

**Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port
held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 in Church House at 7pm**

RSB opened the meeting with prayer.

Those present: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB) [Chair], Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke, David Johnson, Paul Springett, Richard Redman, Susan Wales

Apologies for Absence: Jacquie Hall, Louisa Hughes, Trevor John, Amanda Mackintosh, Linda Mumford, Graham Sharpless,

The minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record, with no amendments.

Matters arising from minutes: Goathill PCC - the necessary procedures to facilitate the amalgamation of Goathill with St John's PCC had begun, with October being the anticipated date for completion. The Flagon - NE had today retrieved the flagon from NatWest Yeovil and it will now be necessary to approach Wells Treasury to take custody of it. New photocopier - Helen Soloman had investigated details for leasing a new machine, but now needs to establish the cost of printing and ink. PS reported that Bill Closs (Charlton Horethorne) has expressed an interest in investigating operating costs, as the new machine will be financed from Benefice funds. Floodlights - Jim Brooks had replaced both the outside spotlights and interior lights with LED fittings. Sound System - Thanks to Tony Thorp and Robert Hall, the sound system has been updated and is at last working well.

Agreement of the accounts in readiness for the APCM (20th April): PS advised that he is still attempting to streamline the banking arrangements. Copies of the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Accounts and Statement of Financial Activities up to year ending 2023 had been sent to everyone for perusal in advance of the meeting. PS advised that financially we are in the same position as last year. He apprised us of the situation regarding the funds. Our new accountant has been more than generous with her time in helping PS and the formalised set of accounts will be ready shortly. RSB thanked PS for his work. Based on the accounts presented, the assembled meeting agreed that they are accepted for presentation to the APCM in April.

Prayers of Love and Faith - RSB provided an update following clarification with Bishop Michael, and the PCC's agreement at the last meeting that we, as a church, should opt in to using these prayers for the purpose of blessing those couples in same sex relationships. These blessings must take place within a service that is part of the normal schedule: they cannot be used as part of a standalone service. As such, they would not fit in naturally to our existing pattern of services. At the meeting of the Worship Committee on 4th March, it was decided that, on the 3rd Saturday of each month, a Community Thanksgiving Service would be held, whereby members of the local community will be able to use the time to celebrate or remember an event etc. and so feel more a part of St John's Church. RSB explained that this can take many forms, and at its simplest would be a service of Morning Prayer. However, this would also be the perfect time to include the blessing of same sex relationships. A discussion followed as to the wording used to describe these, with some reservations given about referring to these partnerships as a "union". RSB sought to reassure everyone that the prayers of love and faith should be used as a way of giving thanks to committed couples within a loving community.

AOB: PCC - SW advised the meeting that she has put her name forward for the role of Churchwarden when JH stands down at the APCM. As such, a new secretary will need to be found. RSB has asked that we pray for this to be soon resolved. Website - GS had emailed the secretary regarding certain issues that have recently arisen due to inaccurate information being posted on the website. He also requested that time be made available within the forthcoming APCM to explain to parishioners how the website can be accessed and used. RSB reiterated that GS needs help with the website, and that the unfortunate situation regarding the human error that has recently arisen will need to be resolved. NE suggested that a local person could be employed as PCC secretary and "communications officer". NE will enquire at the

primary school for potential candidates. Unfortunately, it will be not possible to include any demonstration of how to use website within the APCM.

RSB closed the meeting with prayer at 8.15pm.

Dates of next meetings, 2024:

- Saturday 20th April – APCM 3pm – to include a cup of tea etc
- **Monday 20th May – PLEASE NOTE: this has now been moved to Monday 3rd June**
- Monday 23rd September
- Tuesday 19th November