

**Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 25 July 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Brace Room and on Zoom**

Present: Robin Bishop (Robin B) (chair), Rev Alan Stewart (Alan), Philip Juniper (Philip), Barry Wade Simkins (Barry), Robin Densem, (Robin D), Kath Oates (Kath), Rachel Carter (Rachel) (Secretary)

Attending via Zoom: Alastair Curry (Alastair), Jean Skinner (Jean)

Rev Alan Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer.

Items are recorded in the order they were taken at the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Ritchie Copues (Ritchie), Rev Bill Church (Bill), David Gorton (David), Stephane McCarthy (Stephane),

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 The minutes were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

3.1 Item 5.1 Alan reported that Simon Cutmore had been appointed Priest in Charge of All Saints and would be licensed on Wednesday 4 September.

3.2 Item 3.5 Three young people and two adults had been confirmed on 4 June at St Andrew's.

3.3 Item 3.6 The outstanding DBS was now done.

3.4 Item 5.5 Alan would circulate an item on Prayers of Love and Faith to be published in the magazine and on the website.

**4. Correspondence**

4.1 Robin reported that he had received a letter from Wycliffe, which was an organisation translating bibles into other languages. The organisation could be considered when the decision on St Mary's charities was taken.

**5. Priests' Report**

5.1 Alan reported that one firm application for the post of Children and Families Worker had been received, and there had also been a second expression of interest.

5.2 Harvest Festival would take place on 13 October. The Bishop's Harvest appeal would be for 'Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka'.

5.3 An additional person had been approached to join the Pastoral Visiting team.

5.4 There would be a Civic Service at St Mary's on 15 September.

5.5 Venues for the next Awayday were considered and it was agreed to approach All Nations Christian College.

5.6 Alan gave more details of his forthcoming Sabbatical, probably May, June and July of next year. He would be researching Custom and Rituals around Mourning.

## **6. Reaching New People**

Kath noted that the group had not met since the last PCC meeting. It was planned to have a Phase 2 when more people had moved into Blakemore Manor.

## **7. Friends of St Mary's**

7.1 It was reported that the Family Fun Day had been very enjoyable and the additional events, including the Welly Tossing had been a great success. Charging for the teddy Zip Wire had also worked well. The event had raised about £529 and had proved to be a lovely community event. It was suggested that a duration of 2 hours might work better for next year. All those involved in organising were very much thanked for their contributions.

7.2 A PCC member was being sought to represent the PCC on the Friends group. Rachel proposed Kath and Philip seconded. The motion was carried.

## **8. Future Events**

8.1 Bike and Hike would be coming up on 14 September and Christopher Maunder Taylor was thanked for his participation and organisation. It was suggested that more people could be encouraged to take part. Jean reported that there had been quite a few visitors last year. It was agreed that St Mary's was happy to continue to host visitors.

8.2 Helen was organising a Café Francais coffee morning for the Friends on 28 September, with a raffle and some stalls.

8.3 The Christmas Market was fully booked.

8.4 Welwyn Male Voice Choir would be doing a concert on 13 December.

8.5 Beer and Carols would take place on 21 December.

8.6 The concert proposed for 10 August had been cancelled.

## **9. Churchwardens' Report**

9.1 David reported that a permanent card reader was now in place. There was a monthly fee of £35 and the donations would go through the Churches Trust. It was not yet clear if it would be cost effective.

9.2 Funds raised by the Friends had contributed to paying the bills for the repair of the internal plasterwork.

9.3 The Quinquennial inspection would take place in September.

9.4 The Archdeacon's inspection had taken place on Monday. The focus was on the plate, the Mission Action Plan and general administration. The Archdeacon had stressed how grateful she was for the work of everyone on the PCC and all those involved in the running of the church and keeping it looking good.

## **10. Churchyard Manager's Report**

10.1 Nothing significant to report.

## **11. Monuments Sub-Committee Report**

11. 1 Nothing to report.

## **12. Treasurer's Report**

12.1 Robin B noted that St Mary's was still solvent. There had been a continuing decline in the use of yellow envelopes and it had been decided to keep them by the door instead of in the pews.

12.2 Contributions from the two card readers were gift aided.

## **13. Deanery Synod**

13.1 There had been recent elections at the Deanery Synod and Alan had been elected on to the Diocesan Synod.

## **14. Safeguarding**

Robin reported that all DBS were now complete. He noted that there was a monthly drop in on Zoom for Safeguarding organised by the Diocese.

## **15. Any other business**

15.1 Philip thanked everyone for their contributions to the Parish Magazine. There was some discussion about the delivery of hard copies and the cost of printing.

15.2 Rachel reported on the first meeting of Eco Church and David answered some of the questions raised by its members around the use of LED bulbs, recycling and the energy audit. It was noted that a date had been set for Environment Sunday in October.

## **16. Dates of the next meetings**

16.1 These were confirmed as Sept 19 and Nov 21.

The Rev Alan Stewart closed the meeting with a prayer.