

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 21 March 2022, 7.30pm

1. Opening prayer

Prayers, welcome and compline were said. Psalm 8 and Matthew 7, 7-11, were read by Revd Andrew Axon.

2. Members present

Michael Payne (MP); John Speed (JS); (NC); Melissa Crawshay-Williams (MCW); Mike Harvey (MH); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Janice Massy (JM), Martin Massy (MM); Cathy Brill (CB), Barry Wheeler (BW), Lee Kirk (LK), Richard Hopkinson (RH), Kirsty Finch (KF), Lisa Porritt (LP). Andrew Axon (AA).

Apologies for absence: Kelly Parsons, Katerina Plucknett-Nixon

3. Approval of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 21 February 2022

Minutes were approved.

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

Draft letter to all members on the electoral roll about Easter and progress on incumbent process. AA suggested MP should circulate by email after the meeting.

RH asked about making the vicarage available for Ukrainian refugees. AA said he would ask at the Bishop's Council, but this house may have to be kept ready for the new vicar.

5. Section 11 meeting of the PCC under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, revised April 2021:

a. preparing a statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish (the parish profile);

AA said today we will be approving stages in the process of getting a new priest.

MP thanked AA for involvement in preparing the parish profile. AA thanked and praised the team involved in creating the parish profile.

JM offered some corrections: there would be four weddings this year, the newsletter is a village newsletter (the parish council is not involved), there are separate teams for home visiting and communion, the organ is one of the finest, the monthly market is now a coffee morning – not sure if the market should be mentioned.

CB said Coffee Pots meets throughout the year (not just term time) serving new mums and enables children to come back during the holidays. There should be a line about safeguarding in the main body of the leaflet.

BW noted that God is not mentioned, nor the Lord and that the potential vicar might be keen to know that there are people who pray for him. NC suggested prayer for the vicar could come under care and wellbeing. AA noted the clergy covenant could be weaponised, however we could use 'committed' to refer to the covenant.

NC asked for the wording around the Clergy Care and Wellbeing Covenant to be modified so that it is clear that we as a PCC support this.

MM asked how the parish profile would be finalised. JS said that Archdeacon Sharon and the Bishop could add something in and then approve.

NC suggested adding captions to the photos, ie Christmas Carol Service, Knitters Group. MM and others agreed. JS will ensure that clear reference is made to the photos in the descriptions.

It was agreed that these amendments would be taken to the editorial committee to proceed with the parish profile publication.

b. appointing two lay members of the council to act as representatives of the council in connection with the selection of an incumbent;

LP, CB and JS were nominated as candidates to act as representatives of the council to select the incumbent. A vote took place among those present, and the candidates elected were: JS and CB.

c. deciding whether to request the bishop to consider advertising the vacancy;

AA said we had all agreed previously that we want the advert on the diocese website and the church Pathways website. The Bishop and Archdeacon will be asked to add a comment to the parish profile.

AA outlined the schedule leading to 4 or 5 candidates being asked for interview. Once an offer is made, there is a safeguarding process; they meet the Bishop and he/she will approve/or not the appointment. Then the appointment is announced and there will be a licensing service. Likely to be a late summer licensing, possibly in September. The interview panel consists of the Archdeacon, the two parish reps, and the Bishop's representative, ie the Archdeacon.

NC asked whether the interview was standardised and could the parish reps ask specific questions – questions are drawn up in advance and the PCC can think of areas to ask questions ie what is important and is in the parish profile – shortlist questions can be brought to the interviewing committee.

6. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), to be held Sunday 24 April 2022

a. Approval of the 2021 Annual Report & Accounts

Approved.

b. Electoral Roll

Eight additions and four taken off. 139 in total now.

c. Vacancies

MM said we only had one elected to the deanery synod.;MH will stand for election. LP has served her three years as elected representative of the laity. KP and NC also to come off the APC (co-opted 2021-22). MP asked LP if she would be happy to stand again – he would nominate her if so - and LP agreed. The vacancies will be advertised shortly by MM.

7. Interregnum update

a. Worship

Mothering Sunday is this Sunday, 27 March.

Sunday 8am services are irregular; at times no one attends. JS proposed holding the 8am services every other week. Everyone was in favour.

Wafer intinction – JS has been leaving decision up to clergy. Some people do not want wine. Everyone happy with current approach.

KP asked about evening compline as a lay-led service, hoping that others would lead – this would be once/week in the evening during the week. Everyone approved.

Views about the services were shared. There was approval for the services and variety of visiting clergy, special gratitude was expressed about Christopher.

b. Vicarage

MP updated on electrical upgrades, new boiler, decorations have started, alarm to be serviced/ upgraded, garden to be tidied. AA asked about Wednesday morning – he would like to see the vicarage and MP agreed. LK asked what else was left to do – MP said that all the items he listed. MP said that the parish should be planning to redecorate one room/year and make reserves with this in mind. AA said the timings might not line up and there may be a gap. The curate's house is still occupied by someone training to be an ordinand.

c. Church opening

JS would like the church opened; the problem is the food bank because people take things and this needs to be avoided. Need support from PCC to open and close the church. LP said a friend of hers uses the food bank and needs access weekly rather than fortnightly. JS said the facility is still available even though the church isn't always open. MP said there are now pre-bagged supplies, and emergency supplies are available through the primary school; anyone who needs supplies more frequently and anyone in need can call the office and be served. AA asked how many used the service, MP said about six people.

JS asked for help to get lockable doors on cupboards. He will put out a notice on Facebook.

MH, MM and LP would be happy to unlock and close the church. JS said candles and valuables are locked away for security, as required by the insurance.

8. Treasurer's report

MM said the bookkeeper has just sent in the figures for February. Slight surplus each month so far – bill for decoration yet to come, and gift aid to come. AA thanked for this work.

9. Sub-committees and Deanery Synod – reports to be circulated beforehand

MH said they met by Zoom. Revd Jane Winter, spoke about 'living a life of faith' and a brief overview of LGBT issues. AA said sexuality and gender will be discussed at Synod.

Education: books for young children arriving on Wednesday, paid for by the diocese.

Fabric: PPC had previously approved CES to design lighting scheme – on 30th there will be a kick off meeting the company. JS asked about lighting the organ, and MM said this has been discussed.

Outreach and Fundraising: no meeting held but May Bank Holiday boot fair should be discussed – it is looking doubtful because of work in the field. Proms and Pimms Concert will be discussed at a meeting tomorrow.

- LS suggested a bingo night – to be discussed at the meeting.
- JS thanked JM and team for organising the Quiz Night.

10. Safeguarding

CB attended another zoom meeting last week – interesting suggestion that new PCC members recruited should be made aware of the training required, e.g., domestic abuse. Non-compliance is also to be addressed – zero tolerance, safeguarding training is required – if training not undertaken, the person would not be allowed to continue in the role.

11. Correspondence

JS said Hadlow rural school want a service at Easter; 9am on 28th April.

12. Any other business

a. Dementia Awareness Month

JH will be knitting blue squares to hang on trees in month of May – other initiatives being planned with blue theme colour.

b. Memorial service

JS said this was usually held in May – suggested holding over until autumn with new incumbent.

JH was holding a gathering with tea and scones on Wednesday this week, the National Day of Reflection for the pandemic, to remember and pray for memories of those who died.

13. Confidentiality

Nothing.

14. Dates of next PCC meetings:

Standing Committee Tuesday, 12 April

Standing Committee Tuesday, 3 May

Full PCC Monday, 16 May

15. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with compline and prayers from AA.

Signature

Date: