

St Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley
Minute of PCC Meeting held on
Monday November 9th 2021 at 7:30pm

Present:

Rector	Sandie Hooper
Bill Alexander (Treasurer)	Jennifer Hyde
Pamela Cock	Chrissie Markham
Trevor Dawson	Jeff Marks (Churchwarden, Safeguarding Officer)
Rosa Diacon	Cyril Mighall
Kate Doody	Valerie Muller (PCC Secretary)
Richard Fowler (Churchwarden)	Clemmie Sellick
Vicki Gillespie	

Apologies:

April Alexander, Jackie Puleston

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on September 13th 2021 had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were signed as a correct of that meeting.

Matters Arising:

It is proving very difficult to get more than one quote for installing Wifi in church. It was agreed to accept the one quote we have.

The church tower also needs work and again it is difficult to get quotes. Alex Nash is coming to quote.

The quilted wall hanging created by Averil is so beautiful. It was agreed to send her some flowers as a thank you. Photos will be taken for the website and to go in The Bridge.

Harvest Festival was very successful. So far £750 has been sent to Welcare although it is thought there is more to come. VJM thanked.

Light Party went very well although sadly the numbers were down this year, possibly because many families had taken the opportunity to go away for Half Term. Kate was thanked for organising it, and Pamela, Sue and Michelle were thanked for their help with refreshments. Lighting in the church was brilliant.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from the Diocese thanking us for our pledge for next year

Covid:

Covid arrangements in church are thought to be working well but local infection rates are continuing to be monitored and if necessary the churchwardens will re-introduce some of the measures that were used during lockdown.

JPIC:

A Report was circulated before this meeting. This is attached to these minutes.

- The Harvest Prayer boats for Cop26 were sent to Glasgow.
- Bishop Christopher is coming on January 9th when we hope to have the Chapel of Reconciliation ready and to launch Eco within St Mary's.
- There will be a 'Terra' recycling point in church.
- VG is looking into using biodegradable Oasis possibly made from wool
- Advent plans for Sunday Club include creating Reverse Advent Calendars where each week gifts are collected, ie clothes, food, toys, for distribution to those in need. There are also plans to create a decoration for under the Christmas tree using recycled materials.

Finances:

The treasurer had circulated both the figures and a report prior to this meeting.

- He plans to produce the budget for next year early in the New Year
- Income from Thomas Chapman Charity is still needed
- There are repair and maintenance bills to come
- £1000 was sent to the Bishop's Lent Appeal
- £750 has been sent to Welcare from the money raised at Harvest, but there is probably over £200 still to go to this charity.
- The PCC voted in favour of resuming budgetted charity giving, probably supporting 3 charities, one local, one national and one international.
- Money donated through the Good Box amounts to £376. The box is now working better so it is hoped this amount will go up.

Bill was thanked for all his work on this.

Church Fabric:

The working party met recently to go through the Quinquennial Report, the recent Electrical Report and the report from the Insurance company.

They have created a list of the work which can be done 'in-house' and the few jobs that will need to be done professionally.

The Insurance Company would like the Font Cover and its pulley mechanism examined annually! This will cost £300 +VAT. The wardens suggest the lid is fixed so that it is permanently open. This will need a new change but will cost a fraction of the annual inspection cost. The meeting agreed this work should be done.

The Rector thanked the wardens.

Safeguarding:

The Safeguarding officer has received a lengthy letter from the 'Complainant' requesting a large amount of information about when his daughter was in the church choir. As there were no safeguarding issues during this time he has declined to answer anymore questions.

Plans for Christmas and beyond:

- The Christmas Tree will be delivered to church on November 27th
- There will be a Soiree that evening to switch on the lights, welcome the Posado figures into church before they start on their journey around the village. There will be a Chilli Supper and some musical entertainment.
- Kate offered to look after the arrangements for the Posada figures and produce a rota.
- Kate would like to purchase Advent Calendars for the children.
- The Rector has purchased some Advent prayer cards. She is hoping to encourage more people to join her regularly for morning and/or evening prayer.
- Christmas Services are as follows:

I.	Sunday Dec 19 th	5.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
II.	Friday Dec 24 th	5.00pm	Nativity and Christingle Service
III.	Friday Dec 24 th	11.30pm	Christmas Mass
IV.	Saturday Dec 25 th	9.30am	Family Holy Communion Service
V.	Sunday Dec 26 th	8.00am	Benefice Holy Communion(said)
VI.	Sunday Dec 26 th	11.00am	Benefice Matins at Nutfield.

Any Other Business: There wasn't any!

The Rector thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and we finished by saying the Grace together