

**Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on
Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7.00 pm in Church House**

Those present – Chair: Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke, Pat Elliott (PE) Jacquie Hall (JH), Robert Hall (RH), Amanda Mackintosh Linda Mumford (LM), Richard Redman (RR), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Susan Wales (SW)

Apologies - Elaine Ennis-Bunt (EE-B), Mary Clothier (MC), June Goodman (JG) David Grant (DG), Trevor John (TJ),

PE opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2022 – these had been previously circulated and were signed as a true record with one amendment: Mark Pattemore is only looking after the grass in the garden of the Vicarage – the other work, involving general tidying is being carried by church volunteers.

Matters arising from minutes – Interviews for Priest in Charge: Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne was duly appointed and has informed NE and JH that she and her husband are planning to move in after half term. The service of “Celebration for a New Ministry for a new Priest in Charge” will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 29th November at St John’s. Church Broadband: TJ is still working on connecting the now working Church House broadband to the church. New treasurer: although a replacement treasurer has not yet been found, Rev. Rona’s husband, Mark, is a qualified accountant and has indicated that he is willing to support any potential new treasurer in the role. Sum Up machine: this is now up and running. Church Fete: profits (£2346) were down on last year.

Milborne Wick – AM reported that the cream tea event held at the end of August was a very successful event. Just over £1K was raised. It was a super community event and very well attended. The Harvest Supper is the next event – limited to 40 – and will include a two-course meal with wine. Unfortunately footfall for services is on the decline, although people in the community want to keep the building going. Christmas services were discussed. RH asked about parish share and whether they will be able to meet it this year. RH reminded AM about the tax return, and AM will contact the treasurer.

Deanery Synod – meeting Saturday 3rd September – This was attended by GS and RH. GH had compiled notes from the meeting, which were circulated to the PCC before the meeting. Formal minutes were now on the website. GH updated those present on the current situation. There is a timetable for reorganising the deanery. A long discussion followed. NE suggests that the PCC from this meeting send a letter of concern regarding this. LM reminded that Deanery Synod representatives are due to change next year. **(Action NE/JH and SW)**

Finance update – RH had prepared an up to date summary of the current situation, which is appended to the minutes. Given the present situation regarding energy prices, the next six months could be challenging, both for PCC, and the members of the congregation. NE expressed the need for calm, and that, due to RH’s management, the finances remain in a healthy position.

Fabric update – JH apprised everyone of the present situation, and notes to that effect are appended to the minutes. St John’s Cottage: the finances are now now breaking even and “in the black” following the recent refurbishments. **JH suggested that remuneration for the Verger should be reviewed in due course.**

Vicarage – The Diocesan estate team had planned to convert one of the garages for an office. However Rev. Rona expressed the wish that this be kept as a garage. Various options have been discussed, and it is likely that the Parish Office space in Church House will be made more habitable, and be used as a formal office space. RH queried the adequacy of this room as a suitable office for a priest. In the short term, pending alterations, a room in the Vicarage will be utilised as an office.

Forthcoming events –. Open Day: 24th September with the theme “Childhood Memories” – setting up on Friday 23rd. Harvest: 25th September. Harvest Supper - 30th September in Church House. Christmas Tree Festival: commencing the weekend of 26th November, and will coincide with The SoMP lights’ Switch On that is to be centred around the church building. The trees will remain up all week. Organ Recital: Postponed

until the organ has received its overhaul. AS will contact Paul Ellis with a view to setting a new date. Advert for new parish clerk: NE expressed the wish that applicants could be available for interview by Rev. Rona. LM will place an advertisement in the October edition of the magazine, and will liaise with NE regarding suitable wording.

Foodshare – JH advised that £75 had recently been spent on another fridge freezer. The weekly sharing of food is working very well. It is being supported by the Foodbank in Sherborne, and is making a difference by preventing people in need from having to go through the official process of applying for access to Foodbanks.

Churchyard – SW reported that the grass has now been mown, and that the next task would be to compile a plan for the following year to present to the PCC. The recurring problem of dog mess was discussed. AS has been working on keeping the memorial border in order and that the use of mulch or strulch would – improve the quality of the soil and make it easier to manage. NE has approached Mike Burks to offer advice. There is also the need to manage the compost heaps more efficiently.

Safeguarding – nothing to report.

Health and Safety – NE asked that the Bell tower H&S document be reviewed. (SW)

AOB – 2023 fees will need to be set at the next meeting.

Dates of next meetings - Tuesday 8th November

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.53.