

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JUNE 2025 AT 2.20 PM., AT SPRINGFIELD.**  
**ST MARY'S HARDINTON MANDEVILLE, PAROCHIAL**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**

1. **Opening Prayers.**
2. **Present.** Mr. Richard Beatson, Mrs. Fiona Chadwick, Mrs. Daphne Creed, Mr. Ernest Kong (Hon Treasurer), Mr. Richard Middleton. **Apologies for absence.** Mrs. Ann Caruth.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April.**  
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to two amendments; (a) the timing of the Party in the Park had been revised since the Minutes were written, It will now begin at 1.00 p.m. and (b) Under Item 8, Festivals and Services, the second paragraph, Line 7, it should read “ Mr. Middleton reported that he had received a request from a person in Australia for ashes to be buried in the plot recorded as Plot 622 in the Burial Register”.
4. **Treasurers Report.** The Treasurer being present he asked Mrs. Creed to give the up-to-date financial position which she reported as follows:- Current Account £32,820; Buildings Account £42,178. She reported that in addition to the donation towards the Bell Fund from Mr. Iain Thomas, a further donation of

**£20.00 and one of £50.00 had been received towards the Fund. Mrs. Creed reported that Mr. Johnson had increased his charges for cutting the grass in the graveyard to £50.00 an hour.**

- 5. Secretary's Report. Mrs. Chadwick told the meeting that there was nothing to report other than that she had written to Mr. Thomas to thank him for his donation towards the Bell Fund.**
- 6. Synod Report. Mrs. Chadwick reported that there had not been a Synod meeting since the last PCC meeting, but that she would be attending the forthcoming meeting due to be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in Rimpton Village Hall.**
- 7. Services. Mrs. Creed reported that it was proposed to hold the Harvest Festival Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in September (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September) subject to confirmation and Mr. Beatson told the meeting that he might be away.**
- 8. Churchyard. Mrs. Creed reported that she had spoken to the relevant undertaker in connection with the untidy child's grave, but that they had declined to contact the child's family. She told the meeting that she eventually spoke to a family member who undertook to remove the offending items from the grave. However, she eventually spoke to another family member who removed the objects littering the grave. She reported that as a result, the Reverend**



**Phil Macaulay had received a phone call from the grandfather of the child who was distressed that the tokens left on the grave had been removed. She told the meeting that the Rector was able to reassure the grandfather and that exceptionally he had allowed the items to remain on the grave until the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the child's death, but that after that he had no alternative other than to comply with the Church of England Regulations relating to graveyards. Mrs. Creed told the meeting that she had also been contacted about the removal of the items and that as a result of the difficulty in dealing with family members who wished to leave tokens on graves, she would put a notice relating to the regulations on the noticeboard in the Church porch, so that there would be no misunderstanding in future.**

**Mrs. Creed told the meeting that she had asked Mr. Johnson to remove the brambles from the Churchyard.**

- 9. Bells. Mr. Middleton reported that the work on the bells had been completed and been paid for. He told the meeting that he had received two requests from bell ringers outside the Benefice to be given permission to ring the bells. Mrs. Creed added that the Quinquennial was due this year.**

**10. Questionnaire. Mrs. Creed told the meeting that the Questionnaire given to Parishioners by the Rector would be discussed at the forthcoming evening event to be held at the Rectory on 13<sup>th</sup> July. She confirmed that she would take cheese (and salad) towards the supper and that Mrs. Chadwick would make a pudding. Mr. Kong told the meeting that he had had breakfast with the Rector. Mrs. Creed reported that the Rector would like to amend the Benefice Service pattern and asked for comments on the 3 options set out by him. Mrs. Creed told the meeting that the Rector had suggested that all services at St. Mary's should start at 10.30 a.m., and Mrs. Chadwick queried this given that the current 11.00 a.m., start for Family Service would not impinge on the Rector. Mrs. Creed questioned the need for St. Mary's Hardington and St. Roch Pendomer to have a Family Service on the same day and that she did not feel that a re-starting Evenson at St. Mary's would be successful since past experience had shown that people are reluctant to go to Church in the evening - especially in the winter. Mr. Middleton told the meeting about the administrative problems which would ensue if a Wednesday evening Service were instituted. Mrs. Creed then pointed out that St. Roch Pendomer have 4 Services a month whereas St. Mary's has 2 and of these the Family Service is on the**



same day as St. Roch. Mr. Beatson asked if the overall number of Services per Parish was based on the size of the congregation. Both Mrs. Creed and Mr. Middleton said that the existing Services were not encouraging non-Churchgoers to attend and that this was especially true of young people who in many cases attend Church in Yeovil. Mrs. Creed told the meeting that St. Mary's Church loses congregation to the Church in East Coker where they offer refreshments and asked the members of the PCC if we should consider changing the formula of Services at St. Mary's in order to attract young/er people and this idea had the support of Mr. Beatson, Mrs. Chadwick and Mr. Middleton. Mr. Kong recalled the more informal worship that he and his late wife had led for some years in the Village Hall and Mrs. Creed agreed that some such initiative might attract younger people. Mr. Middleton expressed the view that it was important to encourage the next generation of people to attend Church; various reasons for the non-attendance of young people were put forward and it was unanimously agreed that the PCC should explore the possibility of resuming some type of less formal Service in the village hall which could be attended by young people and their parents. Mrs. Creed concluded the discussion by expressing the view that nothing concrete would be

achieved by altering the Service pattern; that we should maintain the status quo but consider changing the format of some services and her view was supported by Mr. Middleton.

11. Mr. Middleton reported to the meeting that the PCC had reviewed the various options for the design of a Memorial tablet put forward by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Dyer, for the late Joanna Yorke Dyer and that together with them had unanimously approved the preferred option, which will now go forward for a Faculty application and that in this connection he was pursuing the relevant person in the Diocese.
12. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.30 p.m., at Springfield. The meeting concluded with saying the Grace.