

**Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Brace Room and on Zoom**

Present: Rev Alan Stewart (Alan) (chair), David Gorton (David), Philip Juniper (Philip), Robin Densem (Robin D), Jan Pearson (Jan), Rachel Carter (Rachel) (Secretary)

Attending via Zoom: Jean Skinner (Jean), Stephane McCarthy (Stephane),

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**

Robin Bishop (Robin B), Paul Attridge (Paul), Kay Juniper (Kay), Ritchie Copues (Ritchie), Rev Bill Church (Bill)

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

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

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 Item 5.4 A tab had been opened at the Golden Griffin for hot drinks at any time. No update yet on its uptake.

3.2 Item 5.9 There had been good attendance at the Lent course.

3.3 Item 12.1 Fees were confirmed as follows:

Wedding £505 service and banns

Vergers £60

Choir £120

Organ and Bells £140

3.4 Item 13.4 Kay had completed DBS.

**4. Correspondence**

4.1 David confirmed that the Brace Room had been booked by East Herts for 4 May elections.

4.2 David Emsley had written to thank the PCC for the gift card he had been given (having refused a fee) for stepping in as organist while Paul was unwell. The PCC recorded their warm thanks to him.

**5. Priests' Report**

5.1 Alan reported that he had been asked to lead Mindfulness sessions at Hertingfordbury Cowper.

5.2 Easter services were planned as follows:

Palm Sunday 2 April 9.15 Holy Communion

Picturing Holy Week Monday 3 April 8 pm on Zoom

Tuesday 4 April 8 pm at St Andrew's Candle lit service for Holy Week in the style of Taize

Wednesday 5 April 8 pm at St Andrew's and on Zoom A Meditation for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday at 8 pm at St Andrew's Holy Communion followed by a Medieval Service of the Shadows (Tenebrae), then watch until 10 pm

Good Friday 10.30 am Churches Together Walk of Witness

Good Friday 12noon to 3 pm St Andrew's Music and Reflection

Good Friday 2-3 pm The Last Hour

Holy Saturday – Breathe 8.30 pm

Easter Day services – 5.30 Dawn service followed by breakfast in Brace Room. Sign up sheets would be needed

Holy Communion (BCP) 8.00 am St Andrew's

Holy Communion 9.15 am St Mary's

All age communion with activities for children and an Easter egg hunt

Zoom Communion for Easter 10.30 am

## 6. Reaching New People

6.1 Stephane reported that Alan, Stephane, Kath and Nick were the members of this group.

6.2 Kath had prepared paper proposing a welcome to neighbourhood with card and a small gift. Funding was requested for the gift, probably a nice packet of biscuits not in plastic. The group was aiming to give these in person.

6.3 Members approved a contribution of £250.

## 7. Friends of St Mary's

7.1 Members noted Helen Bishop's report on the activities of the Friends. It was noted that the bank account was now up and running so an application for charitable status could be made. Thanks to Helen for her work on this were recorded.

## 8. Churchwardens' Reports

8.1 David highlighted from his report that floodlighting in one place was not working and would be replaced with LED lights.

8.2 Philip raised the issue of flooding on path. David noted that this discussion had been continuing for some time and a new quote would have to be sought. The ideal finish would be a resin pathway in the region of £30,000.

After some discussion about the possibility of taking money from restricted funds, as it was for the fabric of the church to improve accessibility, it was agreed that a new quote should be brought to the next meeting.

## 9. Churchyard Manager's Report

9.1 David was thanked for his report.

9.2 He highlighted the good news that there were now some younger recruits. Ways of thanking the team were discussed and the PCC noted that they wished their thanks

to be passed on to them.

#### 10. Monuments Sub-Committee Report

10.1 There was nothing further to report.

#### 11. Treasurer's Report

11.1 Robin was thanked for sending the audited accounts.

11.2 The accounts were approved.

#### 12. Deanery Synod

12.1 There was nothing further to report.

#### 13. Safeguarding

13.1 It was reported that Robin B was working towards a complete set of DBS for all those who needed it, in particular PCC members. Robin D reported that he had completed his.

#### 14. Events

14.1 Events had been covered under the Friends item.

14.2 It was proposed to ask Geoff and Nick if they would help with the next Family Fun Day. The steering group should get together with Jean.

#### 15. APCM

##### 15.1 PCC Membership

It was noted that of those members coming to the end of their terms, Kay Juniper wished to step down. Robin D and Jean Skinner had agreed to continue. Possible replacements and coopted members were discussed.

##### 15.2 Election of Churchwardens

David and Robin B had both agreed to continue. It was noted that further thought needed to be given to succession planning.

#### 16. Any other business

16.1 Philip noted how well attended the Mothering Sunday service had been.

#### 17. Dates of the next meeting

These were confirmed for 11 May, 20 July, 21 September, 23 November. APCM 30 April.