

**Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on
Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.00 pm in Church House**

Those present – Chair: Nicki Edwards (NE), Elaine Ennis-Bunt (EE-B), Harold Clarke, David Grant (DG), Jacquie Hall (JH), Robert Hall (RH), Linda Mumford (LM), Richard Redman (RR), Graham Sharpless (GS), Susan Wales (SW)

Apologies - Mary Clothier (MC), Pat Elliott (PE), June Goodman (JG), Trevor John (TJ), Amanda Mackintosh (AM), Anne Salkeld (AS)

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2022 - these had been previously circulated and were signed as a true record with one amendment.

Matters arising from minutes – Broadband in church – TJ is gradually working on establishing an efficient internet connection – both in Church House and in the church building. New treasurer – no-one is yet forthcoming.

Milborne Wick – nothing to report in AM's absence. However, JH has been in contact with AM regarding forthcoming services. DG reported that he had attended Wick's Harvest Supper, and that it was a most convivial and financially lucrative evening.

Food Share – EE-B reported that the need from local people is increasing, and that those attending are feeding around 30 to 40 mouths (both adults and children) per week. Sherborne Foodbank has been most supportive, and will be providing cash in the future for our Food Share personnel to source what is needed to maintain stock. The Co-op continues to support this venture. Volunteers are always needed, but the DBS protocol and Safeguarding training does seem to deter people from coming forward. NE volunteered to help out by providing some training. **NE suggested that the PCC fund a small thank you gift to the volunteers for Christmas.**

Deanery Synod – As minuted in the previous meeting, a letter of concern had been sent at the end of September on behalf of the PCC to the Diocese. A response had been received from the Archdeacon of Taunton, stating that the decision to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy is a diocesan decision and that it has been made very reluctantly. He acknowledged that a change such as this would cause a degree of uncertainty. He further suggested that any proposal from our PCC as to how the reorganisation could be done should be made to the Area Dean and Lay Dean. A discussion followed, with no firm decision being made as to how to proceed, whilst acknowledging that the things that really matter to the various church communities involved across the deanery cannot be solved by a formula. The Deanery Synod meets on Thursday 10th November, when further discussion will no doubt take place.

Finance update – RH distributed paper copies of an up to date Financial Report. The Parish Share has been paid in full for Milborne Port, Goathill and Milborne Wick. In particular, RH thanked Milborne Wick for their contribution of £1500 received in October. A bequest of £5000 had unexpectedly been received, with the specific wish that it should be spent for the upkeep of the churchyard. The challenges ahead were noted: namely the rise in inflation and the increase in energy prices, combined with the potential reduction in revenue caused by a variety of factors.

Pranker's Charity – this is still on-going, and the feeling from the meeting was that the account should be wound up and any balance be used to support (for instance) Food Share. NE suggested that this could happen on the arrival of Rev. Rona.

RH suggested that the F&GP committee should meet soon to discuss the review of remunerations for the next year.

LM suggested that we should reinstate the collection plate, together with the yellow envelopes, during the main Sunday service.

Fabric update – JH reported that she had been unable to arrange a date with the roofer regarding the fixing of the roof leaks.

Rev. Rona will need to use a space in Church House for official purposes, as there is no suitable space available in the new vicarage. Time has been spent reorganising the office in Church House for this purpose.

Forthcoming events - Christmas Tree Festival – 28 organisations/businesses had agreed to decorate a tree. The Library had asked if they could hold a children's story time on the evening of November 25th, and JH was liaising. Volunteers had come forward to assist in the welcome of Rev'd Rona on Tuesday 29th November 2022.

Churchyard – plans for 2023 – It had been hoped to present a plan for 2023, but this was not yet forthcoming. SW asked that thanks should be given to The Grasshoppers team who had worked so efficiently throughout the year to keep the churchyard. NE suggested that a small gift of thanks be made to team members.

Safeguarding - At the beginning of October, the CofE published its second Past Case Review, which makes for depressing reading and is a salutary reminder that Safeguarding per se should always be at the forefront of everyone's minds. The 20th November is designated "Safeguarding Sunday" and it is hoped that this will indeed be a worthwhile focus for the service on that day. The full report can be found by following this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/past-cases-review-2>

Health and Safety – The fire extinguishers have been serviced. There are potential H&S issues that could arise at Rev Rona's service. NE was concerned that the flag pole could be listing.

AOB – GS reported that he had recently carried out some recommended security changes to the church's website. It was decided that there was insufficient sensitive/confidential content on the website to warrant paying around £6 per month to encrypt the website. NE thanked GS for his work on so ably maintain the site.

JH suggested that refreshments that were to follow Rev Rona's welcome service include [mulled] wine.

JG had informed JH that, due to health issues and after some 40 years, she would no longer be arranging the church flowers. As a token of thanks, it was suggested that a £50 garden voucher should be given to her. Margaret Barker had subsequently taken on the responsibility of organising the flower arranging, with the assistance of a team of volunteers.

Date of next meeting – Monday 23rd January 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:40.