

# **MINUTES of the PCC Meeting - St Leonard's Church, Butleigh**

held on Wednesday, 22 June 2022, at 7.30pm in the Church Room

Present: Rev Chris Hopkins (Chair), Sian Decamp (Churchwarden), Roy Moody (Churchwarden), Emma Aitken, Marilyn Backhurst, Rob Decamp, David Rymer, Elspeth Rymer, Margaret Willmott, Charmian Wright, Mark Tolhurst (Treasurer), Maggie Seward (Secretary)

- 1** Rev Chris opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2 Apologies for absence:** David Heeley
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting:** Agreed and signed.
- 4 Matters arising:** None.
- 5 Deanery Synod:** Report previously circulated. The proposed merger of Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet Deaneries has been put on hold. The Area Dean, David McGeogh, is retiring.
- 6 Financial Report:**  
Mark talked through the main points of his report which had been circulated previously.
  - All invoices associated with the Quinquennial work have now been settled. It was agreed that Wessex Conservation had been an excellent choice to carry out the work. The next Quinquennial is due next year.
  - Mark will issue his half-year report next month. This will include the Fete receipts and will give a clearer picture of the likely year-end position.

## **7 Group Reports**

**Ministry:** Report previously circulated.

- **Number of readings:** Dealt with by email.
- **Removal of pews:** has been suggested with the general aim of making more flexible use of the space. Members should visit other churches where this has already happened. Sian and Rob to start enquiries and bring findings to the next PCC meeting.
- **Chalice rota:** will restart in September. The interim arrangements need to be clarified to the congregation.
- **Benefice-wide mission:** Roy will explore this suggestion for possible roll-out in summer 2023.

**Community:** Report previously circulated.

- **Deanery BBQ:** Chris thanked the Group for putting on an excellent BBQ for the Deanery Synod meeting, especially after all the Jubilee celebrations.
- **Autumn Village Supper:** has been suggested. The use of 'Harvest' in place of 'Autumn' was discussed.

**Finance and Admin:** Report previously circulated.

- **Community Payback:** Due to the low number of participants this has been less successful than in previous years. Two weeks have been missed so they will now continue on into July.

**8 Benefice Awayday action points:**

- **Contemporary Worship Service:** This will be trialled at Butleigh on Sunday.

**9 Diocesan Financial Position:** An information sheet has been circulated by the Diocese setting out the financial difficulties currently being faced, together with proposals on how the deficit might be dealt with. Members were strongly opposed to the idea of reducing the number of clergy and placing more responsibility on lay people. It was unclear whether cut-backs are being made within Flourish House. Sian, Elspeth and Roy, will write a letter in response, setting out the views of the PCC.

**10 2022 Charities:** Suggestions are once again invited for this year's nominated charities – Sian will announce in church. The method of distribution of funds to the Primary School was discussed. Mark reported that substantial donations have already been made this year so there will be less to share at the year end. To be finalised at the next meeting.

**11 Running of the Church Room:** Rob explained that, historically, the room had been run by a separate committee but, more recently, had come under the auspices of the F&A committee, with Mark managing the Church Room accounts as well as the Church accounts. As the room is both a village and a Church facility, he suggested it should revert to being run by a separate committee with its own treasurer and village representation but with the Church in overall control. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

**12 Monthly mid-week service+social:** This suggestion had been made by Trevor in response to the closing of the Drawing Room and the loss of a meeting place for villagers. The format would be: coffee, a short service, followed by a simple lunch. To run from September to March on the first Wednesday of the month, 11am-1pm in the Church Room. The content/format of the 'service' still needs discussion – Chris will liaise with Trevor. The meeting agreed to go ahead with the idea.

**13 Mark Tolhurst's departure:** There is much regret that Mark has decided to stand down from his role as Treasurer with effect from next year's APCM. He has been an exceptional Treasurer as well as producing comprehensive policy documents outside of his Treasurer role. A replacement needs to be found without delay and, to this end, Chris will put something in News and Views, after consulting with Sian and Roy, and Rob will put something on Facebook.

Marilyn will work with Roy to complete the online faculty application form. Marilyn would also like to fix a grab rope to the central pole of the spiral staircase which leads from ground floor level down to the boiler room. She and Roy will investigate if it is possible to include this work in the same faculty application.

**14 Safeguarding:** No issues to report.

**15 Any other business:**

- **Fete Raffle tickets:** Available from Elspeth.
- **Evening communion service:** Chris had received an email from a member of the congregation requesting a more eucharistic service where communion could be taken at the high altar. Trevor has expressed his willingness to lead it.

**Proposal:** to trial a bi-monthly, 6pm eucharist on the first Sunday of the month.  
Proposed: Chris; seconded: Sian; all in favour.

**17 Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday, 21 September 2022, at 7.30pm In the Church Room.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm with the Grace.