members are Trustees of St Mary's as a Charity, and great emphasis is given to Safeguarding of young children, vulnerable adults etc. Deni raised an item for Any Other Business:- Joined up attitudes.

**1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved as drawn.

**2) Post APCM Business**

It was necessary to make the following appointments:-

Lay Co\_Chair     David Forbes     Proposed by: Kay Vernon     Seconded by: Keith McAdam  
PCC Secretary     Celia Forbes     Proposed by: Paul Vernon     Seconded By: Sue May  
Treasurer         Mike Wood         Proposed by: John Davie         Seconded by: Stephen Gell  
Churches Together     David Walker     Proposed by: Sue May     Seconded by: Kay Vernon  
Eco Lead             To Be filled

At This point, David Forbes took over as Co-Chairman of the meeting.

**3) Ministry and Worship**

All services have continued to be held with a variety of presiding clergy. Our Lent programme was well received and we were very privileged to welcome Bishop Jane Mainwaring to one of our services.

Pentecost Praise will be held on the common outside the Methodist Church on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. We hope that Robin McEwan will be available to lead the service.

There will be a Deanery Ascension service at St Nicholas' church on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. As many people as possible are urged to attend. The next Deanery Evensong will be held in October and that will be hosted here in Redbourn.

We hope that the weather will be kind when we hold our first outdoor service at the beginning of June. Helpers will be needed to set up outside.

Staff Matters - Michelle Parry-Slater, our former Church Warden has been acting as liaison with DAS Legal on our behalf. Michelle is well versed in the background of the legal matter and it was proposed that she should carry on as Liaison on behalf of the PCC. There was some considerable discussion over this, and it was stressed that she will NOT be making any decisions on our behalf, merely acting as liaison.

Proposed by: Sue May      Seconded by: Kay Vernon      Passed: Nem Con

The proposed adoption of our Equality & Diversity Policy was discussed. Catharine enquired how 'discipline' would be metered out, and also who should be approached in the first instance if someone wished to raise a complaint about the Vicar or Churchwardens. Further thought will be given to this and the matter will be deferred for the time being.

#### **4) Treasurer's Report**

Mike Wood had circulated accounts information prior to the meeting, along with his suggested budget for the new year. Mike had given explanations of some of the figures, and pointed out that we are losing members (mostly through death) than are being replaced with new blood.

The weekly pew sheet now shows how freewill offerings can be given to the church, either by cash in the plate, standing order through the bank or by joining the new Parish Giving Scheme. Mike suggested that a copy of the 'QR' code be displayed in the transept for giving by the sum up machine. We need to increase our income merely to keep our Grade One listed Church and our overheads above water.

Acceptance of the budget was proposed by:

Stephen Gell      Seconded by: John Davie      Passed Nem Con

Mike Wood was thanked for the work he does on our behalf.

#### **5) Safeguarding**

A formal agreement has been drawn up for hirers of the Transept to agree to before their business is accepted.

We have to renew our policies for dealing with Adults, Children and Vulnerable people  
Acceptance was

proposed by: Catharine Pusey      Seconded by: Keith MacAdam      Passed: Nem Con

The policies were signed off by the Lay Co-Chairman.

The PCC also approved the list of church and non-church activities at this meeting.

#### **6) Fabric and Churchwardens Report**

Although the Quinquennial Inspection was done in 21/22, nothing has been carried out so far. The architect has put out tenders for quotes to three contractors, but only one has responded so far, a company called Hibberts. This company has arranged for a quote for scaffolding to be done. We do not want there to be scaffolding inside the church at the time the new Vicar is installed – we need to be looking at our best. Sue May was pleased to report that the key safe in the south porch has been installed at a higher level, (for which

many backs and knees will be grateful). Mike Weir has taken on some of the responsibility for looking after the Transept.

### **7) Youth Matters and Ministry to Young People**

Ailsa had submitted her report prior to the meeting, and there was nothing further to add. A course for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion is to be run for young people, starting next week. Confirmation is booked for 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### **8) Charitable Finance Committee**

Stephen had nothing to add to his report which had already been circulated.

### **9) Churchyard Report**

Memorial Garden – Plant pots and flowers have been removed from the grass so that mowing can take place. We think it may be possible to put up some sort of attractive staging to the side of the garden for floral tributes. Examples of this can be seen at St John's, Boxmoor and St Helen's Wheathampstead. A sign will be put up to say that this grassed area is a Memorial Garden and NOT for games etc. We will see if it is possible to find ways of directing people to where remains of loved ones are buried.

### **10) Ancillary Buildings**

Nothing to report.

### **11) Stewardship Committee Report**

Andy Ford had circulated a detailed report prior to the meeting and a suggested leaflet for discussion. The leaflet gave details of a new Parish Giving Scheme whereby giving is done by direct debit, with an uplift each year in accordance with inflation if that option is selected by the donor. The Scheme is administered by Gloucester Diocese and our own Diocese, and Gift Aid is dealt with automatically each month and paid over at the time. This will save our Gift Aid Officer a lot of time and trouble and we have joined following agreement of the PCC at the last PCC Meeting. The question of legacies in wills will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **12) Any Other Business**

Deni raised the question of whether St Mary's is being seen to be doing enough in the Redbourn community, or whether we should make ourselves more apparent. It was noted that Will Gibbs, our previous Vicar had a hand in many activities in the village. Attention was drawn to our Mission Action Plan, which we have had now for several years, and which shows just how much goes on. This plan is coming up for renewal in the summer of this year, and will be addressed once Rachel is in situ. It can be seen from the Mission Action Plan that very much does go on, and sometimes it is just an individual perception as to how much or little this is.

The Friends of St Mary's have their AGM this coming Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. It is of great importance that some help on the committee is found.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.25 pm.

**Next PCC Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> July**