

## St Mary's Church, Bentworth PCC Meeting

2.30pm, 22 July, 2020

Field House, Burkham

1. **Opening Prayer:** led by EP
2. **Present :** Cathy Dumelow, Church Warden (CD); Mervyn Dunwoody, Treasurer; (MD); Jenny Hales (JH); Poppity Nutting (PN); Sue Phillips (SP); Rev'd Canon Ed Pruen, Chair (EP); Liz Preece, Church Warden (LP)
3. **Apologies:** Jean Baveystock (JB);
4. **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 03. 03.20 were ratified.
5. **Matters Arising:** The damaged headstones have now been repaired except that of Ethel Taylor as there is no record of the deceased's family. MD has organized the repair of the handheld mic. Peter Nutting has also contributed to the new cushions which have made a welcome addition to services.

### WORSHIP & MISSION

6. **Canon Ed's Report:** EP reported that Sarah Rees who has been the volunteer Benefice Administrator for three years, is now stepping down. EP expressed huge gratitude for her excellent work and suggested that the Benefice give her an honorarium in recognition of her commitment. Ingrid Owen-Jones has kindly volunteered to take on this role. EP has also attends Diocesan Zoom meetings on future plans for the church post-Covid, particularly as revenue for 2020 is down by 20%. It is likely that some clergy may be stepping down. The problem of maintaining so many Grade 1 & 2 listed church buildings, which are under-used has also been highlighted. Nationally, online church services have been a great success, accessed by two thirds of the population. There is now a commitment to develop this digital outreach. The Diocese is also investigating the amalgamation of smaller Benefices looked after by a team of workers and clergy but with one PCC. The BLMS online services have been very successful with a huge uptake both nationally and internationally, and these will continue. EP thanked Ingrid and Peter Owen-Jones for their online Evening Prayer Services, and Wendy and Patrick Busby and John Lofthouse for their musical contributions. EP also reported that he is currently no longer allowed to ask clergy over 70 years to conduct services until the pandemic rules change. (They can sometimes volunteer in particular need!)
7. **Services:** In the light of the Covid pandemic, there is a New Look Communion Service following the Government's guidelines and mandatory requirements for Places of Worship. This requires hygiene observation, and social distancing. These services have been well received and attended, with an average of 38 communicants. The Diocesan Covid measures have been adhered to including the advisory wearing of face coverings. On 16 August the Rev'd Lynn Power of the Parish of the Resurrection in Alton will be conducting the service. The pattern for services in September is as yet unclear and is dependent upon Government decisions. Harvest Festival will be held on 11 October.

8. **APCM:** The postponed APCM is now scheduled to take place at 7pm on 5 October in the Church.

### **FINANCE**

9. **Treasurer's Report.** MD presented the meeting with a detailed breakdown of the church's present financial situation which showed a positive situation. The PCC will pay their full Diocesan Share.

### **FABRIC & CHURCHYARD**

10. **The Chancel Door:** JB questioned whether the new door needed modifying as there are gaps around the frame. It was agreed to seek Nick Carey-Thomas's opinion.
11. **The Steeple:** The wood is showing signs of damage and a quote of £15,000 has been given. JB asked if this was urgent repair work. Again, it was agreed to seek Nick Carey-Thomas's advice.
12. **The Church Upgrading:** JB felt that in the light of the present pandemic, the need for an extension with handwashing facilities was of importance.
13. **Boiler:** When Hi -Tech are servicing the boiler, LP will ask for a quote for a new tap in the flower corner as it is leaking and also a water heater here which would provide an interim handwashing solution.
14. **Quinquennial Inspection:** This is now overdue and Nick Carey-Thomas has advised that he can conduct this in August. CD is to liaise with him.
15. **Churchyard Upkeep:** Although Charlie Phillips and his team do an excellent job in cutting the grass, SP noted that there are large unkempt areas that need regular strimming and suggested we ask for volunteers. CD will ask John Stockdale to put out an email requesting help.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

16. The Diocese regularly collects information regarding any Safeguarding incidents and during lockdown the Safeguarding Office remained open.

### **AOB**

17. **The School Playground:** This is to remain locked during the school holidays but the Governors have given permission for church parking to continue and CD has a key to the padlock. Mrs Ayres has also asked that the village use the field with discretion in line with the government Covid advice.
18. **Dates:** The next PCC meeting will take place at 230pm on Monday 28 September at Field House, Burkhams by kind invitation of PN.
19. **The meeting** closed with The Grace at 1600.