

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW**

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 15 February 2022**

at 7.30pm via Zoom

**1. Opening prayer and welcome**

**2. Members present**

Michael Payne (MP), (NC), John Speed (JS, Chair), Jenny Hopkins (JH), Martin Massy (MM, Secretary)

**3. Approval of meeting minutes**

The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on 11 January 2022 were approved unanimously. JS JS to print and sign.

**4. Interregnum update**

***Worship***

Attendance last Sunday about 47 in person plus seven online.

No service is planned for Ash Wednesday (2 March) – JS to find out about deanery service

A baptism to take place on 6 March

Mothering Sunday Rev. Sheila Perkins

Palm Sunday Archdeacon Sharon

Maundy Thursday Rev. Roger Bishop

Good Friday Rev. Christopher Miles talking to St.Peter's about the Walk of Witness

Fifth Sundays to be family services. Is simplified liturgy available for all-age communion services?

The Lent Course needs leaders – apparently just to lead through the book and online videos.

Will Pierce may be able to help with music, following Francis's bike accident.

***Covid arrangements***

PCC

Theme = back to normal, with seating rearranged to pre-pandemic layout and masks optional, subject to ratification by PCC.

Celebrants may choose nave or high altar for Eucharist or to give communion

Discussion about separate areas for masked/unmasked or greater social distancing – PCC to decide.

Bibles will be made available at the welcome table.

***Church members who do not attend in person***

Send card to people who don't (yet) come to church – Easter message plus invitation to the APCM and note about Electoral Roll update – MP to draft.

MP

***Technology***

Vicarage telephone is working

**Vicarage**

NC to visit and advise on requirements for gardening. NC

**Appointment process**

JS & MP meeting the Archdeacon on Wednesday. She and the Area Dean will attend the 21 Feb PCC meeting. NC is keen that the parish profile should include PCC commitment to the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing – NC to draft a short note summarising its implications. JS, MP  
NC

**PCC meeting arrangements**

It was agreed that the PCC would continue to meet downstairs in church. The 18 April PCC meeting is cancelled, falling less than one week before the APCM (24 April).

**5. Finance**

Figures for January not yet available, but positive cashflow for the month. 2021 accounts being prepared; we are very grateful for help from David and Gabrielle Lear, which is invaluable. David Stephens has agreed to act again as Independent Examiner.

**6. AOB**

**Saturday Coffee 12 Feb:** It was disappointing to hear that only two PCC members turned up to help.

**Churchyard:** It was proposed to plant a tree to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – PCC to agree; PCC would need Parish Council agreement (consistent with the HPC Environmental Plan?). A working party to clear the churchyard had been proposed by the Fabric Committee.

**Learning from others:** It would be good for people at least across the deanery to exchange ideas and maybe pool resources. St.Mary’s could take the lead and invite, e.g. people responsible for youth to Hadlow.

**Parish profile:** It would be important for the new incumbent to promote lay ministry to support the mission to increase membership. MP

**Lighting:** Members agreed that MM propose to the PCC to contract CES to design a new lighting scheme. Cost £1995 + VAT (should be possible to reclaim the VAT through the Listed Places of Worship scheme). ERCO Lighting has not responded despite follow-up, so this would be single tender. Note that the cost of design would be only a small part of the total cost – supply and installation would be tendered competitively. MM

**Printer:** JS to arrange meeting with ASL to discuss options for the printer – the lease runs out in March. JS

Signature .....

Date: .....

**Date of next full PCC meeting 21 February 2022**