

**Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Brace
Room and on Zoom**

Present: Rev Alan Stewart (Alan), (chair), David Gorton (David), Philip Juniper (Philip), Stephane McCarthy (Stephane), Barry Wade Simkins (Barry), Robin Densem, (Robin D), Rachel Carter (Rachel) (Secretary)
Attending via Zoom: Robin Bishop (Robin B), 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), Kath Oates (Kath)

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the correction of Lorraine Gauld's name under item 5.8.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 Item 5.1 Alan reported that there would be an interview on Monday for the Priest in Charge at All Saints. Although there would not be a Hertford Team as such, there would still be communication between the churches which were part of a collegiate group.

3.2 Item 5.2 The first Soulful Walk had taken place. A good number of people and dogs had come. The organising group not yet had opportunity to meet again.

3.3 Item 5.3 With regard to the post of Children and Families worker, a small working party were meeting to think outside the box. The job description might be changed and advertised further afield. There had been a Day of Prayer at St Andrew's. It was noted that Young Life had taken on the Youth Club and was running Toastie Tuesdays.

3.4 Item 5.5 The Prayer course was now to be delayed to next year.

3.5 Item 5.6 Alan had visited TMM and talked about the confirmation on 4 June at St Andrew's. Three young people and two adults had signed up.

3.6 Item 15.1. The outstanding DBS was now done. The only remaining one is that of the new PCC member.

3.7 Item 11.2 The charities (Warrenwood Riding for the Disabled and Mercy Ships) had now been paid and had sent thank you letters.

3.8 Item 17.1 Elizabeth had stepped down as Electoral Roll officer and Christopher Maunder Taylor had agreed to take over.

3.9 Item 17.2 Philip reported that a poster with QR code linking to the Parish News was now on some village noticeboards.

3.10 Item 17.4 Eco Church. It was reported that St Andrew's Eco Church group had recently met in the Brace Room and discussed their progress and plans.

4. Correspondence

4.1 As reported earlier, thank you emails had been received from Mercy Ships and Warrenwood for the Disabled for St Mary's donations.

4.2 An email had also been received from two people saying thank you to the grasscutting team.

5. Priests' Report

5.1 Alan reported that Neil Deans had been asked to create a poster to advertise the Family Fun day on Saturday 13 July. This would include a welly toss and volunteers were requested. There would also be Zip wire teddies.

5.2. The Mindfulness and Meditation sessions would now take place every fortnight – 1st and 3rd weeks of the month - as the person sharing had now stepped back.

5.3. There would be a Bible course at Bill's house from 6 June run by Melanie and Kath.

5.4. The Joint Awayday at St Joseph in the Park had been very positive. The price was good, but costs might change as the school was now part of a consortium. There were a few concerns regarding disabled access and the toilets. People liked the space, including the Forest School area. The hall was a little cold. The food was fantastic but took a long time to serve. Perhaps extra people could be asked to help in future. Stephane felt that the theme was a slow burn and very beautiful.

5.4 Alan noted that it was ten years since had a sabbatical and so another one was due. He was looking into attending a particular conference. Cover would need to be arranged, but there were some options and he was confident that it should be OK.

5.5 Robin led a discussion on Prayers of Love and Faith following Alan's introduction to the prayers. Alan withdrew from the discussion.

It was felt that most churches in this area would also go along with this. There was no sense that there were people in the PCC or in the congregation who would be opposed. David proposed that the prayers be adopted and Robin D seconded.

It was noted that this would need to be announced to congregation and would go in magazine and on the website.

6. Reaching New People

Stephane noted that the group had not met since the last PCC meeting.

7. Friends of St Mary's

7.1 There was a discussion about whether to continue to take outside bookings following some approaches from new groups/choirs given the small size of the team putting on events and the effort required. Alan noted the additional resources and performance rights issues being considered by St Andrew's as it hosted more concerts. After some discussion, it was agreed to just put on a small number of invited events.

8. Churchwardens' Report

8.1 David noted that there had been a comprehensive report prepared for the recent

APCM.

8.2 In terms of current work, the soakaway was now installed very satisfactorily.

8.3 There was to be a new card reader to be permanently fixed where the wall safe was. The electrician was booked for next Tuesday.

8.4 Lodge the builders were booked to do the plasterwork on the South wall of the nave.

9. Churchyard Manager's Report

9.1 David reported that this was going well. Phil and his two best men came to help with the Churchyard before the wedding. There was a regular session on the 2nd Saturday of every month with David doing maintenance in between.

9.2 In terms of tree work: one of the yew trees had been pruned. The South boundary hedge was now due for cutting.

10. Monuments Sub-Committee Report

10. 1 Nothing to report

11. Treasurer's Report

11.1 Following the APCM, there were no further questions.

12. Deanery Synod

Robin B reported that the last meeting had been Interesting – the Vicar of Hunsdon had been talking about finances and how parishes are looking over the next 5 years. Colin Bird who was on the Diocesan Board of Finance reported that the Parish share of £35,000 per year only covered half the cost of an incumbent, and other things as well. There was an interesting report in St Andrew's Parish Magazine.

13. Safeguarding

Robin reported on Safeguarding and the need to all have to have it in our DNA.

14. Any other business

14.1 Rachel noted that the follow up work from the APCM was all done.

14.2 Philip said that the June Parish Magazine would be out next week. He was thanked for all his work on the magazine.

14.3 Rachel reported that a meeting about Eco Church had been set up for 18 July.

15. Dates of the next meetings

15.1 These were confirmed as July 25, Sept 19 and Nov 21, APCM 28 April

The Rev Alan Stewart closed the meeting with a prayer.