

**St Mary's, Compton Dando & Chelwood
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 18th July 2024
at
St Mary's Church, Compton Dando**

Present:

Rev Denise Calverley (in the chair), David Stoye (Hon Treasurer), Jenny Davis, Mo Collings, James Turner, Teresa Oaten, Jill Sherborne (Secretary)

Apologies:

Gary Oaten

Opening Prayer

Rev Denise opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2024 were approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Mission and Ministry

- a) Rev Denise will be doing corporate worship once a term in Pensford Primary after Angela Fraser's retirement.
- b) Rev Denise reported that she has received requests for burials of ashes in the churchyard without a priest present. She explained that this is illegal and furthermore requests for names on memorial stones where there are no additional deceased remains buried in the churchyard are also not permitted. Memorial stones illegally sited in the churchyard would require a faculty for removal at a cost to the PCC.
- c) Rev Denise asked the PCC whether there would be any benefit to changing the pattern of Café Church and Holy Communion going forward to encourage younger people to come along. At present the average attendance at Café Church is 15 and Holy Communion 7-12. After some discussion it was decided to keep the pattern as existing but to target café church to more people by finding interesting speakers and advertising it more widely.

4. Deanery Synod

Rev Denise reported that the new Archdeacon, Rev Charlie Peer, will take up his post 1st September and will be resident in the archdeacon's residence in

Saltford. Keynsham have now interviewed twice for a new priest and have still not appointed. Rev Anika Gardiner leaves at the end of July to take up a post in Yorkshire. This will leave Keynsham with no permanent priest. Rev Fran Smetten has now been ordained and will be curate with Rev Ian Mills in Chew Valley West.

St Peter's, Marksbury is facing closure due to dwindling congregation and lack of support from the village. They have taken advice from Rev Denise & Ann Sherborne who was churchwarden at St Leonard's, Chelwood and has been through the process. There are churches close by at Farmborough and Stanton Prior.

The Diocesan Synod approved the new system of assessing Parish Share at their meeting on the 12th July.

5. Safeguarding

No new incidents have been recorded for the Benefice.

6. Finance

The Accounts to 8th July had been circulated to the PCC. David Stoye reported that he had applied for the VAT reclaim and the Feoffees' grant. The Feoffees will pay some now and the rest later in the year. He has spoken to Matthew Higby about his report which may arrive in the next two weeks. Once this is received David Stoye can apply for the four bell grants. If the PCC are successful in receiving all these grants, then the net of income versus expenditure will be plus £2,249 and there should be £29,260 in the accounts.

Rev Denise reported that the new system of assessing Parish Share should result in a slight decrease in cost to St Mary's current parish share as there has been a change in the regular worshipping number this year.

8. Fabric Report

Mo Collings' fabric report had been circulated to the PCC. She commented that following the quinquennial the vestry roof was the most urgent item and this will cost in the region of £20,000. She commented that £10,000 of this should come from the Feoffees and asked David Stoye whether the church funds could cover the other £10,000. He thought this would be possible. Alex Carr, the church builder, has been booked in to start on the roof in Spring 2025. Mo proposed that the PCC instruct Alex Carr to carry out the work on the vestry roof. The PCC agreed unanimously.

9. Future Services

Rev Denise reported that she would be on annual leave for the services of 11th & 25th August and these would need to be lay led as most retired priests were fully occupied helping out in the vacancies in the Deanery. There will be some future discussion on this.

Rev Denise advised that there will be a Memorial Service for James Howarth on 30th August at 2:00pm and Rev Sue Stevens will lead this.

10. Correspondence

None

11. Any Other Business

A request for a special resolution had been received from Ann Sherborne requiring signature of the Priest in Charge and two members of the PCC in their capacity as Managing Trustees of Chelwood Village Hall Charity to allow the repair to the hall roof and possibly the installation of solar panels. This was duly signed by Rev Denise as Priest in Charge, James Turner and Maureen Collings representing the PCC. Copy of this resolution is appended to these Minutes

12 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm.

Rev Denise closed the meeting with a prayer and The Grace.