

MINUTES OF BENEFICE OF BCMU MONDAY 15 FEB 2021

Who is Gathering

All present apart for apologies from Lynsey Hatherall, Muriel Cole, Gill Durbin, John Allen and Laura Williams.

3. Communication and Correspondence

A discussion took place on how we are moving forward – a community together listening to each other.

4. Approval of last minutes

Approval of minutes of Previous One Church meeting 15th Dec – Proposed Simon Lewis Seconded Nigel Crocker passed by majority. It was then realised that these minutes had been approved at meeting of 18th January.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Progress update from last meeting

a) St Andrew's boiler – Need funding of approx. £20,000 for new boiler. Probably will not get grant. Laura has gone back to Diocese for advice about funding.

b) Money matters – accounts and reserves Feb 2021

St Bartholomew

- £4,394 in current account on 31st January

£2,629 in Nat West reserve account

Account £700 down on beginning on January and there is a bill which needs to be paid. Deferment of Parish share asked for and given for Feb. Mar. and Apr.

An active programme is in the planning stage for statements to village for funding.

St Andrew

- £4,800 at 22nd January

Deferment of Parish share asked for and given for Feb. Mar. and Apr.

St Andrew's PCC will have a meeting to address the financial situation.

Jim Hanmer is to help St Bartholomews and St Andrews with accounts and cashbooks.

Also Jessica Cook for the Diocese will be working out how to save costs.

A discussion followed re these financial issues.

9. Discussion Agenda

a) Update **“One Church” Pathways Project** Nigel Crocker (NC) and Helen Fenn (HF)

NC asked for comments re the document sent to members.

J Longhurst asked how practically it would be done. NC explained the legal aspect with the levels which need to be gone through, the Chew Magna Deanery Group, Arch-deaconry and Diocese, hopefully completed by the end of 2021, HF explained the 7 marks of Healthy Church.

J Lockett viewed this as very exciting and asked how this sits with the wider community. HF explained we must engage with the wider community, ways to do this are being investigated, but it difficult to do this “Face to face” at the moment.

P Crawford asked if we were the first to do this at the moment. H Barnes couldn't foresee there being any issues, The Harptrees and Hinton Blewitt did this very successfully over 40 years ago. N Croker stated the Health Church was published in 2004, so is well established.

G Coles expressed fears that it would not mean that the church would be growing, saying the Harptrees and Hinton Blewitt have declined in number of parishioners. H Fenn stated that we are not talking about growing numerically.

b) Update, **new deployment of priests** within the diocese and implications for our “Twinning” with the Harptree and Hinton Blewitt Benefice

S Lewis explained that consultations were going on re working more together, with coming together as one benefice.

Discussion on this followed, with views expressed about the pathways to One Parish and Health Church happening here first, and then moving forward with a transition of 2 years. Already schools in Ubley and East Harptree are under the same head, Blagdon school now in same Academy.

Concern was expressed that the timing of this and One Church could be overwhelming.

d) **Living in Love and Faith** – an update for the Benefice

This will be a 5 session course on “Christian teaching and learning about Identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage” and will run in the Benefice later in the year.