

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW**

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020**

at 8pm via video conference (Zoom)

**1. Opening prayer**

**2. Members present**

Rev. Paul White (PW), Michael Payne (MP), (NC), Barbara Smith (BS), Jenny Hopkins (JH), Martin Massy (MM, Secretary)

**3. Food Bank**

Demand for the food bank has fallen; still available at St.Mary's. it is possible that demand could pick up again in the summer/autumn as furlough ends and some people are subsequently made redundant. Supplies had included donations from boxes given by government to vulnerable people; it is believed these are now being supplied only to those at severe risk.

**4. Nicky Harvey**

Nicky has just started three months secondment to the group of parishes comprising West Peckham, Mereworth and Wateringbury.

**5. Finance**

MM, as Treasurer, noted that we had a small surplus in May, following a deficit in April. Reduced income from collections and events offset by savings particularly on salaries – no organist and reduced hours for the parish administrator.

**6. Churchyard**

A neighbour has complained about youths gathering in the churchyard and moving the bench from its place at the base of the tower. It was agreed that the bench would be temporarily put in church until it can be firmly secured in its proper place.

**7. Organist/choir director**

It was suggested that future arrangements should be discussed with the choir. A topic for next PCC meeting.

**8. Zoom security**

NC noted that it is possible for meetings to be "Zoom-bombed" with disturbing material, hence it is generally recommended that the password/link be made available only to those specifically invited. PW noted that meeting details for Sunday communion are emailed only to people on the church members' list, although they are encouraged to forward the email and details to others who might be interested. St.Mary's aims to be accessible to all, and PW is consequently not using the "waiting room" facility to filter out unknown people.

Concerning Zoom recording of Sunday service, it appears not to be possible to avoid showing other people's faces unless they individually choose not to share video of themselves. PW to give notice of recording during introduction to Sunday communion and to advise of that option.

**9. Reopening**

With the right kit it would be possible to open the church for private prayer in a week or so. PW suggested that St.Mary's could open for perhaps 1-2 hours after morning or evening prayer say twice per week, with PW in attendance to manage tracing requirements.

PW reported that there appears to be no great desire for collective worship until the Covid-19 situation is seen as "safe", in terms of both safety in the church setting and scale of infections more generally.

A risk assessment is required before reopening, to be led by BS. BS and PW to carry out the assessment, which will identify what needs to be done and by whom. Concern was expressed that the arrangements in church should appear as normal as possible.

Signature .....

Date: .....

**Date of next full PCC meeting 20 July 2020**