



The Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Mere
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Thursday 2nd July 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, Richard Wilson, Nigel Leek (Treasurer), Natasha Shaftoe (PCC Secretary)

Apologies:

Pat Isom, Lesley Traves

3. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Last meeting minutes from 14th January 16th April and 2nd June, were read and signed as a true copy.

Proposed – Isabel Page

Seconded – Elisabeth Barrett

All in favour

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

No issues raised.

5. Finance Report and accounts for 2019:

Nigel confirmed that the accounts are have now been examined and are complete for 2019 and ready to be passed by the PCC.

There were no issues raised.

Proposed - John Page

Seconded - Richard

Nem.con.

ACTION: Rev. Carol to sign completed accounts.

6. Enhancement and Pinnacles Project:

Elisabeth updated that nothing new has happened since last meeting, and the work on the lottery application is continuing.



The offer of a new flag pole was discussed, with the general feeling that the addition of a new flag pole would not be a benefit. This addition may delay the work to the pinnacles and weather vane, there would also be the need to maintain the flagpole. It was raised that there is one already if needed on Castle Hill and without the restriction of only the St Georges flag being allowed.

ACTION: Rev. Carol to talk to the person offering to fund the flagpole and to thank for the offer but explain the concerns.

An updating report from David Betts was received

- 1) The Architect has produced a drawing and specification for repair of the pinnacles. These are comprehensive, however final decisions on detail will depend on what is found when each of the finials is dismantled. The drawing and specification are important because they will form the basis for the applications for the faculty and for grants now in preparation. I recommend that the PCC accepts them.*
 - 2) Reverend Carol has been approached by a potential donor who might pay for reinstatement of the flagpole at the top of the tower. While there is evidence for the pole, no one has so far found a photo of it. Our architect calculates that a pole of at least 12 metres would be required to clear the pinnacles and fly a flag properly. It is not a straightforward project. We await a rough estimate of cost, but the PCC may wish to decide in principle whether to support reinstatement of the flagpole bearing in mind that it will require a faculty and arrangements for operation and maintenance.*
 - 3) The Architect has made a visit to the church including the tower for the purpose of starting the Quinquennial report.*
 - 4) The Architect is poised to send the selected builder the letter of intent for the reordering work by the middle of July as per the PCC's decision at the last meeting.*
- In summary the project remains on course but there is still vital preparatory work to do in respect of the repair to the pinnacles. That work is in hand but submission of the faculty, the quinquennial, and applications for grant are interdependent. I hope to report further progress soon.*

Architects drawings and specifications for the pinnacles were accepted.

Proposed – Elisabeth Barrett

Seconded – Christine Marsh

Nem.con

Julia Rankin Joins the meeting.

7. Church Matters During Covid-19

Risk assessment



Rev. Carol has been working with Lindy on the risk assessment for the church and a copy has been sent to all PCC members. This will be updates as advice changes.

Service Arrangements – Physical and Online

Physical services are due to start on the 26th July. Although there is no fixed plan for the services yet. Rev. Carol suggests that the 1st & 3rd Sunday services could be held either in Maiden Bradley or in West Knoyle with an 8am in Mere and 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 in Mere. Rev Carol advised that another RA assessment will need to be done before services start Lindy will begin this assisted by Elisabeth, Lucy and Julia if they are willing.

The idea of readers and intercessors to be asked on the day of the service was discussed. Isabel raised her concern of intercessors having short notice, but Christine reassured that there will be pre-planned format for this.

Lindy updated that with the church opening last weekend, the signage in place seems to be working well.

APCM Date Provisional

The date of Sunday 6th September at 11:30 for the APCM has been set.

Foodbank

Richard informed that the food bank worked well. The demand was less than initially thought, so in future it will be a good idea to work alongside Anne, who runs the local toddler group and has had a foodbank element to it for a long time. They have received money from the Hoare Family already and it was agreed that £1000 should come from the “church” Foodbank.

8. Other Committees:

Grove Building Update – Including Request for Further Funding

Lindy updated on the work at the Grove Building. There are a lot more repairs required to the windows than initially thought, and it was asked for an additional £500 towards the work, which was approved by all –more maybe needed.

It is proving difficult to find a joiner who will work on the round window.

ACTION: Rev. Carol to email the architect to establish what options there are to repair or renew this Grade II listed building. (Done)

Rev. Carol reported that there were some communication issues amongst members of the GB committee the committee is not being kept informed at its meetings about lettings and hirers.



Worship / Energising Local Ministry

Julia expressed that the online services are good and working well.

The matter was raised that it is difficult to find the pew sheets online.

ACTION- Rev. Carol to ask Peter Mason to change on website to make it clearer. (Done)

9. AOB

Julia suggested the PCC could give a donation towards children in Mere school who are without Laptops and iPads. Richard raised the concerns of whether a charity could give to another charity, and as to which charity objective the church fell under.

Rev. Carol has been in contact with Karen Lineker who is a Wiltshire local engagement officer, to look at options – she will forward emails to Julia and Christine who will support. The idea of a separate fundraiser was also suggested if the rules do not allow the donation.

Nigel asked if a payment of £40 could be made to David Corbin for examining the accounts.

Proposed - Christine

Seconded – Julia

All in favour

ACTION: Nigel to make payment to David Corbin

Elisabeth asks if we can set up an annual direct debit of £25 to Wiltshire Historic Churches, this was agreed by all and details to be sent to Nigel to set up.

ACTION: Elisabeth to send details to Nigel

10. Closing Prayer

Rev. Carol ended the meeting with grace.

11. Date of next PCC meeting:

To be arranged

Signature Carol Green

Date 20th October 2020