

Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 26th January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the
Brace Room and on Zoom.

Present: Rev Alan Stewart (Alan) (chair), David Gorton (David), Kay Juniper (Kay), Philip Juniper (Philip), Robin Densem (Robin D), 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), Jan Pearson (Jan), 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 5.2 Alan reported that the Mindfulness sessions at the Sele Community Hub were continuing with a tight group of attendees, making connections with the wider community.

3.2 Item 5.5 Tracy's replacement as Youth and Children's worker was still being sought. The post had been re-advertised on Premier job search and Premier and Christianity magazine. Tracy still helping with collective worship in the schools.

3.3 Item 5.6 A new date for the Mission morning was proposed: Saturday 20 May 9.30 -11.30 am.

3.4 Item 5.8 A St Mary's Christmas card had been printed and distributed. It was proposed to distribute earlier next year.

3.5 Item 7.5 Members confirmed their agreement to a loan of £5000 to the Friends of St Mary's Hertingfordbury.

4. Correspondence

4.1 David reported that East Herts had booked the Brace Room as a Polling Station for May.

5. Priests' Report

5.1 Beginning with a review of the Christmas services and planning for 2023, it was reported that the Lessons and Carols service had been very well attended. It was proposed to hold the service midweek again in 2023 so that Alan would be able to attend both St Mary's and St Andrew's services. As Christmas Eve 2023 would fall on a Sunday, there would be no 9.15 am service, but there would be two Crib services. The 2022 Crib services had some Christingles left over from about 200

produced. More people had attended the first and fewer the second. Midnight Mass had been very quiet with only about 12 people attending. It was proposed that next year Midnight Mass would only be held at St Andrew's. The All Age service on Christmas Day had again been quite quiet, though it was noted that this varied from year to year.

5.2 Alan confirmed that the APCM would be held on 30 April after service. Rachel agreed to check who was coming to the end of their PCC term, and to ask Robin and David if they wished to continue as churchwardens.

5.3 There was a new Lay Leader in Training, Adrian Walter.

5.4 Regarding the Warm Spaces project (a tab at the bar in Golden Griffin, for hot drinks, supported by both churches), Alan reported that it had not really been used, so it had been decided to re-advertise it as being available at any time.

5.5 The Joint Church Awayday was scheduled for Sunday 23 April at Hoddesdon High Leigh. Bill had agreed to do 9.15 am service at St Mary's.– Joy.

5.6 The Shake after school club on Tuesday pm continued to need volunteers to make drinks etc.

5.7 Rachel was thanked for the video of a Year in the Life of St Mary's based on Philip's photographs through the year.

5.8 An information evening on Living with Dementia was planned for Tuesday 21 Feb 7.30 at St Andrew's.

5.9 A Joint Lent Course 'Through the Wilderness' - how God can be there in the crisis, with material by Paula Gooder, was scheduled to begin on Tuesday 28 February.

5.10 On Ash Wednesday, 22 February, there would be a morning and afternoon service.

5.11 Stephane asked for an update on the work of the Reaching New People group and was asked to send an email to Kath Oates.

6. Warm Spaces

6.1 This item was dealt with under item 5.

7. Friends of St Mary's

7.1 Members noted Helen Bishop's report on the activities of the Friends.

8. Churchwardens' Reports

8.1 David highlighted his correspondence with the architects of the Brace Room in his report. He requested PCC approval to move forward onto the next stage before the problem should become worse. Members approved a payment of £2000 which was the estimate for the initial cost of investigating the cause of the problem.

He noted that there was no mileage in taking the problem further in legal sense.

9. Churchyard Manager's Report

9.1 Members noted the contents of David's report.

10. Monuments Sub-Committee Report

10.1 Members noted the contents of David's report.

11. Treasurer's Report

11.1 Members noted the contents of Robin B's report and were pleased that the finances in good order. Audited figures should be available for the next meeting.

12. Fees

12.1 Alan reported that there had been a rise in the Church fees:

Wedding £528 service and banns

Vergers £60

Choir £120

Organ and Bells tbc

13. Deanery Synod

13.1 This had not met since the last meeting.

14. Safeguarding

14.1 Members noted Robin B's report. Alan noted that all PCC members would require a DBS.

15. Events

15.1 Race Night was scheduled for 25 February.

15.2 Welwyn Male Voice Choir was scheduled for 25 March.

16. Any other business

16.2 David noted that there had been a problem at a recent wedding at which he had been asked to play a large number of tracks from six CDs, which prevented him from acting as Verger. In future an extra person would be needed to do CDs if more than a couple of tracks from one CD were requested.

16.3 Robin D asked for clarification about the Parish Precept.

17. Dates of the next meeting

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