

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 19 July 2021

8pm via Zoom

1. Opening prayer

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

2. Members present

Rev'd Paul White (PW, Chair); Cathy Brill (CB); Melissa Crawshay-Williams (MW); Kirsty Finch (KF); Mike Harvey (MH); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Lee Kirk (LK); Janice Massy (JM), Martin Massy (MM); Katerina Plucknett-Nixon (KN); Steve Newell (SN); Val Newell (VN); Lisa Porritt (LP); John Speed (JS); Barry Wheeler (BW)

Apologies for absence: Richard Hopkinson, Michael Payne

3. Approval of the Minutes of: 17th May PCC and 21st June Standing Committee approved.

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

October date for opera-themed concert confirmed for 16th.

Format of future meetings:

- In person or zoom? The next meeting is in September – views were that we should have a zoom option as we are not yet clear of restrictions. 7.30pm start for future meetings. PW agreed **20th September at 7.30pm; the meeting would be on zoom.**
- Parish Vision Day 9 October – diary reminder to everyone

5. Treasurer's report

a. H1 2021

Surplus of over £8,000 for half year for unrestricted fund and designated fund. Income has been above expenditure except in June (maintenance).

PW raised upcoming Giving campaign and a webinar he had attended (incumbents and treasurers conference) where he heard that lots of parishes aren't paying what they would like, but the diocese is fairly relaxed and being reasonable. Some aren't paying at all and we are paying what we can.

b. Additional contribution to diocese for 2020 – postpone debate to year end?

MM proposed postponing debate about making additional contribution to the diocese to end of year once we are clearer on what's gone on this year. There was a discussion led by Mike Harvey about the contribution and whether we should in principle be trying to meet the quota in full. PW explained that the parish should only pay what it can afford and should have reserves policy. John Speed added that we are going in the right direction. **Decision:** to come back to this at the end of the year

c. Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

This is about a change in the system for parish giving: people would pay the Parish Giving Scheme instead of the church. They can add gift aid, and there is an option to increase the amount you give with inflation. The advantages are 1) cashflow – contributions received via direct debits 2) PGS do the

admin instead of the parish. The pre-launch will start later this year with the aim of being launched nationwide next year. **Action:** Please let Martin Massy know if you would like to be part of the trial – up to 10 people.

6. Worship – discussion

a. AV upgrade

John Speed trying to find better internet connection, but complications as it is a business line – Zen deal is £45 activation fee, £59 for new line and £41/month rental. There should be an option for fibre. Talktalk not very reliable. Zen has good customer service. PW – there is an investment of about £100 but is important. **Action:** John to activate with Zen internet.

On cameras – John S will call potential suppliers.

a. Response to relaxation of COVID regulations

Lee Kirk and others preferred caution as to return to church. MM suggested we could have a dozen in the choir. PW asked about caution level. Katerina Nixon felt it was important to bear in mind congregation needs. Steve felt that masks should not be mandated, don't check people in, do provide hand sanitiser. Asked whether we should socially distance people, he suggested people should use common sense. Janice M said we have a responsibility towards the more vulnerable and would prefer to maintain mask wearing. Steve said we should encourage caution, social distancing, mask wearing. John S said we should recommend caution. PW said to keep streaming services is also a recommendation.

Views were considered on taking communion: Steve thought it was too early to bring out the chalice.

Janice M asked about the position on funerals and weddings. PW said there were no restrictions on numbers and all we can offer is hand sanitisers, but on other matters it is a family decision. Janice also asked about renting the upper room. PW said the chairs would need to be moved out. John S said that people should have their own risk assessment. Janice suggested a check list. PW asked about after church service coffee – Lee explained that at the Oast Theatre they are offering individual sachets of milk and sugar, and the process does need to be thought through.

Cathy Brill said we should look to September for the tiny tots groups – it's difficult to keep the children apart. **PW summarised the discussion:** keep service as is, allow congregation to sing quietly. Then this would be reviewed in September.

7. Church opening, and big church clean

Lisa volunteered and would check on dates. Lee asked about timing for cleaning. 10.30-12.30 is the time on Wednesday and Friday.

PW asked about a date for a big church clean – there is a wedding on 30 July at 2pm. Kirsty volunteered to clean on Friday 23rd morning and also the morning on 30 July before the wedding. Val could do the morning on 30th. Lisa volunteered to come in on a Thursday. Val to co-ordinate.

8. Sub-committee and Deanery Synod reports

a. Future role of the World Mission committee

PW asked if anyone wanted to be a convenor of the committee, or it could be brought within the PCC. Decision: to be a PCC activity. **Action:** PCC will consider giving, and who to, on an annual basis.

9. Safeguarding

Cathy Brill, Safeguarding Officer: undertook a safer recruitment and people management course and it reinforced the fact that any new job in the church (those with vulnerable people – people helping with tiny tots and visiting), paid or unpaid, needs a proper recruitment process with job interviews. This

would not be retrospective. **To note** Cathy has a new email address parishsafeguardingofficer@stmaryshadlow.org.uk.

10. Food bank

PW noted that three or four families regularly used the food bank, and were very grateful; PW predicts this will be a needed ongoing facility.

10. Us and the environment

a. Climate Sunday? MM said it would be for us to set a date. 5th September there is a national climate event ahead of COP26 in Glasgow.

11. Correspondence

No correspondence to report on.

12. Any other business

Janice M raised the fact that towels have not been replenished and it would be good to advertise for a housekeeper. PW suggested that churchwarden could check. John agreed to check on Sunday.

25/26th September Scarecrow trail – Kirsty is organising and asked for help. PW asked for text and a pdf copy of the poster; he would help promote the event.

Jenny plans to organise Holiday At Home in September.

13. Dates of next PCC meetings:

- Full PCC Monday, 20 September
- Standing Committee Monday, 18 October

17. Closing prayer

Signature

Date: