

**Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on  
Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.00 pm in The Lady Chapel**

Welcome and opening prayers and Bible readings, by RS-B

**Those present** – Chair: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RS-B), Mary Clothier (MC), Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke, David Grant (DG), Jacquie Hall (JH), Robert Hall (RH), Trevor John (TJ), Paul Springett (PS), Richard Redman (RR), Graham Sharpless (GS), Susan Wales (SW)

**Apologies** - Pat Elliott (PE), Elaine Ennis-Bunt (EE-B), June Goodman (JG), Amanda Mackintosh (AM), Linda Mumford (LM), Anne Salkeld (AS)

RS-B welcomed PS to the meeting, and thanked him for attending.

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023** – these had been previously circulated and were agreed as a true record, with no amendments, and signed by RS-B. Proposed by HC and seconded by NE.

**Matters arising from minutes** – Broadband in church: TJ reported that a link between church and Church House has been established. A router/access point will next need to be installed in church. This will need further discussion at a later date. RS-B thanked TJ for his continued work. RS-B confirmed that Paul Springett has stepped into the role treasurer, as RH steps down at the forthcoming APCM. GS advised that the cost of the website will be £125. RS-B thanked GS for his continued work on keeping the website updated.

**Milborne Wick** – In AM's absence there was nothing specific to report. RH observed that account information has not been forthcoming from this church, which will need to be included in the annual accounts. However, RS-B reported that in her experience the church at Wick is very well supported, with a typical attendance of 14 when services are held there.

**Deanery Synod** – Linda had previously circulated a most comprehensive and informative set of notes from last week's meeting (21-3-23). Election of lay representatives will take place at the forthcoming APCM. JH will email Rob Sage regarding the impending reorganisation of the Deanery with regard to families and schools. The likelihood is that we will be part of a bigger benefice with Blackford and Compton Pauncefoot. Another possibility is that, following a conversation at the meeting, Maperton may be considered as becoming a member of our benefice. However, nothing has been formally decided, and nothing is set in stone. The need to formally decide the way forward for us, as a benefice, is paramount. Any comments or suggestions regarding the reorganisation have to be submitted in writing to the Area Dean/Lay Dean by May 16<sup>th</sup>, two weeks before the DMPG meets on 30<sup>th</sup> May. At that later meeting, the option to be recommended to the Deanery Synod will be selected, with voting on that option to take place in the full Deanery Synod meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Finance: agreement of accounts** – those present were furnished with draft paper copies of the APCM annual report, and accounts which have been independently examined by Martin Freeman. RH reported that the church had "broken even" at year end, which is good news, and he continued to apprise those present of the end of year situation, which does not differ greatly from those presented at the the January meeting. DG asked about the rate of voluntary giving compared with pre-pandemic levels (2019), however we as a church have weathered the storm remarkably well, especially compared with the church across the country. NE commented that we are extremely fortunate, and that we should celebrate our giving. RH asked that the PCC accept these accounts, with the proviso that Milborne Wick's accounts

are needed in order to complete the final report. All were in favour that they should be accepted. RH was thanked by RS-B for his work at compiling this document. Martin Freeman has indicated that this will be the last time he will independently examine these accounts. PS has accordingly approached Alison Cooper of Charlton Accountancy Ltd of Charlton Horethorne, and she has agreed to take on the role of independent examiner of the accounts. All were in favour with this. RH requested that he should give the now customary sum of £150 to Mr Freeman for his work. RH briefed PS on what still needs to be done to finish the handover. PS thanked RH for his efficiency in expediting the handover. PS has found some dedicated software, specifically for use by churches/PCCs. This will streamline the job, which will be most welcome. The cost for running the software is £15 per month, which he considers is money well spent. There were no objections to using this.

PS left the meeting at 20:03.

**Fabric update** – JH briefly reported that an electrician came to quote for new sockets in the Lady Chapel, and to re-quote for replacement infra-red heaters. Roofers have been asked to come yet again to carry out the necessary repairs, but they are yet to materialise. JH has approached Mike Fisher about various options for efficiently heating the Lady Chapel. JH will also consult the church architect for his ideas about heating the space, when the Quinquennial Inspection takes place.

**Preparation for APCM** – RS-B thanked RH for his work in preparing the accounts. RH and AS will be standing down at the APCM, so new members will need to be sought. RS-B encouraged everyone to think of suitable candidates. GS then updated everyone with the current situation regarding the Electoral Roll. JH will email the various reports to Pew News subscribers to cut down on paper. NE and JH are still willing to stand again as Churchwardens. NE reported that the various churchwardens have appointed a new benefice administrator –Helen Solomon. She is due to start on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Foodshare** – JH updated everyone on the present situation. JH and EE-B have been investigating Foodshare becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is infinitely more simple than becoming a registered charity. The Foodshare is going from strength to strength. A long discussion followed, as to the running of the project. The church will continue to endorse this, from an outreach point of view.

**Safeguarding** – NE reminded everyone that all PCC members will need to re-do their DBS certification.

**Health and Safety** - NTR

**Vision for our Benefice** – Because of the impending deanery changes, it was decided to postpone the Vision Setting morning for the time being. RS-B asked those present to consider what our (PCC) priorities are for the parish, and where we would like us to be in relation to our Parish Profile, whilst she is settling in with us. RH asked RS-B if she has a feel for where we are on our journey together, given the challenges of life post-pandemic and Deanery reorganisation. RS-B commented that she feels that we are mainly in a good place in terms of spirituality, faithfulness and loyalty compared with some parishes. However, there is work to be done to establish basic foundational work with regard to baptisms, weddings, funerals, services, nurture groups and prayer groups. Sadly we are a long way off in developing children's ministry.

**RS-B** – RS-B reported that there seems to be an issue with post going astray following the sale of the Vicarage, and to it not being properly redirected to The Rectory. GS will attempt to make enquiries with the postmen/women.

**AOB** - Advertising for summer fete – AS had asked permission to approach South West Signs with a view to purchasing banners to more effectively advertise the church summer fete. She will be asked to

investigate the cost and report back ASAP. **(ACTION: AS)** DG asked for a definite date for a meeting to discuss benefice reorganisation as described above, and the date and time was set for 9.30am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April in Church House. RH gave RS-B a bag of incense nails that he had made, for the new Paschal Candle.

**Dates of next meetings:**

- APCM the afternoon of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to incorporate a parish tea
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – to include commissioning service for new PCC
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

The meeting closed at 21:02, after closing prayers.