

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 20 January 2020

8pm in the Upper Room

1. Opening prayer

Rev'd Paul welcomed everyone, and the meeting began with the first part of Compline.

2. Members present

Rev'd Paul White (PW); Rev'd Nicola Harvey (NH); Nicola Canham (NC); Kirsty Finch (KF); Francis Griffiths (FG); Julia Miles (JM); Martin Massy (MM); Val Newell (VN); Michael Payne (MP); Barbara Smith (BS)

Apologies for absence: Rachel Packham, Kelly Parsons, Jack Good

3. Approval of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 11 November 2019:

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 11th November 2019, had been previously circulated and were signed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

4. Matters arising (not otherwise covered by the Agenda)

Minutes Secretary

MM told the meeting that Linda Yabsley had stood down from the role of Minutes Secretary at PCC and Standing Committee meetings and so far a replacement had not been found. PW said he would ask through the Deanery if a minute-taker would be available, but in the meantime it was agreed that members of the PCC would volunteer to take turns.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee consists of the minister, churchwardens and, in our case, at least two members of the PCC. Kelly Parsons having stood down from the Standing Committee, Jenny Hopkins had agreed and was nominated to join in Kelly's place.

Creating a 'Friends' organisation

MP updated members on the progress made so far with creating a 'Friends of St. Mary's' group, following on from the presentation given by Mike Harvey to the previous meeting. The sub-committee had met and suggested it should be named "Friends of Hadlow Parish Church", thus giving clarity to exactly who the fund-raising work would benefit.

MP distributed a proposed leaflet style and information sheet, which met with full approval. He informed the meeting that an independent committee would eventually be set up to run the 'Friends' and other local people had been approached to join the existing PCC sub-committee to progress such matters as bank accounts; GDPR issues; launch and publicity.

5. Treasurer's report

MM reported that the accounts for 2019 provisionally showed a deficit of £4,848. This figure was slightly distorted by the fact that the grant for the stairlift will not be received until after the

installation has occurred, but the main area of increase, nominally within PCC control, was the expenditure of £1200 on printing and photocopying.

MM continued by stating that the current income to the parish is below the amount needed to sustain everything currently undertaken. PW confirmed that income from wedding and funeral fees had dropped due to so many other options now being available that people weren't automatically turning to the Church to provide them.

The Outreach committee were thanked for the enormous efforts they put into the many events held as 'fund raisers' in the parish, but this still left a shortfall. A Stewardship Campaign in 2020 is the only possibility for increasing donations directly to St. Mary's. To this end a Finance Committee meeting will shortly be organised to begin the process.

6. **APCM**

PW reminded members that the APCM will be held after the main service on Sunday 26th April. This will be led by Rev. Andrew Axon as Area Dean, as PW would then be away on sabbatical. MM pointed out that under the new regulations the parish will now have to only elect two people to the Deanery Synod, but five people were also due to stand down from the PCC. The size of the PCC is regulated by the number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll, and that currently equated to twelve people elected as lay representatives.

The PCC confirmed that Rev. Axon be asked to conduct the APCM and the PCC then authorised NH to preside over any PCC or Standing Committee meetings during PW's sabbatical.

7. **Sub-committee reports:**

Education

The committee had not met recently but all schemes previously put in place were working well.

Fabric

Replacement stair lift: MM told the meeting that the new stair lift is due to be installed on Thursday 23rd January.

He further reported that the high-level lighting faults had been investigated by a qualified electrician and bulbs replaced where possible.

MM said that all current matters had been dealt with previously under other headings.

Outreach & Fundraising

KF confirmed the minutes previously circulated were correct and up to date. She also confirmed that due to the move of the first May Bank holiday to the following Friday precluded the traditional boot Fair being held then and so it was provisionally going to be held on the August Bank Holiday Monday.

World Mission

BS confirmed that the WMG had agreed to run/help organise 4 of the Market Stall Coffee mornings plus organise Lent Lunches as had been run in previous years. The main recipient of the Lent Appeal this year would be for Kibakwe projects and the Lent Lunches profit would be for the Paddock Wood Food Bank. Jim May and Sharon Vanns were considering organising another Parish Walk to also raise funds for Kibakwe, possibly in June.

8. Salary review – Director of Music, Parish Administrator

Due to the current financial situation at St. Mary’s, it was agreed that we were unfortunately not in a position to review the salaries of our Musical Director nor our Parish Administrator at this time.

9. Safeguarding

PW AND BS confirmed that there were currently no Safeguarding matters that needed to be discussed.

10. Worship

JM asked if it would be possible to have a definitive plan of how the main service on a Sunday would commence - from the choir’s point of view. PW explained that it mainly depended on whether there was an introit to be sung first and if so, where from. Both matters were at the discretion of the Musical Director and PW wasn’t always advised of his preferences in time for PW to announce the order to which the service would run. Various other options were then discussed but no conclusions reached.

11. Correspondence

There were no pieces of correspondence to note.

12. Any other business

There was no ‘other business’ raised for discussion.

13. Confidentiality

It was agreed there were no matters discussed which needed to be treated as ‘Confidential’.

14. Dates of next PCC meetings:

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

Standing Committee 10th February 2020

Full PCC 16th March 2020

The meeting concluded with the second part of Compline and was closed at 9:50 p.m.

Signature

Date:

Attachments: