

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022, 7.30pm**

**1. Opening prayer**

Prayers, welcome and compline were said.

**Members present:** John Speed (JS), Mike Harvey (MH), Jenny Hopkins (JH); Janice Massy (JM), Martin Massy (MM); Lee Kirk (LK), Barry Wheeler (BW), Richard Hopkinson (RH), Lea Menday-Kolozsvari (LMK), Lisa Porritt (LP), Michael Payne (MP), Katerina Nixon (KN), (NC), Kirsty Finch (KF)

**Apologies for absence:** Melissa Crawshay-Williams (MCW) Cathy Brill (CB), Iris Shaw (IS)

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 16 May 2022**

Minutes were approved.

**3. Matters Arising (not otherwise covered by the agenda)**

None

**4. Ministry Update:**

**a.** Anna Chaplain Update: JH and JM to provide a lunch this Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) to say thank you to Café Plus for their brilliant Jubilee bunting.

There will be a tribute to one of the ladies who has recently died, just before the lunch.

JH will hold meeting next week to plan Holiday at Home (1/2<sup>nd</sup> August). So far 11 people have booked to take part.

JH has also been visiting local people who have recently had COVID or surgery.

**b.** Sunday Services and COVID restrictions: Services will continue at the moment without using the common cup.

The rota for visiting clergy is filled until October.

It was noted that it was nice to have different people taking the services.

Bishop Simon is to take a service at some point in October.

**c.** Harvest Plans/Food Bank: Harvest Sunday is 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Outreach and Fundraising will organise a Harvest Supper. Date to be arranged.

Much discussion was had about whether to distribute Harvest Food Boxes to people in the village. However, it was decided that this could possibly inadvertently cause offence and that maybe flowers would be a better idea instead.

It has been suggested that the Food bank should possibly be discontinued as currently only 2 families are using it. Much discussion took place, including whether an alternative venue (Scout hut or village hall) might encourage more people to use it. However it was decided that the venue should remain at church.

NC suggested that people may prefer to make a small donation/subscription for a bag of food. NC will find out more about this subscription model and how it is used at other food banks.

MH will ask Mel (Parish Clerk) if she is happy to act as a conduit for the food bank. Although it was stressed that she must not be asked/allowed to run it.

MM informed us that there is currently £2737 in the restricted account earmarked for the food bank.

Self-referrals are still taking place as are referrals from school and other professionals.

It was agreed that there needs to be a greater push to advertise the food bank, especially moving into the Autumn and Winter months when the cost of living crisis will become increasingly hard for many people as energy prices rise.

These were the points moving forward:

- Report to Alison Taylor that we intend to increase publicity and then review the future of the food bank again at a later date.
- Food Bank to remain at church.
- JM to do a poster. Poster to be displayed on boards outside church and hopefully on village noticeboard.
- LP to take a poster to the dentist
- KN to take a poster to Golden Green
- MH and JM to speak to Mel about placing a poster in the GP surgery.
- LK to find out from East Peckham how they do their food bank.
- NC to investigate subscription model.
- Use Harvest to refocus people's minds on the availability of the food bank.

d. Church Opening: IS, MH, Linda Wong (LW), JM, MM, BW, LP and JS (Thursday evenings only) have all kindly volunteered to be on a rota to open and close the church each day.

e. Keyholder register: JM reported that there are currently 30 (ish) key holders.

KN will ask Sue Mason for her keys

JH will ask the Critchleys.

## 5. Subcommittee reports

a. Fabric: MM advised that CES have come up with a complete lighting design (approx. £40K budget cost) but we need to prioritise what needs doing first ie. high level lighting in the Nave. The committee will meet on 22 June to discuss.

The committee are also investigating the possibility of taking advantage of grants being available for security.

**b. Fundraising and Outreach:** JM advised about the forthcoming Cream tea in the vicarage this Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm. JM to send out an email asking for help setting up/clearing away and serving.

JS thanked the team for a successful Proms night.

PCC approved the donation of £400 to Hospice in the Weald.

JS advised that the 'Thank You Party' will now take place in September

**c. Education:** Messy church to be cancelled this Sunday due to illness and shortage of volunteers. Note to be put on gate on Sunday.

Possibility of a Film Night in November.

**d. Mission/Food Bank:** See notes under Harvest.

## **6. Finance Update**

MM explained that up to the end of May there was a surplus of £4500.

Regular giving has increased more than expected.

Not paying Council Tax on the Vicarage has also saved £1400.

A few more people have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme.

Our electricity contract has been terminated; we're now on a variable rate. Now is not the time for looking for better deals.

## **7. Deanery Synod Update:**

No update at the moment

## **8. Interregnum Update:**

**a. Recruitment Update:** JS outlined new timescale as no candidates were shortlisted from previous applicants

Advert went out in Church Times on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> July

11<sup>th</sup> July shortlisting

Interviews 21<sup>st</sup> July

**b. Vicarage Update:** MP advised that the Diocese has agreed to pay for sanding the floor and the installation of a new alarm system.

## **9. Safeguarding**

Reminder to PCC to complete all online training...especially the Domestic Abuse training.

**10. AOB:**

JS informed us that Christopher will be celebrating 60 years of Ministry on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Christopher has requested to lead the service.

- NC to liaise with Julia about getting a cake to celebrate.
- JH to buy flowers for Julia.
- LP to get large card for all to sign.
- All these things to be covered by donations.

MM reminded people to sign the Financial Liability form

MP advised that if confidential matters were being discussed then it was important that only PCC members were to be present.

PCC offered thanks to both JS and MP for all their hard work throughout the interregnum.

**11. Date of next meeting: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**12. Confidentiality: No matters arising**

The meeting closed at 9pm with compline prayers.

Signed .....

Date .....