

Benefice of Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley

Minutes of the Parish Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting of The Parish of St Andrew's, Blagdon, with St Hugh's, Charterhouse for the Year 2019

DATE **Wednesday 21 October 2020**
VENUE Zoom Meeting
TIME 7:30-9:15

Names of those in attendance:

Melloney Kaye, Ben Wiggins, Helen Barnes, Jane Venner-Pack, Revd. Simon Lewis (priest) Laura Williams (administrator) Penny Crawford, Susie Barton, Claire Pearson, Sarah Parsons, Colin Parfitt, Hazel Parfitt, Margaret, Speirs, Lynsey Hatherall (joined meeting 19:51)

Apologies - Naomi Lyons

Minutes

Part 1 7.30-7.40pm: Parish Meeting (PM)

1. Opening Worship
2. Apologies - Naomi Lyons, Lynsey Hatherall for lateness
3. Approval of Minutes
These minutes were lost in the transfer between Benefice Administrators and the move to the new Church Office. Simon Lewis apologised for the loss of these minutes.
4. Matters Arising - Melloney Kaye added her apologies for the loss of the minutes
5. Election of Churchwardens
1) Margaret Speirs
With no other nominations Margaret Speirs was duly elected unanimously
6. Meeting Closed

Part 2 7.40-8.40pm: Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Approval of Minutes
These minutes were lost in the transfer between Benefice Administrators and the move to the new Church Office. Simon Lewis apologised for the loss of these minutes.
2. Matters Arising - none
3. Annual Report of 2019 - This had been circulated in advance of the APCM, with the exception of the Deanery Synod report, which was shared by Simon directly with members via screen.
The Annual report was accepted by all
4. Elections
 - a. PCC Members were duly elected
 - 1) Lynsey Hatherall
 - 2) Ben Wiggins
 - b. Deanery Synod representatives were duly elected
 - 1) Helen Barnes
 - 2) Penny Crawford

6. Appointments

- a. Financial Independent Examiner: Simon Lewis recommended that the PCC ask Phil Smith and all were in agreement.
- b. Stewards (*Churchwardens present list of names*)
It was agreed that due to the pandemic sensitivity and caution would be exercised before requesting that any of our current stewards be asked to help at a service.
Kay Clarke / Sarah Parsons / Mary Mead / Helen Barnes / Ben Wiggins / Penny Crawford
- c. Electoral Roll Officer: Colin Parfitt agreed to continue and all were in agreement.

Simon thanked all for their hard work and commitment over the past year and all who had submitted nominations for the new PCC.

7. Our Future: Presentation by Nigel Crocker

Nigel gave a presentation on the transformation of the Benefice which we hope will move to becoming one church family and one parish. He recommended a holistic approach, of developing our strengths, being prepared to change and grow and reaching out to our communities.

A lively discussion followed:

- Jane Venner Pack recognised the ambition of the plan but was very concerned about finance and how this would affect individual parishes. Would the Blagdon Fete, for example, still raise money for Blagdon Church?
- Nigel Crocker responded that Pathway 3, Church Management would discuss this issue and a formal strategy would be put in place. As the 2020 New representation Rules are so new, we are likely to be the first or among the first to make this change and as such there is no template.
- Ben Wiggins commented that 'not knowing all the steps on the journey should not stop us from starting the journey. He felt we should commit to moving in this direction.
- Simon Lewis reassured people that models do exist as to how this can be done - including Harptrees. We will also need to transform the way that we think about finances.
- Sarah Parsons said that she felt it made sense to combine our parishes, but the major cost would remain the upkeep of our buildings.
- Helen Barnes commented that this is a period of unprecedented change for the Church of England and we must review all our resources and buildings and try not to predict the answers.
- Nigel Crocker confirmed that this is a process the PCC would need to commit to, but that some things would not be decided until we reached the end of the process in a bout two years time.
- Penny Crawford felt that as church attendance was currently low, we should be looking for a revival.
- Ben Wiggins said that it was time for us all to tackle our problems. 'We are currently struggling with a 17th Century solution to a 21st century problem. We do not need an old solution to a modern problem. We need to tackle the elephants in the room in small pieces, face our fears and keep addressing the issues. We must use the resources we have to be the face of Christ'.
- Jane Venner-Pack expressed concern that the National Church and the Diocese of Bath and Wells was becoming too business oriented and had lost sense of how to care for souls.
- Sarah Parsons said that gaining a rental income from church buildings was necessary and helped to combat the strain on our resources inherent in the care of old buildings.

8. Presentation

- Melloney Kaye was thanked for all her work as Churchwarden.
- Claire Pearson was thanked for her work as treasurer.

8. Closing Prayer

9. Meeting Closed

Part 3 8.45-9.30pm: First meeting of the 2020/21 PCC

Present: Revd. Simon Lewis (priest) Laura Williams (administrator) Penny Crawford, Lynsey Hatherall, Ben Wiggins, Helen Barnes, Margaret Speirs

1. Approval of Minutes of the first PCC meeting held after the APCM April 2019:
These minutes were lost in the transfer between Benefice Administrators and the move to the new Church Office. Simon Lewis apologised for the loss of these minutes.
2. Matters Arising - none
3. Confirmation of Facilitator of PCC Meetings
 - a. Facilitator - *Priest*
 - b. Vice-Facilitator - *Churchwarden*
4. Appointments

Blagdon PCC was unable to appoint a secretary as all felt unwilling to commit time to the role. Margaret, Penny and Ben all agreed to take minutes at one meeting if necessary.

Simon Lewis discussed the possibility of splitting the Treasurer's role into that of bookkeeper and treasurer. We need a treasurer with a business mind to properly address planned giving and our finances.

 - a. Secretary: none
 - b. Treasurer: No appointment made but Simon Lewis had approached someone who he hoped would be a bookkeeper for all three parishes.
 - c. Parish Administrator (*co-opted*) Laura Williams
 - d. Standing Committee (SC) member : Margaret Speirs, supported by Laura and Simon
5. Dates for 2020/21 SC & PCC Meetings up to April 30th 2021 were provided to PCC members

Simon noted that we would be moving to united PCC meetings. Four times per year would be dedicated to finance, fundraising and fabric (with breakout groups for individual parishes) and eight times per year would be One Church meetings. The first meeting would be on Monday 23rd November via Zoom