

St Mary's Church, Bentworth PCC Meeting

4.30pm, 4th February, 2020

The Parish Hub, Medstead

1. **Opening Prayer:** led by EP
2. **Present :** Jean Baveystock (JB); Cathy Dumelow, Church Warden (CD); Jenny Hales (JH); Sue Phillips (SP); Rev'd Canon Ed Pruen, Chair (EP); Liz Preece, Church Warden (LP)
3. **Apologies:** Mervyn Dunwoody, Treasurer; (MD); Poppity Nutting (PN)
4. **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 4. 11 19 were duly ratified.
5. **Matters Arising:**
Damaged Headstones: Michael Thorne has contacted all the relatives who have stated that they wish to carry out their own repairs. However, the relatives of Ethel Taylor (deceased 1954) are unknown.
Sound System: EP requested that the hand held mic be used for all services to help those who use the hearing loop. Sufficient replacement batteries for both this mic and the radio mic need to be kept in the vestry.

WORSHIP & MISSION

6. **Christmas Services:** an overall attendance of 487 was recorded. The Carol Service was particularly successful. EP is to source the 58th Bethlehem Carol Sheet for the Benefice for Xmas 2020.
7. **The School** have requested that they be allowed to place their Holocaust Memorial Candles in the church and all agreed to this.
8. **School Governors:** The PCC recommends that Jane Phillips be re-elected as a Foundation Governor in the school. Not only has she been a dedicated governor, she has also ensured the Christian ethos of the school is maintained.
9. **Chalice Assistants:** The PCC unanimously agreed to Jean Baveystock and Jenny Hales being recommended to the Bishop as Chalice Assistants. EP will contact the Bishop and also offer training at 1030 on 10. 02. 20.
10. **Canon Ed's Report:** EP reported on the various visits he has made, liaising with other clergy and meeting with Ingrid and Peter Owen-Jones, both of whom have been invaluable in providing cover for services. Ingrid has shown herself to be particularly empathetic and dignified when conducting funerals. There are 2 weddings booked for the summer (23 May, 2pm; 4 July 3.30pm), and a blessing on 11 July (TBC), for which a charge is still made but without the legal fees and the diocesan fee.
11. **Services:** Messy Church is now operating on a different schedule and the February session was well attended (14 children; 20 adults) and well received. Bentworth will still run the 8am BCP on Mothering Sunday (22 March), with a family service held elsewhere in the Benefice. For Lent there will be two Benefice meetings and an invitation to join the Monday evening service at Alton Abbey.

12. **Karamoja:** The PCC have read the forwarded report from Charlie Shaylor.
13. **Kathryn Mercy Home:** This project run by the previous incumbent is no longer supported by the Benefice. However, the Rev'd Jeyapaul, head of the mission, and his son Charles, are visiting the area 8-11 May staying with one of the Medstead parishioners. EP has kindly asked him to preach at the 11 am Bentworth Holy Communion Service.
14. **APCM:** This has now changed to Monday 23 March, 7pm.
The timetable is: 9 March- Updated Electoral Roll displayed in the church porch with notice of the election of Church Wardens, PCC members and date of APCM; nomination forms to be available at the back of the church; 16 March-display of Financial Statement; 6 April-results of the election published; 20 April-Financial Statement and Annual Report sent to Diocese.
15. **Refreshments:** EP has requested that all coffee/tea served in Church should be Fairtrade.

FINANCE

16. **Treasurer's Report** (see attached) The Parish Share for Bentworth 2020 is to increase from £16,232 to £16, 949.
17. **Fund Raising:** JB is keen to ask those who already donate by direct debit to increase their contribution and encourage others to sign up to the Gloucester Parish Giving Scheme.
18. **Bentworth Welfare Trust:** As there is £1102 still in this account, EP is to contact Brenda Mills with a view to using the money in accordance with the principles of the charitable trust.
19. **Charities Supported:** Alton Food Bank; Karamoja; The Children's Society

FABRIC & CHURCHYARD

20. **Church Re-ordering:** The three outline drawings from Nick Carey-Thomas were discussed with the PCC favouring an extension with an accessible toilet, larger storage facilities than on the drawings, a kitchen and the removal of the pews adjacent to the extension. The school toilet which is used by the school could be refurbished by the church to provide an extra facility.
21. **The Chancel Door:** (Update 05.02.20) This is now in place and LP was thanked for all her work here. A list of key holders will be drawn up.
22. **The Ash Tree** has now been felled by Warwick Hawes and the area tidied. As it was hollow inside, this project was timely.
23. **Churchyard Tidiness:** JB is to organize for the area by the felled oak tree to be tidied.
24. **Pew Cushions:** These are now in place and make a welcome addition to the Church. David Norman and Wendy Young have kindly agreed to donate towards the cost. The altar kneelers are to be repaired by SP.
25. **The Carpet** by the font has been replaced, greatly enhancing the visual effect of the church.
26. **Parking:** with the school now employing so many staff, all the parking outside the church is regularly taken, leaving no spaces for those needing to use the

church. EP will discuss this at the Governors' meeting and a sign is to be erected requesting that a space be left clear for the church.

27. **The Flag**, which is now in a poor condition, has been removed and a new flag made out of durable material with the diocesan badge will be purchased.
28. **The Yew Trees**: we have been given permission to trim back the tree by the lych gate as it is damaging the structure of the gate and hindering access to the churchyard.

SAFEGUARDING

29. All PCC members have received a DBS clearance but EP pointed out that all members need to do the online training. CD has given EP the Messy Church Safeguarding guidelines which he will share with the Messy volunteers.

AOB

30. **The Belfry**: SP is concerned about the damp in here and LP suggested that as the wood on the steeple is damaged, this might be partly to blame. LP is to ask advice. Leaving the belfry door open at night will also help to disperse the condensation.
31. **The meeting** closed with The Grace at 1803.

Attached:

Report from Treasurer (M Dunwoody)

Wed 29 Jan

We had a positive year and have paid our full quota on or mostly ahead of time. Income is lower because we have had little income from weddings and funerals (fees and more particularly collections).

If the pew cushions are due soon, I will book them to last year. An invoice or draft would be useful.

We do need to extend our pushing of regular commitments via Gloucester or Standing Order.

Regards, Mervyn