

St Andrew's Church, Medstead

PCC Meeting : 11th August 2021 at 5.30pm

Present : Debby Barnes (DB) (Churchwarden & Chair), John Lofthouse (JL), Patrick Busby (PB), Sharon Blackshaw (SB).

The meeting began with a prayer from DB.

1. APOLOGIES for absence : None.

2. MINUTES of the last meeting : The minutes of the last meeting, which were circulated by Yvonne Haig via e mail, were duly approved.

3. MINUTES of the Zoom meeting with Ven. Richard Brand : These were also circulated by Yvonne Haig and were also approved.

4. RESIGNATION of Sarah Rees and Yvonne Haig : DB reported that Sarah Rees and Yvonne Haig have both, for personal reasons, decided to come off the PCC. We thank them both very much for their years of service – Sarah as PCC member and Churchwarden; Yvonne as PCC member and Secretary.

ACTION : DB to communicate our gratitude to Sarah & Yvonne.

5. PORCH REPAIR

The porch is in need of repair. An assessment has been carried out by Nick Carey-Thomas, who has submitted proposals.

The proposals for work were discussed – as were the detailed responses from Rev. Peter and David Hayward. The PCC accept that the work on the porch needs to be done and would be delighted if David Hayward would follow up on the proposals outlined by Nick Carey-Thomas. The PCC authorises David Hayward to act on its behalf in this matter and is very grateful for his hard work.

ACTION : DB to communicate the above to David Hayward.

6. MEMORIAL BENCH

DB reported that she had ordered a memorial bench for her late husband, Adrian, but had been caught out by how quickly the bench and plaque had been produced and delivered. DB now needs to go through the relevant processes in order to obtain a faculty. Rev. Brian (as Area Dean) is entirely supportive and has offered to bless the bench after Sunday's service. Although there are hoops to be jumped through, it is not anticipated that there will be any problems at diocesan

level. The PCC approved the installation of the memorial bench at the south side of the Chancel – **Proposed PB; seconded JL.**

Security is an issue and a new bench was stolen from the playing fields last summer. The PCC recommends that, once approved, the bench (which is very lovely) be secured to the ground as soon as is possible. In the meantime, it will be moved into the church as much as is possible.

ACTION : DB to follow up on faculty application. Paperwork has been circulated by Sarah Rees. DB to check whether the Parish Council need to be consulted.

7. MORE PCC MEMBERS

Due to recent resignations, we are in urgent need of more PCC members and officers for the church – in particular another Churchwarden and a Treasurer.

ACTION : DB to make an announcement on Sunday and to follow-up with an e mail that needs to go to everyone on the electoral roll. The message is simple – if people do not step up, we will slowly lose control of our church.

8. KEY ROSTER

Stephen Blackshaw has kindly agreed to continue to co-ordinate the key roster for the locking and unlocking of St Andrew's every day. From 1st September, St Andrew's can be open as normal – so the new roster will start then.

9. WORSHIP PATTERN FROM SEPTEMBER

Rev. Howard Wright (of COGS, Four Marks) has kindly agreed to oversee our worship in the month of September. The pattern will be as follows;

- 1st Sunday – Holy Communion at 11am – Rev. Howard.
- 2nd Sunday - Said Holy Communion at 8am – could this be 1662? – Rev. Howard or his assistant/curate.
- 3rd Sunday – Holy Communion at 11am – Rev. Howard
- 4th Sunday - Family Service/Harvest Festival at 11am – Rev. Ingrid. This is to be followed by a picnic in the churchyard or the church hall. People will bring their own food.

Beyond this, we are unsure of what will happen. Perhaps Rev. Brian can tell us more – though doubtless it is all tied up with which Parish/Group we will eventually join. In the meantime, concerns were raised about who would take

funerals and who will take the Remembrance Sunday service and Christmas services. It is important to consider this now as our supply of Priests is finite and there will be many calls on their time.

JL pointed out that, whilst services taken by Priests are the ideal, the Diocese approves of lay-led services if there is no priestly option.

Masks will no longer be mandatory and so it will be up to the individual to decide whether to wear one or not. Hand sanitiser will be kept available and its use encouraged.

ACTION : DB to seek some clarity from Rev. Brian Pritchard about our pattern of worship for the remainder of the year. DB will also ask that the said Holy Communion on 14th September be 1662/BCP – as that is what the clientele of that service will want.

10. ONLINE PROVISION :

JL reported that the number of 'listeners' has steadily dropped since restrictions began to be lifted and face-to-face services started again. A small number of people still listen weekly, as they cannot get to church, and find these services an important source of connection and spirituality. The decision was, therefore, taken to continue with the online services through August and stop at the beginning of September. JL wishes to record thanks to all who have contributed to the online services in the last eight months – especially Rev. Brian, Rev. Peter, Rev. Ingrid, Rev. Lynne Power, Rev. Christopher Salter, Rev. Gordon Randall, Rev. Andrew Micklefied, Rev. Howard Wright – priestly contributors for Sunday Worship; Rev. Peter & Rev. Ingrid for the weekly services of Evening Prayer; Sharon Blackshaw for sorting out the readers and incense; Patrick & Wendy Busby for recording hymns and Rev. Brian (again) for co-ordinating the priestly contributors.

ACTION : JL to communicate our thanks to all the above when online services cease at the end of August.

11. SOCIAL EVENTS :

As life (hopefully!) returns to normal, we can consider church social activities again.

- The November recital may take place this year – PB will confirm.
- The Jumble Sale is less likely to happen this year but may well begin again in early 2022.

- Weekly coffee morning - Anne Lofthouse has started a weekly coffee morning, every Thursday in the church hall – which has, so far, been well attended and enthusiastically received. Thanks to her for organising that.
- JL offered a one-man play that he is producing. It is called *Jesus – My Boy* and looks at the life of Joseph, the father of Jesus. It is funny! The PCC welcomed this and a date will be sought close to Christmas.

ACTION : PB to confirm recital; SB to confirm Jumble Sale; JL to confirm and arrange Jesus My Boy.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

This is to be fixed by DB – who will advise us in due course.

13. AOB :

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.30pm with a prayer from PB.