**Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.**

**Minutes of the meeting held 20th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Brace Room and via Zoom.**

**Present:**

Robin Bishop (Chair), Alan Stewart, David Gorton, Kath Oates, Robin Densem, Philip Junniper and Stephane McCarthy (on Zoom)

# 1. Apologies

Received from Rachel Carter. Jean Skinner and Alastair Curry.

Alan Stewart agreed to take minutes.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

These were approved with one amendment to Item 5 second paragraph which should read ‘offer one Sunday’.

# 3. Matters arising

Item 4 David contacted Matteo Ciani but has had no response.

# 4. Correspondence

A letter has been received from the Diocese asking if we would like to contribute to Bishop Alan’s retirement gift. The PCC agreed to send £50.

# 5. Priests' report

The PCC were informed of disruptions to the Zoom services. Steps have been taken to rectify this.

Alan informed the PCC that reports in the National Press which suggested the C of E do not authorise gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine have been misleading and that both will continue to be used at St Andrew’s.

The Exploring Faith Course had 17 people attending from across both churches.

A Confirmation service was held on Monday 17th March with two candidates from St Mary’s.

Easter services will follow the same pattern as last year.

Rev Scott Martin will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday 13th April.

Having consulted with Paul Attridge, the PCC has agreed to authorise the purchase of new hymn books which include many of the newer songs we sing. The congregation will be invited to sponsor a hymn book.

A discussion took place about the process and consultancy involved in appointing a new bishop of St Albans.

The PCC discussed the response from the Diocese about the dissolution of the Hertford Team. It was felt that our concerns were not fully addressed and Robin agreed to draft a reply.

**6. Reaching New People**

The Teddy Bear’s Picnic will now take place in the early autumn.

**7. Friends of St Mary**

Thanks were expressed to those who helped with the Race Night which raised £1070.

The Village Breakfast will now not take place.

Alan has prepared the Trail for the Summer Fun Day.

**8. Churchwardens' report**

Quotations are being sought for repairs to the ceiling in the Brace Room.

The boiler is behaving!

Electrical repairs have been carried out following some circuit tripping of the outside lights.

We are awaiting the Quinquennial report from the architect.

The defibrillator was actioned a few weeks ago. We are waiting for replacement pads. This raises questions about who should pay for the maintenance and servicing The PCC or the Village Association?.

# 9. Churchyard Managers Report

The mowers are out for servicing.

**10. Monuments Sub-Committee Report**

Nothing to report.

**11. Treasurer's report**

Karen Murphy will soon sign off the accounts. Most advertising revenue has now come in.

**12 Charitable Giving**

Ideas for charities to support are welcomed.

**13. Deanery Synod**

The next meeting will be 24th March.

# 14. Safeguarding

Two of the five members approached to complete their training have now done so.

# 15 Any other business

The Electoral Roll is currently being revised under the leadership of Christopher Maunder-Taylor. The Parish Magazine has some new advertisers.

The Eco Church has not met since the last meeting

A U3A Art Group has begun to meet regularly in the Brace Room.

More people are needed to open the church.

St Andrew’s have produced a Legacy Leaflet. Robin agreed to look into this.

**15. Date & time of next meetings:**  19th June, 18th Sept and 20th Nov 7.30pm

The meeting closed with a prayer.