

**The Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Mere**  
**Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on**  
**Thursday 3 June 2021 at 2pm in the Grove Buildings**

**1. Opening:**

Derek Fisher welcomed the new PCC to the meeting.

**2. Present:**

Derek Fisher (Chair), Hamish Bell, Judy Bickerstaff, Barry Clarke, Sherry Dixon, Jane Hurd, Pat Isom, Jean Knapp, Isabel Page, John Page, Julia Rankin, Nicky Ravenhill (notes), Kit Stallard, Lesley Traves.

**Apologies:** Christine Marsh, Richard Wilson.

**3. The Vacancy and Potential Benefice Merger**

Discussion arose around the recent zoom meeting with Alan Jeans, the Archdeacon and the situation regarding the vacancy and suspension.

The benefice has been commended by the Diocese for effort throughout the lockdown and with smaller congregations and it was agreed that considering these limitations the church had done well. There is some uncertainty on the assessment relating to the parish share, however decisions cannot be made until we have the exact and full set of figures from Nigel. It was felt that this is a new start and a chance to go forward with a new committee into a bright future. Our aspiration is to demonstrate our enthusiasm for this, starting with the creation of the Benefice Profile, Person Specification & Job Description.

**Agreed:** A group consisting of Barry, Kit, Sherry, Hamish and Jean to be created to create these documents in readiness for the Archdeacon's visit.

All in favour.

**Action:** Derek to compile a resume of some of the journey over the last three years for the Archdeacon to read.

All in favour.

It was felt it would be beneficial to arrange a face-to-face meeting with the Archdeacon as soon as can be arranged, to enable the PCC to put forward our case and to demonstrate our approach.

**Agreed:** to hold next PCC meeting as soon as possible on 17 June at 2pm in the Grove Buildings (Sherry sends apologies). Rural Dean to be invited as our Incumbent.

**Action:** Jean to try to arrange an appointment for the Archdeacon to attend a meeting at the Grove Buildings on 6 or 7 July.

#### 4. Treasurer vacancy (interim arrangements)

Discussion took place around the need for a new Treasurer and the difficulty to recruit a competent individual to undertake the work as a volunteer, complicated as the church's system of book-keeping differs from that of secular book-keeping.

Potential discussed of splitting work into that looking back and appointing a paid individual to bring the accounts up into the presentation that is required, and a volunteer to then take the accounts forward.

**Agreed:** that a professional treasurer might be identified for stage one.

**Action:** Kit Stallard to be given two weeks to try to find a professional treasurer and report back at next PCC meeting.

Proposed by Julia, seconded by all.

All in favour.

#### 5. Grove Buildings

Discussion on the well-kept state of accounts of the Grove Buildings, thanks to Judy Bickerstaff. The £542 'error' in the Annual accounts will be investigated. The transfer of £2,000 from the PCC was towards the painting work which had risen above budget. Issues with the gas bill were due to the meter not being read regularly during lockdown but are now dealt with. The screen and back door lock are being repaired.

A small team will start to clean the buildings over 2/3 sessions to be ready by last week in June in readiness for the lifting of the last stage of Covid restrictions by mid-July. All policies and procedures will be reviewed and re-written if necessary.

#### 6. Lay Pastoral Activity

Derek is keen that we reach out to people and reported he had arranged a meeting to start to get the LPA work moving forward. He reported he had spoken with Rachael Hansford, whose scheme has followed the work of Richard's Jeffries' lockdown scheme – he will be meeting her to discuss more and will report back to the PCC on a plan to create a help team for all three churches.

**Action:** Derek to contact Mary Merrell to ask if she would be involved in this plan or offer suggestions.

#### 7. Fundraising

Isabel proposed re-starting fundraising for monthly charities.

All in favour.

#### 8. AOB

Rev Pauline Reid has requested contact details of PCC.

**Action:** Nicky to compile and forward to her.

Right of Patronage notice received.

**Action:** Nicky to display in porch. Kit & Hamish to discuss and come back to PCC with report.

Names of Churchwardens and times of services to be updated in Mere Matters.

**Action:** Nicky to contact Editor.

Group email facility needed for the PCC.

**Action:** Nicky to investigate.

Kit to join the Fabric Committee to report back to future PCC meetings?

**Action:** Kit to join!

**Agreed:** to offer Les Dixon the honorary post of Sexton of St Michael's church in recognition of his handiwork and continued commitment.

All in favour.

Safeguarding/DBS coming up for renewal.

**Action:** Derek/Christine to liaise.

Vestry and Porch require tidying up.

**Action:** Elisabeth/Sandra and Sherry to action respectively.

Good news of a Jackdaw in the tower, with two chicks hatched out of four eggs.

Please let Nicky know of any items for inclusion in the Pewsheets.

## 9. Closing Prayer

John ended the meeting with a prayer.

## 10. Date of next PCC meeting: Thursday 17 June at 2pm in the Grove Buildings.

Signature

Date