

Minutes for the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port

Tuesday 14th September 2021 7pm in Church House

Those present: Harold Clarke (HC), Nicki Edwards (NE), Pat Elliott (PE), Ben Grundy (BG), Jacquie Hall (JH), Robert Hall (RH), Trevor John (TJ), Linda Mumford (LM), Richard Redman (RR), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Susan Wales (SW)

Apologies had been received from Mary Clothier (MC), Elaine Ennis-Bunt (EE-B), June Goodman, Lyn Harrison (LH), Amanda MacKintosh (AM) and Barbara Tindale (BT)

The meeting opened in prayer, led by PE.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 –The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record, with no amendments, and signed by NE.

Matters arising from minutes – Bank account: NE will replace Rev. Godfrey as one of the signatories; Ensor graves: SW had met with Mr and Mrs Ensor and a local stonemason, and will be advised when the work is to be commenced on his family graves; Prankerds Charity: on-going - **RH to action** in due course; Vicarage Garden: – HC had approached Mark Pattemore with a view to keeping the garden tidy during the Vacancy period; Benefice office administrator: in abeyance at the moment until such times as a new incumbent is appointed; Milborne Wick: the cream tea event at the end of August was very well attended and raised over £1000; Ven House visit: £480 was raised, which was shared between the PCC and primary school; Rev. Sarah's licencing: – some members of the Benefice were able to attend and reported that she was delighted with the generous gifts she had received.

Finance update - RH provided a brief verbal report on the current situation (see attached document appended to the minutes). There had been no significant financial outlay since the last meeting, and that giving and fundraising have thankfully started to increase. The Fete raised £2746, £500 had been received from the estate of Pam Hole, £1000 in donations from Bob Lock's memorial service had been received, and Mike Fisher had sent a £200 donation which had been raised from another Ven garden visit. **Action SW to send written thanks.**

Fabric update - JH had nothing of note to report and is awaiting tradesmen to contact post Covid issues. The Parish Council has provided a new mower, and Jill Lock has donated a ride on mower.

Vacancy -- A pre-vacancy meeting has been held. A pre Section 11 meeting, where all the PCCs meet with diocesan officials will follow, but at the time of the meeting, it was not known the date. It had been made quite clear to NE that the Diocese anticipates that this will be a Vacancy for at least a year. The Diocesan surveyor has visited the Vicarage, and, prior to her departure, Rev, Sarah had already apprised the Arch Deacon of problems with the building, so much so that potential candidates are likely to be put off wanting to live in it. It is estimated that between £70K and £100K needs spending to bring the house up to scratch. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of finding another suitable building in the village within the time period of the Vacancy. GS expressed concern about the amount of work falling on the Church Wardens' shoulders, and suggested that at some point, the workload could be shared. As a PCC, we remain grateful to the retired clergy and lay people for covering all services.

St John's Cottage - Ronnie and June Goodman have been offered a property owned by the Commonalty charity, and will vacate St John's Cottage before Christmas. Thankfully they are happy to continue with their Verger duties, for which the PCC is most grateful. St John's cottage will be let, probably through Dorset Lettings, subject to an electrical survey and EPC rating, the rental fee being used to pay the Goodmans' salary. BG proposed, and TJ seconded, that Ronnie and June continue in their present employed position in St John's. All were in favour.

Safeguarding – NE is to chase up people to do necessary training. Becky Ayers-Harris is to be our Clergy Benefice Safeguarding Rep. during the Vacancy.

Health and Safety - The current Covid precautions were reviewed viz: masks should still be worn whilst moving around the church building, although these can be removed once seated; masks are

unnecessary for [quiet] singing, with the amount of singing during services still minimal; hymn books are now being used; hand sanitising will still be a requirement; Holy Communion will continue to be received in one kind only; the collection will still not be taken during the service. As some people have asked if they can now have a printed version of Pew News, Jacquie is to ask the congregation if this is a more general request/requirement. HC reported that the Goathill congregation is managing to socially distance with those attending.

Any other business:

- **Gift Day** - 9th October – featuring a display of ‘Lockdown achievements’. Stewards will be required throughout the day. The Bellringers will run a ‘Pop-up’ coffee shop in the morning, and the Events committee will serve tea in the afternoon.
- **Foodshare** - JH reported that 7 or 8 families are now utilising this. The Co-op has proposed that Harvest donations should go to Food Share too. Hygiene products are also much required.
- **Christmas Day** - An enquiry to use Church House on Christmas Day for a private lunch had been received, and it was decided that the church would not need to use the space during the morning service.
- **2022 Church Fete** - 23rd July
- **Pastoral visiting** – it can be arranged for retired clergy to visit people in their own homes, but the services of the Chaplain should be used if a visit in hospital is required.
- **Parking** – JH has asked to ensure the space in front of the Vicarage garage be left clear on Sunday mornings for clergy.
- **Churchyard** - SW had been approached by Sarah Warren of the MP Climate and Action Group, asking if the church had considered allowing sections of the churchyard to remain un-mown to encourage more biodiversity. Coincidentally, the Diocese, in conjunction with Somerset Wildlife Trust, has recently started a similar initiative. There have already been some Zoom introductory sessions (available through the website), the next one due on Wednesday 22nd September, free for anyone interested to subscribe. <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/wilder-churches> SW advised that both Sarah Warren, and a volunteer, Adam Gale, would be happy to come and chat to the PCC about how to manage a project like this at St John’s. JH suggested that they be invited to address the next meeting regarding the way forward. SW will seek the views of the Parish Council.

Date of next meeting(s) - Tuesday 9th November; Tuesday 11th January (BG to book)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.19pm