

St Mary's Church, Hitcham

PCC Minutes

7.30pm on Thursday 28th September 2023

PCC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

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

GUESTS: Sonia Hart, Christine Webb

Chaired by Carol Bader (CLB)

NO.	TOPIC	DETAILS	ACTION
1.	Welcome	CLB started with a prayer.	
2.	Safeguarding and pastoral concerns	CB shared some news about JW and SW. Rev JM has been supporting the family. Additional support was discussed. No other pastoral concerns.	
3.	Apologies	Josie Heffernan, Susan Dickins	
4.	Minutes 20.7.23	What was in the restricted funds? CB has since supplied this information and it has been added to the final minutes for 20.7.23 What were the church expenses? Our musician's, Jeremy's and Alan B's expenses are included; without these our expenses would be lower. CB proposed approval of the minutes with the amends included, DRH seconded. Carried unanimously.	DR to amend
5.	PCC roles and responsibilities	Christine Webb and Sonia Hart have agreed to join the PCC; DR proposed and CLB seconded, carried unanimously. Paperwork, DBS and safeguarding to be completed. SH responsible for the photocopier contract and to review if necessary. SD has a grant application strength and should be encourage to pursue this.	DR, JC, CW, SH
6.	Policy update	IT and Social Media draft carried forward to next meeting.	DR, DRH
7.	Lead services of public worship with Communion by Extension	DRH is pursuing this approved ministry and will undergo training and appropriate discussions with the Area Dean. The process can take a while. DR asked for clarification about the role which was explained; SH also checked her continuing role giving communion by extension and it was confirmed this remains the same. The adjusted wording of the service was explained. All agreed to this and thanked DRH for his commitment. CB to talk to Rev Janet Binns.	DRH CB
8.	Altar/clavinova	There has been a change of position, driven by a desire to bring the worship closer to the congregation. JC mentioned about the microphone wires, etc. These can be adjusted if necessary. Discussion took place about the position of the lectern, flowers and candles. JB confirmed this question and action could be asked. No concerns raised.	
9.	Finance	CB has asked Harsh Singh for advice about investment, HS is not qualified to make recommendations. Discussion took place about options. CB to investigate, including liaising with Jo Trobridge. CB has obtained two quotes for repairing the floor tiles and relaying entrance step. PCC agreed to the lower quote from C A Brickwork. HS will present the figures up to the end of October for the agenda at our next meeting. The finance committee will meet beforehand.	CB DRH
10.	Fundraising	JH absent so unable to give an update. The new craft club is alternate Tuesday evenings in the Parish Room, led by AMH. Sunday 10 th December will be a Christmas Craft Fayre at 1pm organised by Angela Berry, the carol service will be the following week. Stall holders to be encouraged/invited.	All

		CLB has organised advertising in Round and About. All contributions welcome.	
11.	Recruitment of Vicar	The wardens were delighted to share that we have been allocated a .5 share in a vicar. Our parish share should be adjusted accordingly. Asa Humphreys, the Parish Development Officer, will support the creation of our Parish Profile. This will be shared with the PCC by the end of December ahead of a number of meetings leading to interview and appointment, hopefully by Easter 2024. CLB emphasised the importance of prayer. We have been exploring different ways to pray that encourage a range of participation. Two members of the PCC will be appointed to the interview panel.	
12.	Strategy Away Day	Actions arising from this event include a range of prayer. Other aspects will be reviewed and added to the Parish Profile.	
13.	Worship	Wine from the chalice will continue to be tintured and reviewed in the new year. 22 nd October and 5 th November we have no vicar for 11am, morning prayer instead. 19 th November CLB leading, Simon Price to preach on safeguarding at 9am. Christingle proposed for 3 rd December, Nativity the 10 th December at 9am lead by AB 17 th December the Bishop of Buckingham is leading.	CB CLB
14.	Deanery Synod	JC and AMH gave feedback from last week's meeting. A new lay chairman was elected. Other re-elections took place. Youth work was on the agenda.	
15.	Inclusive Church	AMH shared insight into a book she is reading about us all being followers of Christ. CLB and others advocated for Inclusive Church and a balanced discussion took place. A voluntary donation is requested by the charity Inclusive Church and useful resources are supplied, including speakers if required. CB proposed the resolution 'We believe in inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on the grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.' DR seconded and a vote took place. JC, DRH, CW felt being inclusive did not need an official agreement. Five voted for; three against, two absent. This majority vote means that CB will progress the paperwork for becoming an Inclusive Church and the church family will be kept updated about progress.	CB
16.	Ashes internment	There has been an application to bury ashes of a bell ringer from 60 years ago, plus their partner when the time comes. The request was declined in accordance with our Internment Policy.	
17.	Any other business	RW shared a Kitchen and Food guidance to be reviewed before the next meeting. DRH checked all were happy with the online service adjustment. A vacancy for a cleaner is anticipated and a salary of £12 per hour was agreed.	
18.	Next meeting	9 th November 2023	
19.	Prayer and end	CB and RW concluded with a prayer.	