

Minutes for the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port
Tuesday 22nd March 2022 (held via Zoom due to resurgence in CoVid cases)

Those present – Chair: Nicki Edwards (NE), Elaine Ennis-Bunt (EE-B), Harold Clarke (HC), Mary Clothier (MC), Pat Elliott (PE), Ben Grundy (BG), Jacquie Hall (JH), Robert Hall (RH), Trevor John (TJ), Amanda MacKintosh (AM), Linda Mumford (LM), Richard Redman (RR), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Barbara Tindale (BT), Susan Wales (SW)

Apologies - Trevor John

PE opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 - the minutes were agreed to be a true record, with no amendments, and signed by NE.

Matters arising from minutes - None

Milborne Wick – AM reported that the Milborne Wick AGM will be held on Monday 4th April. She is awaiting the accounts to be returned from their independent examiner. 11 people had attended the recent service taken by Rev. McConnell. There will be more to report after AGM, but things are settled and happy there. The forthcoming Easter Sunday service will be held at 9am, and taken by Becky Ayres-Harris. AM left the meeting at 19:23.

Approval of the accounts in advance of the APCM – a digital copy of the Summary of the 2021 Accounts had been circulated just prior to the meeting. The accounts had been submitted to Martin Freeman for independent examination on 17th February. RH reported that Mr Freeman has checked and is satisfied with the following accounts: St John's, Charity and Mission, Magazine. However, RH expressed some concern that he has been unable to ascertain from Milborne Wick who has submitted their accounts for independent examination, and to whom, as he has been unable to make contact with the treasurer.

RH went through the summary page by page. Overall, he considers that St John's has satisfactorily survived the challenges of the past year, due in part by a most successful Gift Day and some generous exceptional receipts. However, he concluded that there are several points to consider for the immediate future namely: the continuing impact of the CoVid-19 pandemic and inflationary pressures; declining income; further restoration work including the need to replace the roof; and the huge increase in fuel costs. Indeed, RH expressed a deep concern as to how the church would be able to afford to pay its heating bill this winter. RH asked that the PCC accept this summary of the 2021 accounts. The resolution that we accept the accounts was nominated by EE-B and seconded by BT. All were in favour.

RH has almost finished his section of the APCM report, and will submit it to Mr Freeman for signing within the next few days. The complete document will then be ready to be signed by NE and JH as sequestrators. NE thanked RH for his meticulous and fastidious work in preparing the accounts, and also for the day-to-day work involved in the running of the church's finances. However, RH gave notice that he wished to relinquish his responsibilities as Church Treasurer and that a replacement/new treasurer should be found. Whilst he is prepared to work with someone to hand over the accounts, due to health reasons he feels unable to continue in this role. NE asked PCC members therefore to give immediate attention to this, with a view to finding a suitable replacement as soon as possible.

St John's Cottage – NE reported that the new tenants have settled in well and, by all accounts, are proving good neighbours. RH suggested that smart meters would most likely need to be installed in the near future.

Fabric update – JH reported that PAT testing had recently been satisfactorily completed in Church and in Church House. Work to replace the missing tiles on the church roof remains outstanding, and she will follow this up. MC is hoping to shortly recommence repairing the kneelers, and has secured a group of willing volunteers.

PCC membership – BG is moving out of area, and will therefore be standing down. NE wished him well in this move, and thanked him for all he has done for the church and Church House. BT also expressed a wish to stand

down from the PCC. Due to personal reasons, Lyn Harrison has also asked to stand down with immediate effect. The remainder of those present are all prepared to continue. SW and RR will be re-elected at the APCM, and nomination forms should be completed. TJ, AS and GS will be co-opted at the May meeting as their three year period is up. RH will need to be co-opted temporarily as he gave notice (see above) that he wishes to handover the Treasurer responsibilities to someone else as soon as possible.

Vacancy – NE reported that the Diocese is placing an advertisement in The Church Times, from this week, for a period of four weeks. The date for interviews has been set for 26th May. It is hoped that we will have a new priest in place by the autumn. We must pray that the right person sees the advertisement. LM has amended the Parish Profile to reflect this. GS will place this information on the website with a link to the Parish Profile, and NE asked LM to place it on the church's Facebook pages.

Vicarage – The property has now been sold and work to update it has started. The sale of the replacement Vicarage is going through smoothly. A conversation followed about redirection of post. GS will undertake to check for post in the meantime.

Electoral Roll – GS has pinned up on the noticeboard in the church porch the list of current names on the Roll. It shows a total of 114 on roll, comprising of 96 from Milborne Port, 10 non-resident and 8 from Milborne Wick. NE thanked GS for his work on this. BG will need to be removed from the roll sometime in the next few months.

Safeguarding – The following documents had been sent to members prior to the meeting: 'Safeguarding Policy: Promoting a Safer Church' and 'Parish statement on Domestic Abuse'. This Parish Safeguarding policy is based on the CofE model. NE proposed that this be formally adopted, seconded by LM, with all in favour. The Church sees the Domestic Abuse Parish statement, not controversial by any means, but what one would expect in normal relationships, as an important consideration. AS asked that a slight amendment be made to the 2nd paragraph to read: *"domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of child abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour."* The adoption of this statement was proposed by BG and seconded by AS. NE reminded those present that the on-line training should be completed, if not all ready done so.

Health and Safety - Other than the PAT testing as mentioned previously, there were no other H&S matters to report.

AOB

- Broadband in church: BG is to meet with TJ in Church House tomorrow to set up an internet connection to enable a WiFi link to church to be established;
- Laminator – JH asks that, rather than using their personal laminator, a new one be sourced for church use;
- AS enquired if consideration should be given to the installation of solar panels on the church roof. JH advised that RB had researched this possibility in the past, and that faculties are now more predisposed to this type of project given the environmental benefits. Sherborne Abbey are proceeding with work to install heat pumps and NE suggested that we approach them in due course to ask advice etc.;
- PE reported that the Diocese has renewed her licence as Reader for another year;
- 14th May – Parish Picnic at Ven – fund raiser for Church and/or Ukraine;
- Paul Ellis – would be delighted to give an organ recital – again as a fund raiser;
- Jean Rook had suggested the Military Wives choir from Yeovilton could be approached to stage a fund raising concert;
- NE and MC – have suggested holding 'pop up' cake stalls at the Saturday morning market to raise money for the Ukraine appeal;
- Mailchimp – JH will liaise with Rachel to learn how to send copies of the APCM Report and the Committee Reports to everyone on the church mailing list.

Date of next meetings: Sunday 3rd April – APCM – after 10.30am service; Tuesday 17th May – commencing with communion.

The meeting closed with Grace at 20:28.