



The Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Mere
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Thursday 19th November 2020 at 7.00pm 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, Derek Fisher, Nigel Leek (Treasurer), Natasha Shaftoe (PCC Secretary)

Apologies:

Richard Wilson, Lesley Traves

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 20th October 2020:

Point 7. Elisabeth raised that the wording should be amended to read 'Nigel confirms that £20,000 has been paid to the reordering project - £10,000 to the Fundraising Appeal account in May 2020 and £10,000 to repay expenses for the reordering previously paid by the PCC.'

Last meeting minutes from 20th October were read and signed as a true copy, considering point above.

Proposed – Christine Marsh

Seconded – Isabel Page

All in favour

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

Rev. Carol confirms that Mere Matters have now been paid £200.

The matter of the organist was discussed, no contract has been signed at present due to the ongoing Covid restrictions.

Christine gives an update about the book "It begins in Bethlehem". There has been a positive response from Mere school, and they have asked for an addition 48 copies to be used in class. These books will also be available to children of the parishes. Rev. Carol has had permission to use this book in videos as long as credit is given to Bible Society.

In the previous meeting the zoom call ended and points 12-17 were not discussed. John did not want the narrative of good work to be lost and asked to note the following with regards to point 13 on the last meeting's agenda.



A bridging report from Rev. Carol was sent to all PCC member on the 25th September to keep everyone up to date with matters. Within this it informed of the commendable report written by Rev. Carol that was published in the Warminster journal and how this complimented Kate Symonds book.

John also wanted it noted that Rev. Carol put in a lot of hard work together with the town council to organise a dignified remembrance service.

5. Queries from APCM 2019 accounts:

Nigel explains the “fees due to other” on the finance report consists of fees due to Maiden Bradley PCC, West Knoyle PCC and the Diocese for weddings and funerals paid directly into the Mere PCC bank account. It also includes fees paid to retired clergy. Derek requested that the accounts be annotated in the future. Nigel is happy all accounts are correct.

Rev. Carol further explains how all wedding and funeral fee are paid into the Mere PCC bank account and are then paid out to the relevant recipients. This also includes money paid to Vergers, bell ringers and organists. This makes administering fees payable to the Diocese easier.

The St Michaels saving fund was another query in the accounts. It was explained it is simply a ring-fenced sum of money held in the PCC General fund of money collected towards the reordering.

Nigel proposes that there is a separate account going forward for the reordering, Elisabeth agrees this would be good.

There has recently been a deposit into the Mere PCC account of £40,000.00 from the Friends’ Reordering account. Nigel and Natasha will keep track of all money in and out the account in the Mere PCC cashbook. Elisabeth is also keeping a careful track on all the finance transactions for the reordering and we will be able to compare both sets of data to ensure accuracy when reconciling.

There was discussion on how it would be best to sign off the accounts and inform those who raised questions at the APCM. Rev. Carol will look into the legalities of it. It will then be decided if we should have a meeting (by zoom or at end of service) depending on restrictions.

ACTION: Rev Carol to look at legalities

6. Finance report for 2020 from Nigel. Discussion about ways to tackle deficit:

Nigel talked about where the accounts were at the end of September and where he thinks the accounts will be over the next few months making the point that there will be less service collections, weddings etc due to new Covid restrictions.

Nigel is still working on the income tax.



John said that the current situation with less services show the value of the Parish Giving Scheme and there should be a campaign in the future to promote this. Rev. Carol said that David Leakey has been looking into ways of talking to people about this.

The idea of a contactless card payment option in the church was raised, with all thinking this was a good idea. Rev. Carol has an email about this and will forward to Lindy to look into further.

ACTION: Rev. Carol to send email to Lindy

ACTION: Lindy to look into card reader and talk to Sherry

7. Enhancement and pinnacles project – progress report from Elisabeth

Thanks to David Leakey and his team appeal leaflets have now been delivered to Mere and surrounding Hamlets.

Donations are near to completion with just a few more pounds coming in, Elisabeth shares the amounts so far. Once the £40,000.00 in the Mere PCC account is paid to the builders any VAT can be repaid, this will help cover any shortfall.

Elisabeth updates on the Lottery Heritage fund and that the grant applications are currently closed. They may open in the next month and then the grant application process will start again though their priorities may be different.

National Churches trust application was immediately turned down as the architect did not have conservation accreditation. He is applying for this.

Pews – see attached report

The 3 types of pews were discussed by Rev. Carol and Elisabeth.

As the speaker for the organ will be moved it was suggested Peter Mason could be consulted as how best to do this as he originally installed.

ACTION: Rev. Carol to contact Peter Mason

The movable seat options were discussed, and Elisabeth suggested people could donate to “buy” a chair and have a small plaque with their names on.

The selling of the pews was talked about and Maggie Durkee and the Antiques shop will value the pews. It was also suggested that the purchase of the pews could be an option to the Mere community and not just sold to a company.



All PCC in favour of selling the Victorian pews and placing the 6 older pews in the St Matthew chapel, the children's corner and around the font. Final decisions about the placing would be by Rev. Carol, Elisabeth and Isabel meeting and discussing with builder so that they can see what looks best.

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

A Zoom meeting was held 18.11.20 about pastoral care, where telephoning people in the community was discussed, initially this will start with the electoral role and then grow through word of mouth.

9. Christmas services and volunteers for intercessions, readings, sidesmen etc

Due to the uncertainty of Covid19 it is difficult to make firm decisions for the lead up to Christmas.

Christabelle and a few others will be delivering home cooked Christmas Day lunch to the most needy, lonely and vulnerable that need it, this is instead of usual Grove Building lunch.

There will not be a Crib service this year but a 3pm Walking crib service around Mere ending at church. Abi and Matt (married in St Michael's in the autumn) will play Mary and Joseph. Rev. Carol is waiting to hear from Trudie about the donkey. Possibly a few "church" families following (socially distanced) with other children on the way at their front doors dressed as nativity characters. Rev Carol is trying to make arrangements for this to be live streamed.

Christine suggested that lanterns lit by small LED lights could be put in windows to "light up Mere" and these she hopes will be made in Mere School.

If there are to be no services in the church it was decided there would be little point in a tree in the church. There will be a tree outside the church funded by a £100 donation with lights and a silhouette of the nativity scene. The idea of lights in the churchyard trees was suggested but there is the concern of cost. Ivy to decorate was a suggestion.

Isabel is working on a list with regards to sidesmen etc

10. PCC members declaration

All members are aware they need to sign the forms provided and scan a signed copy to Natasha. Elisabeth has offered to help anyone needing their forms scanned.



11. Improving access to video and audio services for church and community. See attached report

Rev. Carol provided a report on purchasing a portable Wi-Fi connection for use in the Church office and Church called a dongle. This will be both a cheaper option than the current BT contract in the place, or their portable package, and a more practical solution.

Proposed: Julia Rankin

Seconded: Lindy Elliott

12. Safeguarding update from Christine

Nothing to report.

There will be safeguarding training for the PCC members in the future, Christine will keep all informed.

13. AOB

Julia raised the issue of cleaning after the work in the church is completed. It was agreed that a quote should be obtained for a professional team after speaking with Clare the Church cleaner. David Bett should ask to check the contractors do a basic clean after they completed their work.

14. Closing Prayer

Rev. Carol ended the meeting with grace.

15. Date of next PCC meeting:

Friday 11th December at 10am

Signature Carol Green

Date 11th December 20