

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

STANDING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 21 June 2021

at 7.30pm via Zoom

1. Opening prayer

The meeting started with prayer.

2. Members present

Rev. Paul White (PW), Michael Payne (MP), Steve Newell (SN), Jenny Hopkins (JH), Martin Massy (MM, Secretary)

Apologies for absence: John Speed (JS)

3. Anna Chaplaincy

JH to be commissioned as an Anna Chaplain by Bishop James on 22 June.

PLANS: Holiday from Home; opening the church on first and third Fridays; introducing "Life After Bereavement"; a Harvest or Christmas service for people with dementia.

Hadlow being listed as a dementia-friendly village.

4. Church opening

Opening Fridays as above from the first Friday in July.

5. Parish Vision Day

Weekends at West Malling are already booked up. Suggested date 25 September (post-meeting note – now **scheduled for Saturday 9 October**). Graham Wilkinson, Growth Enabler for the archdeaconry, to act as facilitator. All PCC members are encouraged to attend, and other members of the congregation to be invited (confirmed).

6. Finance

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Zoom call with Liz Mullins to take place 1 July at 7pm.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME: Rochester diocese plans to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme in 2022 and has asked for 10 parishes to take part in pre-launch trial involving 10 people from each parish. The PGS involves people giving via direct debit to PGS (e.g., switching from standing order to direct debit). PGS claims Gift Aid on our behalf and remits a monthly amount to St.Mary's including Gift Aid – benefits to cash flow and reduction in administration. It was agreed that MM should volunteer St.Mary's for the pre-launch trial.

CARD READER: MM was requested to obtain card reader with WiFi capability and help set up a giving page on St.Mary's website.

7. Broadband / IT

JS talking to other providers (contract currently with TalkTalk). Trooli won't install a new line, which is needed. SN mentioned Zen Internet, which sells to businesses and provides good service – PW to inform JS.

Typically, ~10-12 people attend Sunday service via Zoom. Speculation that another wave of COVID infections could happen in the autumn, leading to fewer people in church and greater demand for Zoom, reinforcing the argument for better audio-visual (AV) equipment. JS getting quotes.

8. Food Bank

Use of the food bank has dropped off; was about six families per week, now down to two.
Donations of food filling the shortages advertised in the pewsheets.

9. Safeguarding

JH raised the issue of safeguarding in context of Keira and her friend, who come in and out during a service. PW to remind Lisa that parents are responsible for their children when they are not being supervised in a service or club, and the children should not leave the church building.

10. Young People

Problem ensuring adequate staff ratios for Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots, especially with extra cleaning / sanitising required, hence restart planned for the autumn. Could there be a church BBQ in August?

11. Items for PCC

CHURCH CLEAN: Date for church clean to be set when circumstances better known post-19 July.

ECO CHURCH: MM to identify what it entails and to put proposal to PCC. PW to identify the diocesan lead.

START TIME FOR PCC MEETINGS: Should start time be brought forward to 7.30pm?

12. Confidentiality

Item 9.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Signature

Date:

Date of next full PCC meeting 19 July 2021