

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on Saturday 23rd. Nov. 2024 in Church House 10 am.

NE opened the meeting with prayer. **Those present:**

Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke (HC), David Johnson (DJ), Paul Springett (PS), Richard Redman (RR), Susan Wales (SW), Linda Mumford (LM), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Felicity John (FJ)

Apologies for Absence: Louisa Hughes (LH), Amanda Mackintosh. (AM) Mary Clothier (MC). Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB0 (on sabbatical).

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd.June 2024 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record, with no amendments, and duly signed as a true record of the meeting by NE.

Matters arising: Any dealt with below.

Safeguarding: NE – the Benefice Safeguarding Officer – gave the Basic Awareness Presentation. The Foundation Module will be covered in a future PCC meeting. Other modules are available online, such as a unit on Domestic Abuse. There was also a handout outlining Key messages/categories of abuse/disclosures and contacts.

Our Christian faith includes recognising our responsibility to ensure our congregation can thrive and feel able to come forward. Whatever we do we are part of a team and are accountable. Any concerns should be passed on to the safeguarding officer (NE) and she will email us what is the next step. The key points are:

Recognise – Respond – Record – Refer. Then **Follow Up** to ensure that action has been taken.

Milborne Wick: No contribution, AM did not attend.

Goathill: Consultation on amalgamation has been completed but no official documentation from the registrar is yet forthcoming.

Deanery Synod: There are at present just 4 ½ vicars covering the Deanery – Bruton, Cadbury, Evercreech, Milborne Port (on sabbatical until the beginning of December) and a half time priest covering Castle Carey and Ansford. The discussions covered working with young people and the reorganisation of the deanery. In terms of our Benefice Compton Pauncefoot and Blackford are not willing to progress this until RSB returns from Sabbatical.

The Parish Share will be going up a lot – about a third extra - over the next 5 years. Over 5 years the benefice share will rise to approx. £82,000, with St John's share being £65,000. Next year there will be a St John's hike to £48,000.

Finance: The parish share will be paid in full by the end of the year. The Gift Day total including tax claim was £3607.63. The total for Quiz Night will probably be over £950.00

once the bill for the fish and chips has been paid. It was suggested that the May Quiz Night should be without food – bring your own.

Charity: RR has circulated the minutes of the Charity and Mission committee and outlined the recipients for the first 6 months of 2025. The takings from the three Christmas services this year will go to Christina Aid and the homeless shelter in Taunton.

Banking: Lloyds want to move charitable accounts to a community fund which will incur charges on cheques and cash deposits and include a monthly fee. This appears to be a general move with all banks.

Government changes: It is likely that gift aid will not be claimable for any cash sum under £30 (to prevent fraud) and there will be a cap of £10,000 a year – unlikely to affect churches. VAT may not be reclaimable on repairs from April. NI and minimum wage rises will apply to the parish secretary and the vergers. Other payments tend to be in the form of fees (e.g. organist/ gravedigger etc) so will not incur rises.

NE thanked PS for all his hard work.

Fabric: SW outlined upcoming repair bills arising from this Quinquennial and encompassing likely needs further down the line. The windows alone need over

£40,000 of work, then there is the roof and the boiler which is coming to the end of its life. David Grant chairs the Somerset Historical Churches Trust and is keen to help. Dan (the eco man) suggested we could become a "demonstration" church for the diocese. Upgrades would include a mixture of solar panels, heat source pump and gas. SW suggested that we need a "project manager" as we are talking a very great deal of money needed overall. HC suggested it could be a project for a university (he has contacts) or SW to see if the parishioners at Ven House have any suggestions as to the way forward.

Health and Safety: The fire extinguishers and the roof alarms are due inspection before Christmas.

AOB:

- The Magazine Committee meeting minutes were circulated for this meeting. AS suggested that a slot for "Minutes Received" should be part of the agenda for all committees and this was unanimously approved.
- There was a request that high days and holidays be included on the Milborne Port calendars – as they are on most commercial ones.
- CCLA – all PCC members must be trustees of St John's cottage.
- List of Chalice Bearers:
- Robin Bawtree; Richard Redman; David Johnson; Harold Clark; Tone Higgins; Trevor John; Margaret Barker; Nicki Edwards; Tricia Dawson; Ronnie Goodman. (all passed – no nays)
- NE is to renew the Small Lottery Licence (£40.00pa) with her and HC as the named people

Dates of next meetings, 2025: (need to confirm Church House as venue with Ben).
Most meetings will be preceded by community prayers in Church at **10 am**.

- Saturday 18th January
- Saturday March 15th – to approve accounts
- Saturday 26th April APCM to be confirmed **2.30 pm**
- Saturday 21st June
- Saturday 20th September
- Saturday November 15th.

NE concluded the meeting with a prayer.