

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20 October 2020

at 8pm via Zoom

1. Opening prayer

The meeting opened with prayer.

2. Members present

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

Sharon Vanns (SV) (for item 3)

3. Food Bank

SV advised that there continues to be a need for the food bank, although it is a bit quieter at the moment. We don't have a regular list of people.

It was suggested and agreed that a minimum of, say, six parcels of basics should be kept in church and to fix a time and day – Wednesdays between 10.30 and 12.30 when the church is open anyway – when people could use the food bank (ad hoc access is impractical because it wastes time). There is a good stock of food in the choir vestry.

Vouchers for the food bank are based on ID and assessment of need. Shopping still needed to provide fresh food. The idea of vouchers enabling people to buy their own fresh food was felt to be difficult to organise.

The Primary School is aware of the food bank; are other institutions such as the nursery and school also aware? PW to draft a note about the food bank for the village newsletter.

4. APCM

PW to arrange for someone to operate Zoom for the APCM. The panel of vicar, churchwardens and secretary would sit by the nave altar.

Reports were available on the St.Mary's website.

NC suggested that the opportunity could be taken to encourage people to give via other means than cash or cheque, e.g. standing orders. MM to bring Standing Order and Gift Aid forms to the APCM.

5. Finance

Finances okay, with loss in income roughly offset by savings in expenditure. MM had prepared a draft budget for 2021, as a result of which it appeared that we would need to reduce our parish offer to the diocese in order to balance the budget, possibly by a few hundred pounds.

MM to give heads-up to Richard Williams, Finance Director for the diocese, that our parish offer for 2021 was likely to be below 2020. The parish offer will be finalised at November PCC meeting.

6. Worship

Forthcoming Services

All Souls Monday 2 November – service in church at 12 noon as per PW email.

Remembrance Sunday 8 November – Hadlow Parish Council has agreed 30 people may attend 11am service at the war memorial. Invitation-only. A shortened communion service 9.30am in church, with element of remembrance – laying of wreath and two minute silence.

Christmas – There would be no Carols in the Square or Christingle. Midnight Mass and Christmas morning (10am) services could be held. PW to discuss with Francis and Michael how a Carol Service might be adapted.

Would it be possible to stream the East Peckham Silver Band, who have restarted weekly practice? PW to contact them.

Music & worship

PW to discuss with Francis and Michael how it might be possible for the choir to return. Alternatively, use the sound system via tablet/iPad.

7. Safeguarding

No issues to report

8. COVID

Are we doing enough to keep in touch with all church members, especially those without email? It was noted that the “Pop-in” group run by Pat Large regularly contacts its members, and that the vicar and church members are also contacting people, but there is no central coordination.

Churches in Wales have been obliged to close during lockdown there, which is not the case in England under Tier 3 regulations. In the event of this area being designated Tier 3, the PCC would be asked to decide whether services should be suspended and the church closed.

9. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with prayer.

Date of next meeting: 16 November 2020 (full PCC)

Signature

Date: