

St Mary's Church, Hitcham

PCC Minutes

7.30pm on Thursday 20th July 2023

PCC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

Chris Berry, Carol L Bader, Ray Woodlock, David Ross-Hamilton, Anne-Marie Hill, Debbie Rainer

GUEST: Christine Webb (CW)

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	Welcome	Chris Berry welcomed all. The role of meeting Chairman will be shared by the church wardens at alternate meetings.	
2.	Safeguarding and pastoral concerns	No safeguarding concerns have been raised by Sarah Naylor-Hagger. Mary Howarth has now moved away and pastoral concerns should be raised with the wardens. We also have the support of Alan B and Jeremy. Pastoral concerns were shared amongst the PCC in confidence.	
3.	Apologies	Josie Heffernan, Jo Cork, Susan Dickens, Sonia Hart (guest)	
4.	Minutes 27.4.23	CLB, proposed approval, AMH seconded. To be posted to the website.	DR
5.	PCC roles and responsibilities	Susan Dickens was welcomed in her absence. Christine Webb is considering joining the PCC. Latest info from Diocese was shared with all https://www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/trusteeship/ The Trustee Booklet has been read by all members present.	
6.	PCC standing committee	If there is an issue between PCC meetings, these can be taken to the Standing Committee, membership to be CB, CLB, DRH, DR. This was proposed by AMH and seconded by RW. Agreed by all.	
7.	2023 – 24 meeting dates	The September meeting date has been changed to 28.9.23. Further dates were set as 9.11.23, 11.1.24, 29.2.24, 25.4.24, APCM Sunday 19.5.24, 11.7.24	
8.	Policy update	IT and Social Media policy should be rewritten as we are no longer a Hybrid Church. We are also no longer live streaming.	DR DRH
9.	Mission Giving 2021 and 2022	2021 giving has now taken place as per the agreed allocation. £1,000 that had been allocated to Vicar Discretionary Fund and not spent will be transferred to Clergy Discretionary Fund. Total in that fund will now be £1750. CLB advised caution about the Kett's Fund expenditure. The 2022 recommendations for Mission Giving were shared. DR proposed, RW seconded, all agreed.	
10.	Quinquennial Inspection Report 2023 – copy available from wardens	This architectural inspection took place in April 2023 and made six recommendations. Discussion took place about actions to be taken which include smoothing a step to improve accessibility. CB getting quotes for 1 and 2 (plus a sliding door for the toilet), CB will fix 3, CLB will get quotes for 4 and 5, CB plus one to fix item 6.	CB CLB
11.	Finance and Parish Share 2023	The deficit from Jan – May 2023 is £7671. The Finance Committee recommended that we do not increase our Parish Share at this stage (review at the year end). £3000 for the Audio desk was incorrectly allocated against subscriptions. An anonymous donation of £18,000 was made towards reducing the deficit. Harsh Singh to be asked for investment advice in keeping with church values. CLB reported that planned giving has reduced, unplanned giving has increased. CB to investigate the increase in church expenses. DR asked if any costs are incurred by the vicarage (currently being prepared for rental). CB says costs are covered by the Diocese. An additional £1250 has been anonymously donated towards worship expenses. The following information was shared:	CB

		<p>In Restricted Funds as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:</p> <p>Ketts Fund (<i>for training</i>) - £5,999 Clergy Discretionary Fund (<i>for clergy use</i>) - £750 + £1,000 from 2021 Mission Giving = £1,750 New Wine (<i>provide support towards New Wine attendance</i>) - £500 Alpha (<i>to use towards costs of Alpha</i>) - £233</p>	
12.	Fundraising	AMH reported that a craft group may be on offer for September. This will bring in a small sum as well as providing fellowship. The King's Coronation tea party raised £55. It would be a good idea to have a craft fayre in the autumn, leadership responsibility to be confirmed.	AMH
13.	Recruitment of Vicar	Area Dean Janet Binns has recently been part of a recruitment meeting with two Arch Deacons. We are covered for service leadership until the end of September other than two of the August (13 th and 27 th) services that are missing a vicar. In addition, three of the Wednesday services need cover. CB trying to source cover.	CB
14.	Strategy Away Day 10.6.23	A number of actions for now and in the future were shared with the congregation on 9 th July. More informal prayer to take place in the autumn; we are a gathered church and share leadership, this impacts on our approach; promote the small groups more; invite back those who have left (30 th July service to host a reunion). CLB empathised the importance of carrying through proposals.	All
15.	Worship	More responses to CLB's survey to be encouraged. The survey included a question about an occasional Sunday afternoon service, responses so far indicate enthusiasm. BFG will be back once a month on the first Sunday of the month. This to be publicised shortly. DRH asked if edited highlights from services will be put online. This is likely to start in September. Further discussion took place about website presence of recordings. Jeremy is booked to do Midnight Mass.	All DRH CLB
16.	Deanery Synod	AMH reported on the most recent meeting in Datchet. A number of talks were given, including refugee support. Janet Binns wants pictures of the people (as opposed to the buildings) added to the deanery website.	
17.	Inclusive Church	<p>Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision. Joining this network would confirm we believe in an inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. This action has the potential to attract applicants to our vacancy who share this vision. CLB talked to both congregations about this proposal on Sunday 16th July. Janet Binns was present and commended our efforts to become part of Inclusive Church and wished us well in our endeavours.</p> <p>A further discussion took place amongst the PCC and comments from JH and JC were included. There is no expectation of increased financial expense should we join, other than a donation of our choosing to Inclusive Church. We are currently improving church accessibility for those with physical disability. We are ahead of St Peter's in that we provide a hearing loop for those wearing aids. RW said we are already a welcoming church that supports and serves without discrimination whenever we can. CLB shared that although many thought we were already inclusive and always had been, that it was not always the case and although not public knowledge at the time, we have lost members of the congregation because</p>	

		of it. A final vote will take place at the September PCC meeting. Meanwhile, PCC and congregation questions about Inclusive Church to be given to CB and CLB.	
18.	Any other business	CB said many churches have reverted to drinking from the chalice instead of tincturing. Discretion about who will drink from the cup would need to happen, as well as respecting the wishes of the person officiating. We should use a silver cup, not porcelain. To go on the next agenda. If a PCC member is unable to attend a meeting, apologies and any comments to be sent to the PCC Secretary, not circulated to the group. DR as secretary confirmed this is best practice.	All
19.	Next meeting	28.9.23	
20.	Prayer and end	The meeting finished at 9:30 with a prayer.	