



The Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Mere
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Friday 11th December 2020 at 10am on Zoom

1. Opening:

Rev. Carol opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Present:

Reverend Carol Green (Chair), Elisabeth Barrett, Lindy Elliot, John Page, Isabel Page, Christine Marsh, Julia Rankin, Natasha Shaftoe (PCC Secretary)

Apologies:

Derek Fisher, Nigel Leek (Treasurer),

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 19th November 2020:

Last meeting minutes from 19th November were read and signed as a true copy.

Accepted unanimously

4. Matters arising from the minutes if not covered in agenda:

Isabel asked for an update from point 5 of last meetings minutes.

Rev. Carol has looked at the legalities regarding passing the 2019 accounts and has written a short report now all queries are answered and that will be sent to Natasha to forward onto those concerned.

It was brought up that this would be covered on the next APCM agenda, but Julia raised the point that the answers to the question should be available sooner than this for transparency. **(From meeting 14th January 2021 amended to “whole financial report should be available” not just the answers to the questions raised)**

All further queries regarding the accounts should be directed to Nigel, Natasha, or a Church Warden

5. Enhancement and pinnacles project – progress report from Elisabeth including sale arrangements for the pews

Elisabeth gave an update from the 2nd site meeting and informed the work is progressing as scheduled.



The pews have been valued, £250-£300 for the shorter pews, which are most likely to sell, and £300 - £400 for the longer ones. These will be advertised to sell by posters displayed to Mere and surrounding areas. Rev. Carol suggests advertising on Facebook as this will be seen by a wider audience. If the pews do not sell, there are companies that will buy them.

Elisabeth gave an update on the progress with the pinnacles, with the Faculty and Grant applications.

Elisabeth will follow this up by sending out a detailed update report.

6. Pastoral Care of church family and community during Covid19:

Rev. Carol shared that Anne Rich who runs the Mere Tiddlers & Toddlers food bank has said there is more demand for the foodbank during the 2nd lockdown

Christine with the Mother Union has secured funds for Christmas treats, these will be given from the Walnut tree and the Angel Café.

There will be approx. 18 Christmas lunches cooked and delivered on Christmas day in the community.

Rev. Carol confirms the tree is up and the crib will soon be in place. Elisabeth adds the cross will be decorated with holly and ivy in the next couple days.

The Mother's Union held their carol service via Zoom this week, it was different than usual but was a lovely service enjoyed by many.

7. PCC members declaration

Thank you to those who have already completed and returned their forms, a gentle reminder was given for those outstanding.

8. Improving access to video and audio services for church and community.

Rev. Carol has now purchased a portable Wi-Fi connection for use in the Church office and Church. This was used successfully at the Mother's Union carol service and will hopefully be used to provide a live stream for services in the future.

Christine suggested asking Gillingham school if there is a student(s) who would like experience at filming the services.

9. Electoral Roll Officer



Thanks were offered for Christopher Stephenson who will be stepping down as Electoral Roll Officer at the next APCM. Rev. Carol asks if anybody knows someone who may like to take on his role to ask them to contact her. Lindy will ask one of her neighbours.

10. AOB

The issue of the church being very cold was raised, this is due to the heating being unable to be activated until the heating pipes are reconnected. The message that this is the case currently will be passed on to David Bett.

Christine has received thanks from the school for the book they received "It begins in Bethlehem". Rev. Carol has used this in the assemblies via Teams that she has taken this week.

Lindy gave an update that Sherry is still looking into setting up donations by card in the church. There will be an update required on the website and this will need to be done by Peter Mason.

Lindy will lead the opening prayer at the next meeting

11. Closing Prayer

Rev. Carol ended the meeting with grace.

12. Date of next PCC meeting:

Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7:30pm – via zoom unless restriction have change to allow us to meet in the Grove Building

Signature Carol Green

Date 14th December 2020