

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 18 May 2020

8pm via Zoom online meeting

1. Opening prayer

Rev'd Nicky welcomed everyone, and the meeting began with prayer.

2. Members present

Rev'd Nicola Harvey (Rev'd Nicky, Chair); (NC); Kirsty Finch (KF); Francis Griffiths (FG); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Julia Miles (JM); Martin Massy (MM, Secretary); Katerina Nixon (KN); Val Newell (VN); Lisa Porritt (LP); Michael Payne (MP); Barbara Smith (BS)

Apologies for absence: Rachel Packham (RP); Kelly Parsons (KP); Jack Good (JG); Mark Totty (MT)

3. Meeting management and decisions

MM noted that current guidance requires decisions to be confirmed in writing in accordance with the Church Representation Rules Rule M29 (Business by Correspondence).

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the 16 March PCC meeting and the 20 April Standing Committee were approved unanimously without modification.

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

Rev'd Paul would be returning from sabbatical on 1 June as originally planned. Rev'd Nicky said she is officially still curate at St.Mary's until end March 2021, but may be seconded or transferred somewhere else if required by the diocese or appointed vicar at another parish.

6. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report to PCC showed a surplus of £7,011 of unrestricted income over expenditure for the year to end April, mainly because of £11,788 Gift Aid received in March. There was a deficit of £1,671 for April, the first full month of lockdown, largely due to payment of £1,098 VAT on the stairlift, which has since been reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship scheme run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (received in May). We have a small deficit during lockdown, but have been saving on salaries, heating and lighting, etc. Our parish offer to the diocese of £3,600 per month has been maintained.

A Treasurers' conference with Diocesan Secretary and Finance Director on 13 May explained what was being done at the diocese level, with staff on furlough, all clergy remaining in post and the diocese drawing on its financial reserves. Diocese is making loans and grants available to the poorest parishes but expects "shared endeavour", with all parties drawing on their reserves.

7. Sub-committee reports:

Education

Education Committee had met via Zoom.

Rev'd Nicky expressed her thanks to the Messy Church team ahead of handover in September(?). The question was asked whether Messy Church could be done via Zoom. Rev'd Nicky explained that Messy

Church was about building relationships through personal contact and felt that it was “not a Zoom thing”. Ten adults and children from Messy Church had expressed interest in being baptised.

Deanery confirmation service on 21 May – two from St.Mary’s to be confirmed – had to be cancelled.

Lent Course was interrupted by lockdown but could be rerun in the autumn.

Fabric

The area round the May Memorial has been cleared. BS mentioned that Friends of Kent Churches are now able to consider an application for grant towards restoration but funding restoration would be difficult and a low priority since funds likely to be needed elsewhere.

One of the issues with the memorial has been vegetation damaging the structure; we should keep an eye on other memorials in the churchyard as early intervention could prevent or minimise problems.

Outreach & Fundraising

No events likely to take place for some time. The possibility of a quiz night via Zoom was mentioned – PCC agreed that “anything that brings people together would be good”. The Committee to discuss how this could be done and promoted widely.

World Mission

£89 raised from Lent lunches. Some donations had been received for Kibakwe.

8. Covid-19 situation update

Parish administration: Office computer has been moved from the vicarage to the Upper Room on a temporary basis to enable the administrator to use it and have access to internet. To be moved to the administrator’s home. In future, a laptop would give flexibility as to where (and when) to work.

It was recommended that the parish office should no longer be located in the vicarage, although access to the office printer is necessary, and it would be difficult to find an alternative home for it.

The wardens proposed that a mobile phone be purchased on a monthly contract for the parish administrator, which would facilitate working away from the vicarage. This was agreed, subject to confirmation. MM to email members to ask for their votes on the matter (Post-meeting note: 12 replies received, unanimously in favour).

Current guidance suggests churches might not be open fully until Christmas. St.Mary’s would follow guidance from the diocese on measures to be taken as churches are allowed to reopen.

9. Worship

The consensus is that streaming services has been very successful, meeting the needs of people outside the regular congregation (good outreach) and enabling people to view later as well as live. The wardens wished to canvas views of PCC members about streaming services – location (church v home), software (e.g. Facebook Live, Zoom), etc. – and would formulate questions to be circulated via email inviting responses as a basis for discussion with Rev’d Paul the following week.

Concern was expressed about the security of Zoom and its stability (can crash).

Members expressed their thanks and congratulations to Rev’d Nicky for live-streaming 58 services to date and counting. Members also thanked her for her work for church and village in a challenging period. Rev’d Nicky thanked the wardens, Rev. Christopher and parish administrator for their support.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Any other business

None.

12. Confidentiality

Nothing.

13. Dates of next PCC meetings:

Standing Committee, 15 June 2020

Full PCC, 20 July 2020

The meeting closed with prayer.

Signature

Date: