

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 20 July 2020**

8pm via Zoom

**1. Opening prayer**

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

**2. Members present**

Rev'd Paul White (Rev'd Paul, Chair); (NC); Kirsty Finch (KF); Jack Good (JG); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Julia Miles (JM); Martin Massy (MM); Val Newell (VN); Kelly Parsons (KP); Michael Payne (MP); Barbara Smith (BS)

**Apologies for absence:** Francis Griffiths (FG); Katerina Nixon (KN); Lisa Porritt (LP);

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

No comments were raised in respect of the minutes of the May PCC and June Standing Committee meetings, which were then approved.

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

***Equipment for the Parish Administrator (summary of discussion):***

The mobile phone approved by PCC for use by the Parish Administrator has not yet been purchased.

The purchase of a laptop has not yet been authorised by PCC, which would depend on cost. Not urgent, however, and agreed that we should wait until John Speed is able to specify and quote for a basic unit.

***Events – when could they start?***

The Boot Fair planned for August has been cancelled as help is very dependent on people who would be vulnerable to infection by the coronavirus. Members encouraged the Outreach and Fund-raising Committee (OFC) to consider what events could be held and when, e.g. Christmas Fair outside. It was noted that the primary school would not hold its customary Christmas Fair. KF and MM to speak to Janice Massy, convenor of the OFC, about arranging a Zoom meeting of the committee.

***Café Plus:***

Can't do refreshments at the moment. Not clear who would run it.

***Contactless giving***

The iZettle unit could be used more; "staff" would need to have the app on their phones to work it. However, it was felt to be too early to push its use.

***Holiday at Home***

Holiday at Home cancelled for August but could be held, perhaps in shortened form, closer to Christmas. JH to plan with her team.

## 5. Treasurer's report

MM highlighted various points:

- Deficit of £814 in June, slightly more than May (£504) despite lower expenditure, largely due to lower salary costs. The figures do not include Gift Aid that may be claimed on regular giving.
- Regular giving by standing order (supplemented by individuals persisting with the envelope scheme) is 10% below budget, but holding up well. Grateful thanks to the many donors.
- Figures for the year up to the end of June are more positive, showing a surplus of over £6,000 owing to receipt of £11,788 of Gift Aid in March.
- We have maintained our parish offer to the diocese (£3,600/mth).

## 6. Sub-committee reports:

### ***Education***

Education Committee met via Zoom, focusing on how to do Messy Church. Rev'd Paul to work with the committee (convenor Cathy Brill) with goal of Messy Church in the autumn.

### ***Fabric***

Foot-operated hand sanitiser purchased.

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

August Boot Fair cancelled.

### ***World Mission***

Delhi Brotherhood Society

The Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS), which St.Mary's has supported for over 30 years, is having to cope with the effects of the coronavirus in India, spreading vital health messages about hand-washing and social distancing despite the challenges in the areas they work. They are also incurring extra costs for sanitiser, masks, etc. Difficult for us to have events to raise funds at the moment. It was proposed that St.Mary's should donate extra £100 from the General (unrestricted) fund. The DBS's need for funds to be mentioned in the weekly newsletter and Zoom coffee after the Sunday service.

Link to Hope

Under normal circumstances St.Mary's is a collection hub for shoeboxes to be distributed to families in Romania, Moldova, etc. This year, however, the view is that it will not be possible to make shoe boxes, e.g. difficult at school. Instead, people will be encouraged to donate items that would typically be included in a shoe box, which will be collected by BS and VN.

## 7. Worship

Current arrangements are two services per day Mon-Thu, using Facebook Live, plus 10 o'clock Zoom service on Sunday (and Zoom coffee at 11am).

KP and Francesca to lead worship on 2 and 9 August via live stream (Zoom) from church.

Church reopening for services on 6 Sep – carried by 9 votes to nil via email – still to be transmitted via Zoom. Maximum physical capacity with revised seating arrangement ~40 (for comparison, Rochester cathedral indicates 70 people). Need to ask people whether they will come – prioritise people who can't or don't use Zoom. PCC members to give names to Paul of those who would benefit from physical attendance.

POST-MEETING CLARIFICATION: The current plan is to re-open for the 10 o'clock only; situation for the 8 o'clock is under review.

Weekday communion services, held in the Lady Chapel, could have at least 3 people; to be advertised after Rev'd Paul return from family holiday.

Major clean to be undertaken in the week before 6 Sep (BS, KF) – to ensure church is presentable, rather than for health issues. MM to flush toilets and run taps. The kitchen will remain out of bounds.

**8. Music**

Antony Le Fleming has retired as organist / choir director– he will be greatly missed. Recruitment should not be rushed given uncertainty over timing of return to normality, but it could take a long time. The question is: what do we want?

In the short term Francis Griffiths and Michael Pound could provide entrance and exit music. For the longer term, should start by consulting the choir. The choral tradition at St.Mary's is unique locally, and members want to see it continue (unfortunately, subject to affordability). There is a case to be made, however, for introducing more modern music. Possible aim to appoint after Christmas. In the meantime, given restrictions on singing, could use CDs.

**9. APCM**

APCM to be held on 25 October. Number of Deanery Synod members is reduced from three to two. Five representatives of the laity (elected members) come to the end of their three-year terms, leaving just three on the PCC; the Church Representation Rules recommend 12. KF and JH indicated their willingness to be re-elected.

**10. Safeguarding**

Safeguarding guidelines say that we need a register of children going to Sunday Club or choir club, where they are away from parents/guardians. Parental consent forms?

**11. Correspondence**

No correspondence to report.

**12. Any other business**

Linda Wong is donating altar frontal and falls for autumn use in memory of her mother, Florence. They have a rural/autumnal theme and are expected to be ready this autumn.

Harvest to be simple and low-key; no band or school choir. Schoolchildren could be invited to do artwork. Publicise collection for the food bank. Flowers in church would be much appreciated – flower ladies.

**13. Confidentiality**

Donation of altar frontal and falls.

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

Full PCC: Monday 21 September 2020

The meeting closed with prayer.

Signature .....

Date: .....