

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 16 March 2020**

8pm in the Upper Room

**1. Opening prayer**

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

**2. Members present**

Rev'd Nicola Harvey (Rev'd Nicky, Chair); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Francis Griffiths (FG); Rachel Packham (RP); Julia Miles (JM); Michael Payne (MP); Martin Massy (MM, Sec)

**Apologies for absence:** Rev'd Paul White (Rev'd Paul; sabbatical); Val Newell (VN); Barbara Smith (BS); Kirsty Finch (KF); Nicola Canham (NC); Katerina Nixon (KN); Jack Good (JG); Kelly Parsons (KP); Lisa Porritt (LP)

Rev'd Nicky queried whether the meeting was quorate. MM said that it was (Rule M27(1) of the Church Representation Rules 2020 states that the quorum for a meeting is one-third of the members provided the majority of those present are lay persons. There being 16 members of the PCC, a meeting is quorate provided at least six people are present).

**3. Approval of the Minutes of:**

The minutes of the PCC meeting held 20 January 2020 and of the Standing Committee meeting held 10 February 2020 were approved unanimously.

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

**Friends of Hadlow parish church (FHPC):** A draft leaflet has been prepared, awaiting finalisation of photos (MM had received a selection of photos from Roger Stanley). It was agreed that the St.Mary's Capital Reserve account at NatWest would be used for FHPC until a separate bank account could be put in place (which will require trustees, constitution, etc.). Given current circumstances, further promotion of FHPC is on hold.

**PCC membership:** The Church Representation Rules do not prevent a member of the PCC being re-elected after the end of their three-year term. The practice at St.Mary's has been that a PCC member would normally step down at the APCM after three years and would not be eligible to stand again for election until the next APCM. Whilst this encourages new blood within the PCC it was felt that St.Mary's does not have enough potential candidates for election to make this viable.

**Deanery synod membership:** A parish representative to the deanery synod may not under Rule M8(5) be nominated for election after serving the second of two consecutive terms of office. Rule M8(7), however, provides that the annual meeting may by resolution decide that Rule M8(5) does not apply.

**5. Treasurer's report**

MM briefly presented the Financial Accounts from the 2019 Annual Report. The Annual Report was approved unanimously. PCC members expressed their thanks to the Finance team for their work in preparing it. MM noted the great help given by David and Gabrielle Lear, which is much appreciated.

## 6. Sub-committee reports:

### ***Education***

Two of St.Mary's young people would be candidates for confirmation at a service in Lamberhurst on Ascension Day, the 21 May.

### ***Fabric***

The replacement stairlift was installed on 23 January. The chancel window was repaired by Cliff Durant. The coping stones on the May memorial vault had been taken down under an emergency faculty to make it safe. The next steps by the Parish Council are to clear the vegetation and propose a long term solution, noting that, under the conditions of the current faculty, the fencing will have to be removed after three years. MM would assist by preparing an application for faculty for the proposed solution.

### ***Outreach & Fundraising***

Minutes of the 3 February meeting of the Outreach & Fundraising committee had been circulated to PCC members ahead of today's meeting.

### ***World Mission***

Nothing to report.

## 7. Coronavirus / Covid-19

The April village newsletter would be very different from usual. All group activities and meetings having been suspended the newsletter would cover only the village response to the pandemic, seeking to identify vulnerable people who would benefit from a Community Assistance scheme being established for Hadlow and Golden Green. Contacts for people needing assistance would be Rev'd Nicky, the Parish Clerk and the Community Warden.

St.Mary's would follow CofE guidance. At this point, Café Plus and Saturday Coffee to be cancelled, but no suspension of services. Friday choir practice also to be cancelled, but it would be a personal decision of choir members whether they would join the choir on Sundays.

Rev'd Nicky presented a draft Parish Continuity Plan.

A deputy Treasurer is recommended to be appointed in case needed to take over from the Treasurer. MM suggested that John Speed would be able to fulfil the role – Rev'd Nicky to ask John if he would agree take it on.

The APCM would be postponed; current guidance is that the APCM may be held any time up to 31 October. A date will be set later. MM noted that notice would be needed to finalise the Electoral Roll (Post-meeting note: The Church Representation Rules require the notice initiating revision of the Electoral Roll to be displayed two months ahead of the APCM. Guidance should be sought on whether this can be shortened given that the process of revising the Electoral Roll was started in February).

## 8. Quarterly News

The PCC wished to thank Eve for her hard work editing/producing the Quarterly News (QN). The QN is recognised as the only place we have to publish longer articles. The question was raised whether it could be combined with the village newsletter in some way, say at 2-3 month intervals. It was noted that the font used in the newsletter is already too small for some people to read easily and that the intended, indeed interested, audience is essentially the congregation of St.Mary's. Any decision on future use and distribution of QN to be deferred until Rev'd Paul back from sabbatical.

**9. Safeguarding**

No issues to report. Members expressed concern, though, about the probable increase in domestic violence as a result of the restrictions imposed on people's activities.

**10. Worship**

It was agreed that the arrangement of choir and minister(s) processing in silence to the chancel at the beginning of the 10 o'clock service, followed by normal start, was working well.

**11. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**12. Any other business**

**Lent Appeal:** MM noted, as Treasurer, that the PCC had not been involved in the decision of who should benefit from the Lent Appeal (donations from Lent lunches to go to the Paddock Wood food bank, other fund-raising to provide light and clean water for Kibakwe link). In future, World Mission group to raise at January PCC meeting for PCC approval.

**13. Dates of next PCC meetings:**

Standing Committee	20 April 2020
PCC	18 May 2020

The meeting closed with the second half of Compline.

Signature .....

Date: .....