

Benefice of BCMU: *One Church PCC Meeting - Zoom*

A Community of Spiritual Disciples Leading our Benefice through Worshipful Working

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 22nd September Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84803648167?pwd=N085SGIxVXk1RzNRRaGNOUDFaN01qQT09>

Who is Gathering

Roles	St Andrew	St Bartholomew	St Michael	Co-opted
Priest	Simon Lewis ✓			
Reader	Gene Joyner Ap			
Churchwarden	Margaret Speirs ✓	Judith Longhurst ✓	Kate Reynolds Ap	
Churchwarden		Diana Coles ✓	Jonathan Reynolds ✓	
Deanery Synod	Penny Crawford ✓	Nigel Crocker Ap	Jean Lockett ✓	
Deanery Synod	Helen Barnes Ap	Helen Fenn Late (joined 7:50pm)		
Elected	Ben Wiggins Late (joined 7:45pm)	Muriel Cole ✓	Gill Durbin ✓	
Elected	Lynsey Hatherall	Gerald Coles ✓	Lucy Hemsley Ap	
Elected		Charlie Fenn	John Allen ✓	
Notetaker				Laura Williams ✓
Secretary			Sue Owst ✓	vacancy
Treasurer				vacancy
Total PCC	7	9	9	
Majority	From 7:45pm	Y	Y	
Quorum (1/3)	Y	Y	Y	
Total	3/4	5/6	6	

7.30pm: We Gather in God's Name

1. Welcome

Chair

2. Declaration of Quorum for each Parish

- *An evening prayer*

SL

7.45pm: We Celebrate Our Past

Chair

3. Communication and Correspondence

4. Approval of past Minutes - Changes requested:

Please change the 'Agenda' to 'Minutes'

- remove point 7 number

Agenda item discussion 8

1b Ben (give it a view change to give it a go)

St A - proposed SL 2nd Margaret Speirs unanimously passed

St B - proposed SL 2nd Judith Longhurst unanimously passed

St M - proposed SL 2nd Gill Durbin unanimously passed

7:45pm Ben Wiggins arrived at meeting

7:50pm Helen Fenn joined the meeting. Apologies given that the message to meet via zoom had not been received by all.

5. Matters arising

Margaret - Focal ministry - and Interim priest - Deferred until October meeting
SL the Archdeacon has the parish profile and we are awaiting his response and legal details. This will also be presented to the Harptrees PCC

Penny - Weddings. Has anyone been found to help with the weddings

LW - this is primarily needed for next year's weddings. No one found yet.

6. Progress updates from last meeting

Chair +

a) Brief updates on the following:

Holt Farm BBQ - Margaret Speirs - 1, 700 pounds raised. Thank you to Tina Smith and all her volunteers

Ubley Fete - Judith and Diana - combined village hall, school, and church. Lovely weather. $\frac{3}{4}$ of proceeds will go to the church (very generous offer from the village hall committee). Church likely to receive around 1,200. It was a big gathering!

Batty about St Michael's - Jean Luckett - event went really well. An opportunity to welcome the community and new families came along. It had a lovely community feel and was a great way to welcome people back. Raised around £300

New Pattern of Worship - Simon Lewis Now in the third week of worship.

Needs to be allowed to embed to see what feedback we get and how things go

Jean Luckett - What is harvest going to look like.

Are children going to be welcomed?

Simon yes, we are going to have activities if parents come with children

Penny - can we publicise harvest at Mini Melodies - for pre-school children.

SL could Mini Melodies organisers please provide activities for children at the morning worships at St Andrew's on 3rd October.

John Allen - Are parishioners going round to the services?

SL yes some are travelling round to different churches. We need to be better at organising lifts for people

JA Are we going to have informal services at St Michael anymore led by the congregation?

SL We are combining children's services into a messy church - this is where we want to grow this side of worship.

JA Could Simon and Gene and Nikki be spread around more rather than being at one worship together?

b) Money matters

St Andrew's - Still waiting for accounts from Jim.

St Bartholomew's - Jim is keeping accounts for St B and updating every month.

St Michael's (meeting after One PCC to discuss 2020 accounts) PCC to approve accounts this evening.

8.00pm: We Dwell in God's Word

SL

- *We shared and explored Colossians 3: 12-17*

8.30pm: We Present Our Offering

SL

Chair

8. Consent Agenda - None

9. Discussion Agenda

Mark Three of a Healthy Church

Helen Fenn

i) Feedback from Healthy Church Profile event

Helen Fenn & Jean Lockett

Helen and Jean had already submitted a paper which had been circulated to the PCC including feedback from the Healthy Church Event at the end of July. Helen talked us through this report, both the ordering of the event and how we scored and what we learned through feedback presented

Helen also used yellow forms to record feedback. In November we must decide upon action. And the PCC must decide on their role in this.

Helen looked at the scores and matched the feedback and concerns - she also thought about possible actions (some of which we are already addressing - harvest, celebrations - some we have not yet done - eg pastoral support scheme - We also need to be accessing all that the diocese offers in terms of support.

Jean Lockett - we are learning the importance of effective communication with our parishioners.

Individual comments and insights

Judith - We would like to have Emmaus groups again but I think they do need to be in person - could we draw other people in? At the moment I feel the place to meet is at church on Sunday. There is a core group who move between churches, but we are not all meeting together very much. I'm aware that this is an issue in trying to bind us together.

Simon - We had a successful lent course. We could do Emmaus online? We could also meet socially just to talk and share a meal - share fellowship -. Margaret mentioned the importance of this and I was really struck by it.

Gill Durbin - I have been quite uninvolved because of work and family commitments. There is a bit of a sense that we need to go out and look for other people but actually I think we also need to look after

ourselves. Sometimes introspection can also be attractive to outsiders - we shouldn't try to run before we can walk.

Jean L - we often lose our way when it comes to supporting children with older children and young teens.

Gill Durbin - we don't have to be doing everything, we can signpost when people show an interest.

Penny Crawford - We have children who used to come to the Sunday school and church choir but dropped out. We need services for them so that we can engage them again otherwise they will not want to come to church / be confirmed

John Allen - I like what is being done. I think there is a lot more work to be done, but we don't want to be bogged down and end up doing nothing. I still feel that younger people should be the priority and we need to keep religion simple for them.

Helen - we also need to tie in with Simon's strategic plan

Ben Wiggins - I think Gill is right about getting our own house in order - we need to have some good news to share - we have to live it as well as say it. Outsiders need to see good news!

We cannot just keep saying that we need to do something new to get young people into church (but not actually want to do anything new or different). We need to really commit to change - to radically change ourselves. We need to be a light on the hill. Living good news. I don't think that young people want simple answers. They want honesty and to engage in discussion and follow up complex ideas.

Jonathan Reynolds - there's a gap between messy church and the confirmation age. Are we going to bridge that gap? Should this be during services? We want to get families more interested in coming and be prepared for when they do. What is the appetite for people to attend? We were very encouraged to see new families coming to the church at the Batty Event last week. We hope some families may come to church for harvest. We are going to start serving tea and coffee after Sunday worship so that we can talk and socialise.

Diana - Youth work needs a large core of young people - like the group running in the Harptrees?

Could we have something running with the Baptist church?

Gerald - we should believe in the power of prayer and all being praying for specific things

We should be experiencing the Holy Spirit and we need to acknowledge Christ as a personal saviour.

Sue Owst - We need to reach out to families and young people.

Margaret - How does our corporate identity changing fit with our healthy church priorities? We need to think seriously about this - we are stronger together - hospitality should be shared across the whole parish - so should children's hospitality.

Muriel - I agree with lots of the points raised. I like the combination of the three churches having more impact than individual churches, even though I know that some events (fetes, etc) can be very successful. We need to get all the children and families together. (We only had Ubley families at Messy Church.) Penny also had a CM family coming to mini melodies. We need to be connected and share info.

Simon and Laura - We need to be engaging with Living in Love and Faith initiative. Every parish has been asked to engage so we can give feedback to the national church. We need to use the diocesan resources out there. Helen is anxious to set this up too - we did a lot of work a few years ago before covid and we don't want to lose any progress we made.

Introduction to Contemplative Ministry

(to be brought to the next meeting)

Nikki Burns

Eco Church (to be sent out with the minutes)
Ruz)

SL in lieu(Camila

Camila was on her PCC at her previous church in London. Her parents have moved into CM too. She's currently filming so not able to join us today. She has a professional interest in ecology and the relationship between God and Creation.

She has a vision for eco church in our parish - continuing the work of Mell and Rachel and Paul.

She can see St Bartholomew as a centre for learning about our responsibility towards God's Creation - a place where we can engage others. God's creation is easy to love - it is an expression of our faith - our caring.

St Bartholomew's is an ideal space because of its close proximity to Ubley School.

A space that's open to all

That reaches out to people

Using some of the outside space

A space for children to learn about caring for the earth and learn skills

Using the arts to help people think about the environment

Thinking about the spirituality of our creation

Working towards carbon neutrality

Showing films

Camila would like to form a team with "church people" and others from outside the church to help with this project.

We would be engaging with people other than just through worship.

Gill Durbin - Forest church - it would be a great way of reaching out to people outside the obvious church goes. It would have greater appeal and appeal to a wider range of ages. We need somewhere for the creative expression in our community.

This is an opening "beyond the church walls"

Gill has Tanya's Wood - used by Blagdon for their forest school. It's an interesting, narrow strip of woodland. An amazing little space. Simon to connect with Gill about this. We may also be involving farms in Blagdon.

Jon - How do we get people "who think they are religious" to come to church? - when they are happy just doing 'good works'? - I wonder if Gill's idea might reach out to them? Something more appealing than just church. SL - we need to engage people's spirituality and their reasons for doing good.

[The Pastoral Measure / Parish Scheme - We are awaiting a response from Peter Evans. This will now be discussed in October and voted upon.](#)

9.20pm: We Gave Thanks to God and go out in God's Name

SL

The Awareness Examen

9.30pm: Home except Compton Martin PCC

Compton Martin PCC

Met separately afterwards to pass the accounts.

Chaired by Simon Lewis. Minutes taken by Sue Owst

In attendance: SL, JR, JA, JL, GD, SO.

Apologies: KR, LH, GJ

Finance: Accounts for 2020

GD presented the accounts. 2020 had been a tough year, but no surprises. JR estimated the deficit to be £8,500. GD stated the loss on the General Fund was £8,500, but the cost of the Access Project takes it up to £17,688. There was only approx. a difference of £2,000 in planned giving this year, and this regular giving is encouraging. JA stated funds less as there was no Fete or Bridge Contest to raise money.

However, largest % change is in Charitable Giving, as this is usually 50% of both events.

SL gave a monumental thank you to GD for clarity. The accounts had been signed off by the Independent Examiner.

Proposal To pass the accounts for 2020 – Proposed GD, Seconded SL. Unanimously passed.

Thanks were given to Gill for her work on the accounts.

Annual Account Meeting

It was decided that a meeting should be held for Electoral Roll Members to ask questions re the accounts. This will be held at The Old School Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20th October. As some questions may require GD to look up documents, it was decided that questions should be emailed to her before the meeting.

Andrew Owst to be asked to email the Electoral Roll with the Accounts and information about the Account Meeting.