

The meeting was held as a Zoom gathering with attendees logging in from their homes.

**Present:** Jema Ball, (Vicar/Chair), Ann Thomas (Warden), Caroline Jowett-Ive (Warden), Jo Bridgwater, Hayley Brydges, (Youth Minister), Angela Cattell, Steve Fairbairn (Secretary), Julia Gwyther, Jennifer Hall, Tony Hughes, Al Meadows, Jo Morris (Curate), Caroline Owen (Treasurer), Kate Pinfold, Simon Potter (Associate Vicar), Nick Powlesland, Brian Richardson, Peter Robottom, Jerry Sandford, Caroline Simpson, Tony Yeadon.

## 1. OPENING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Jema opened the meeting at 7:30pm by saying that she hoped the next meeting could be held in person. She noted that present meeting was being held on Zoom as people would otherwise have had to wear masks and maintain social distancing, which makes it difficult to hear everything.

Jema shared that the following day would be Ascension Day and that our thoughts might sometimes move from Easter to Pentecost without dwelling on Jesus' return to heaven. We read Acts 1:1-11 and reflected on Jesus' commissioning of the disciples. Jema therefore prayed that the PCC should also be inspired by the Holy Spirit to grow in the leadership of our church. She also prayed for a peaceful resolution to latest conflict between Israel and Palestine.

## 2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS & APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Andy Judd and Yvonne Penn and that a touching letter of resignation from Diocesan Synod had been received from Yvonne. Jema acknowledged all the work that Yvonne has done for the church and noted that John White has stepped down as an ex-officio member of the PCC in order to focus on working at Hazelnut Community Farm which is soon to become a registered charity.

Peter Robottom noted his resignation from Diocesan Synod. This does not automatically mean that anyone from St Mary's should stand for election, but they could do so if they felt called by God to stand.. It was reported that Diocesan Synod membership papers need to be completed soon and that the Synod was looking for more women and young people as members to improve its diversity. Jema said that she had been nominated as a clergy member of Diocesan Synod and those people interested in standing for election to the House of Laity should be directed to her.

Jema welcomed Kate Pinfold and Al Meadows as new PCC members and Nick Powlesland as a returning PCC member.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **3.1 To agree the minutes**

Jema asked PCC members whether they would accept the minutes of the last meeting of March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. There were no questions about the minutes and this led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** The minutes of the PCC meeting held on March 10th 2021 can be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings and so can be signed by the Vicar.

**Proposed** Peter Robottom      **Seconded** Jerry Sandford

**Result** This proposal was accepted unanimously, with one abstention.

#### **3.2 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. NEW PCC BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 PCC: The Big Picture**

Jema gave a brief resume of the "Big Picture" summary sheet distributed before the meeting which gives a good summary of the purpose and values of this PCC. As there were no questions on the text she moved on to the next agenda item.

#### **4.2 PCC Sub-committees**

For convenience, the sub-committees and their membership were all listed on the pre-circulated agenda document. Jema stated that it would be good if PCC members would say whether they would be willing to serve on one of the sub-committees where they would feel most confident.

#### **4.3/4.4 Appointment of PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Secretary**

Jema announced that she would like to seek approval of Steve Fairbairn as PCC Secretary and Carrie Patterson as Electoral Roll Secretary in a single vote. Jema noted that neither Steve nor Carrie would have voting rights on the new PCC as neither are now elected members. This led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** Steve Fairbairn and Carrie Patterson should be appointed to the roles of PCC secretary and Electoral Roll Secretary respectively.

**Proposed** Ann Thomas      **Seconded** Jo Bridgwater

**Result** This proposal was accepted unanimously.

## **4.5 Appointment of Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople**

A list of deputy wardens, welcomers and sidespeople had been circulated prior to the meeting. Jema reported that Eileen Jervis is willing to continue as a sidesperson. It was noted that Peter Robottom's name should be added to the list of deputy wardens. Given these corrections the list was accepted by PCC members and this led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** The amended list of deputy wardens, welcomers and sidespeople should be approved by the PCC.

**Proposed** Caroline Simpson      **Seconded** Brian Richardson

**Result** This proposal was accepted unanimously.

It was noted that we need more people willing to serve in these roles at the Sunday morning 10:30 service. Jema said that she is hoping to encourage more young people to participate.

## **5. RESOURCING MISSION**

### **5.1 Our Finances**

The management accounts for the end of April 2021 had been distributed prior to the meeting. Caroline Owen reported that the financial position is encouraging because, with respect to our November budget, our budgeted income is ~£8K higher and spending is ~£6K lower. She noted that last gift day had been exceptional and she declared herself comfortable with the overall financial position, but noted that we need to be conservative on spending. She reported that Matt Hurley is still furloughed but that our cleaner, Lucy Allen, although furloughed earlier is now back full time. However, monthly phone/broadband costs have increased as a result of upgrading the communications infrastructure at the Vicarage and in the church.

Caroline reported that a query had been raised about the fact that the monies given specifically for the Hall Re-development Project were being reported in the same fund as the Development Fund. Caroline noted that, early on in her term as Treasurer, a decision had been made to place monies received from legacies and substantial capital gifts, where no specific use had been mentioned, into a Development Fund, rather than treating it as annual income. This would allow the church to build an unrestricted capital sum which could, if required, be invested into a range of new projects which included, but was not limited to, the re-development of the church rooms. It could be spent, for example, on a new boiler. Since the use of it was unrestricted it was treated as a "designated fund". Following the appeal last year, some monies had been received specifically for Hall re-development work. Since the use of this is restricted to that purpose it must be treated as a "restricted" fund. Caroline reported that some two thirds of the overall Fund was unrestricted and the remainder was for the hall re-development. She will report the two funds separately in the ongoing figures she produces.

### **5.2 Our Buildings**

Peter Robottom noted that there are no immediate issues with the church buildings. He noted that we are exploring options concerning 'eco' boilers with the diocese, though Westfords did find an ignition system for our old boiler so it still works. He noted that there is shade on the Hall roof and that it is a listed building. Solar panels would not easily be allowed particularly on

the more-sunny south facing Church roof. Peter will seek advice from the Diocese on the feasibility of installing solar panels.

Jema reported that the planning permission for the Hall development work expires in June 2022 and that she and Peter and Chris Thomas would meet to discuss the Hall Development work soon. She asked whether PCC members had any views on the current aim to start work by June of next year. It was noted by one PCC member that it makes sense to avoid the cost of reapplying for development work and that the condition of the hall buildings is deteriorating. Jema then stated her intention to invite the congregation to make pledges. The level of giving would dictate the scale of the works and the final decision on the scale of the works would be made later by the PCC.

### **5.3 Our Staff Team**

Jema reported that Carrie and Rachel are no longer working reduced hours and are now working their usual hours of 25 hours per week. Simon Potter reported that the decision to furlough Matt Hurley would be reviewed in mid-June.

#### **5.3.1 Children and Families Minister**

Jema then asked Nick Powlesland and Hayley Brydges, our Youth Minister, to leave the meeting for the discussion of this item of the agenda to avoid any suggestion of a conflict of interests.

Prior to the meeting Jema had produced two related documents that were circulated to PCC members. One document was a proposal to formally expand Rachel Powlesland's part time role as a Children and Families worker to a full-time role designated as Children and Families Minister. The other document was a formal definition of the role. Jema asked for comments on these documents. A helpful discussion was had focusing on the value and impact of the role of Children's and Families worker and the cost implications of the proposal'. This led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** Rachel Powlesland should be appointed as Children and Families Minister on a 37.5 hours per week contract in keeping with the newly revised role description distributed to PCC members.

**Proposed** Caroline Jowett-Ive      **Seconded** Julia Gwyther

**Result** This proposal was accepted unanimously.

Jema noted that Rachel's new terms of employment would take effect from May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nick Powlesland and Hayley Brydges were readmitted to the Zoom gathering.

## **6. MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATES AND DECISIONS**

### **6.1 Worship and Teaching**

Simon noted the "Devoted" series of studies, accompanying the sermon series on the Book of Acts, which is available now. He reported that this series would be followed by a sermon series

on the Book of Psalms for 9 weeks in the summer term. He pointed out that the Psalms teachings would not be a series of laments! Over the summer holidays the teachings would focus on St. Paul's mission journeys and amused meeting attendees with the aside that this might be as close as most of us will get to travelling overseas during this summer with its Covid problems.

Jema noted the key importance of new patterns of worship and teaching at St Mary's as summarized in the pre-circulated document on "Services and Activities in the Autumn and beyond".

Attendees commented that it was encouraging to see new initiatives on the church agenda and that the 4pm Sunday service was a good idea, particularly as many secondary school children do sport on a Sunday morning now. Simon noted the alternation of the @4 and Explore@4 services and explained that there is no specific target in either, though Explore@4 is aimed more at younger families.

In response to a query on how university students were to be accommodated, Jema said that students are welcome at all our services, but we have struggled to attract them in significant numbers in the past. One PCC member suggested that we should focus on what we can do well and accept that students will go to the more established student churches like Woodlands Church. Jema accepted the situation, but pointed out that Angela and her team were now going to the students which one attendee was very supportive of. Simon noted that a few students would prefer the style of services and community offered by St Mary's.

Support was given to the Tuesday morning café-session/service which had certainly appealed to at least one attendee's neighbour.

Jema then asked the meeting attendees whether the Leadership Team should be given a green light to proceed with developing the proposed new services and activities schedule. This led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** The Leadership Team should proceed with developing the proposed services and activities schedule as given in the pre-circulated document.

**Proposed** Kate Pinfold                      **Seconded** Angela Cattell

**Result** This proposal was accepted unanimously.

## **6.2 Caring and Praying for Each Other**

Jo Morris reported that the Pastoral Care group would now be renamed as Care and Support and explained that we are looking to expand the team of people willing to serve in this way.

Simon Potter reported that the church's small groups were going well. Some small groups have increased their membership. He also said that two new groups have been set up: one by Jo; and another younger generation group. He advised attendees that if any of them want to join a small group they should speak to him.

## **6.3 Connecting with Younger Generations**

Hayley Brydges reported that she had been serving with Robyn Coleman, Youth and Student Minister at High Grove Church, at the Oasis Academy Brightstowe (in Shirehampton) since

mid-January. She explained that they try to engage with the secondary school children with games and chats. The aim is to make contact with the children where they actually spend their time, in addition to focusing on the young people with whom we already have personal connections with as a church.

#### **6.4 Stoke Bishop C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

As this item had been covered in detail in the APCM only one week before it was not considered in this meeting. It was suggested that it would be helpful if those on the PCC who had not seen it had a chance to be able to view the video prepared by David Forrester which had been shown at the APCM, describing the impact on the school of the work being done by people from St Mary's specifically Jema and Rachel Powlesland.

#### **6.5 Serving the Wider Parish, Mission Area and Beyond**

Simon noted that the mission area prayer letter was a good means of staying up to date with ASMA developments. Jema noted that Steve would be sending out the relevant monthly prayer points.

Kate Pinfold offered to join the Mission Committee, which Jema gratefully accepted. A meeting for this committee will be called soon.

#### **6.6 Safeguarding**

Caroline Owen drew attention to the new sections in the updated Safeguarding Policy circulated to PCC members prior to the meeting. She noted that there is a new Appendix 2 on Social Media Policy and a new Appendix 3 on Lone working and Personal Safety. She hoped the new sections would raise people's awareness of the issues. There were no questions arising concerning the updated policy and this led to the following proposal.

**Proposal** The PCC should adopt the updated Safeguarding Policy for use in the coming year.

**Proposed** Hayley Brydges                      **Seconded** Nick Powlesland

**Result** The updated Safeguarding Policy was accepted unanimously.

Caroline then reminded PCC members of the need to complete the basic level of Safeguarding training.

### **7. OTHER PROPOSALS**

#### **7.1 Pilgrim's Progress filming**

Jema noted that Keith Sheather's request to be allowed to film inside the church had not been granted at our March meeting, and asked for members' responses to the new formal request from Keith which had been circulated before the meeting. It was noted that the new request asks to film two scenes after the further lifting of restrictions on 17<sup>th</sup> May. One scene will involve less than six people and one will involve more than six. A debate around this question led to the following proposal:

**Proposal** Keith Sheather should be allowed film the scene that involves less than six people after May 17<sup>th</sup>, but the larger scene cannot be filmed until more than six people are legally allowed to mix indoors.

**Proposed** Caroline Owen

**Seconded** Brian Richardson

**Result** There were 5 abstentions on this vote but the other members were all in favour and the proposal was passed by the majority.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

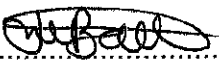
There was no formal AOB.

Jema thanked PCC members for speaking up well and getting involved in the issues of the meeting.

**9. CLOSING PRAYER**

Simon Potter closed the meeting in prayer thanking the Lord for the body of our physical being as individuals and the body of our church community both locally and nationally and asking the Lord to help us grow in the image of Jesus

Jema declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed..........

Date.....14/07/21

