

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

*A Community of Spiritual Disciples Leading our Benefice through Worshipful Working*

**Minutes from meeting on Monday 21st June 2021, 7:30pm, via Zoom**

## Who is Gathering

Roles	St Andrew	St Bartholomew	St Michael	Co-opted
<b>Priest</b>	Simon Lewis ✓			
<b>Reader</b>	Gene Joyner ✓			
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Margaret Speirs	Judith Longhurst ✓	Kate Reynolds ✓	
<b>Churchwarden</b>		Diana Coles ✓	Jonathan Reynolds ✓	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Penny Crawford ✓	Nigel Crocker ✓	Jean Lockett ✓	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Helen Barnes ✓	Helen Fenn ✓		
<b>Elected</b>	Ben Wiggins	Muriel Cole ✓	Gill Durbin ✓	
<b>Elected</b>	Lynsey Hatherall	Gerald Coles ✓	Lucy Hemsley ✓	
<b>Elected</b>		Charlie Fenn	John Allen	
<b>Notetaker</b>				Laura Williams ✓
<b>Secretary</b>			Sue Owst ✓	vacancy
<b>Treasurer</b>				vacancy
<b>Total PCC</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>Total at Meeting</b>	<b>17</b>			
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	

**Apologies: Margaret Speirs, Ben Wiggins, Charles Fenn, John Allen**

## 7.30pm: We Gathered in God's Name

1. Welcome Chair
2. Declaration of Quorum made for each Parish SL
  - *An evening prayer*
  - *Permission sought to record the meeting and granted*

## 7.45pm: We Celebrate Our Past

Chair

3. Communication and Correspondence - none
4. Approval of past Minutes - April 2021 (all three churches)

St A proposed: SL, seconded, none - Not passed as PCC members had not yet read

St B proposed: SL, seconded: NC, Passed unanimously

St M proposed: SL, seconded: JL, Passed unanimously

## 5. Matters arising

### a) Name for the new Parish

SL - The Deanery Chapter have questioned if the name for the parish is too general - would we like to add 'North' to Mendip Hills. HB - If we want to make a change we can do so now, without delaying the process. If we do not, we may have our name rejected later by the Archdeaconry group.

NC We could not have Mendips - It needs to be North Mendip

JeanL agreed North Mendip

General consent.

SL - We will change to 'All Saints, North Mendip'. A resolution needs to be prepared and voted on by each individual parish. All agreed on this way forward. Thank you Helen Barnes for your guidance.

NC - Peter Evans has said that **the Bishop's Council have approved our proposal**

It is being drafted for consultation with the church commissioners from next month (July). Would we like the changes to take place from 1st January 2022?

Checked that St Hugh's is designated a Chapel of Ease

JudithL - will we have to make further decisions before we move forward?

NC: There are two concurrent processes: Legal process overseen by Peter Evans - this is moving forwards as above.

Things for us to discuss:

How will we style each church within our benefice?

Churches within a Parish? Or Chapels of ease?

Or three Churches within a Parish?

This will be organised and constituted later

SL The pastoral scheme could be designated differently, -

with one parish church and other designated churches/chapels of ease

This requires further discussion.

JudithL this requires more consultation and we all need to be consulted. It is an important discussion

NC - P E recommends having three parish churches - we do not need to designate a parish church as was necessary before the new church representation rules came in in 2020. NC will clarify with PE.

SL This will be presented at a later date when we have all the facts.

JR - many parishioners are asking about the designation of each church within the parish. When will we be discussing this and when will we be able to communicate this with our parishioners?

SL - Peter Evans is currently away, we cannot expect an answer before September. The PCC must decide whether they want to open this up to the wider community for debate, or consultation or just to communicate when the decision is made. It must be PCC led.

NC - following discussion by the PCC it is our intention to go out to parishioners and discuss all things with them -both relating to current issues and the future of the church in our community.

## 6. Progress updates from last meeting

### Chair

#### a) Feedback on Pathways:

HF thanked Laura for getting it together. We need to get it to as wide an audience as possible - to engage lots of people in lots of different ways

#### b) Money matters

### Updated figures for bank accounts for each parish

- **St Bartholomew's Barclays £16,045.91**  
**Nat West £2,628.70**

JudithL It looks like there is a substantial amount in the account. We have decided to pay our parish share (c.£12,000) as we are now able to do this. This will severely deplete our funds and we will still have expenses to cover.

<b>St Andrew's</b>	<b>CAF</b>	<b>£9,125</b>
	<b>Natwest</b>	<b>£6,278</b>

Helen has been working on a stewardship letter with Margaret, this has been written and the figures for this have now been received from Jim Hanmer and it will be going out, hopefully at the beginning of July, when Margaret and Helen have met.

**St Michael's £54,000** (£3,000 has been reclaimed in gift aid, but about £500 has been paid out in expenses.)They are still paying the Parish Share as about £20,000 in general fund so have no reason not to be paying

## 7. A Time of Learning

SL

- *Lectio Divina: Colossians 3:12-17*  
- *We heard the Good News and explored and shared the Word of God*

## 8.30pm: We Present Our Offering

Chair

### 8. Consent Agenda - none

### 9. Discussion Agenda

#### a) **Planning for the new single parish**

Simon had shared a PCC Timeline for July - December 2021 with the PCC which outlined issues and organisational topics that the PCC would need to discuss as part of our journey towards one parish. In summary:

**24th July** - SL encouraged everyone to come to the **Church Profile event at the end of July**

During July the PCC will begin to look at the structure of the One parish PCC and the roles we seek to fill.

**3rd August** - **forum for the PCC to examine Focal Ministry**, the role of the interim priest in Haptrees and also our future relations with them.No interim priest has yet been appointed but the role specification is currently being put together and will in due course be advertised

**September** - We hope that Nikki Burns and Peter Evans would come and speak to the PCC

**October** - We hope that following research from the interim finance team (see below) a financial model can be presented to the PCC with recommendations - options discussed and debated. We will

also address our 'outward-looking focus' and community work, discussed as part of serving ministry - and using the work from our healthy church profile.

**November** - We will be looking at growing everyone's relationship with God. Relaunching Emmaus. Enriching and energising our church community, both theological and serving ministry. We will also need to make resolutions about financial model.

**December** - revisiting the structure of the new PCC, which will initially be explored in July and subsequently over six months as necessary.

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#### **Comments:**

PC asked for clarification of the term 'pastoral scheme'

SL the constitution and organisation of the Parish

HF - Could this timeline be shared with the wider parishioners

It would reassure our parishioners and help to involve them, so that they could engage and communicate their views with their own PCC members - make representation for their own communities.

NC - we will have to add to this the approval of the scheme which has gone through the church commissioners (the legal move to one parish) - and it will need to be approved by the PCC. Possibly in October or November.

SL This is an open document which we will add to.

JudithL: I find it all quite overwhelming, PC also agreed.

HF This is an understandable response - and how much more must other parishioners feel anxious? We must be honest and open with people.

JR transparency is really important. Giving people time to reflect and be involved and reassure.

HF you cannot deliver a message once, it has to be done, many, many times, to bring people along with us.

NC we must involve people as early as possible so that they can feel some ownership of our pathway.

GJ Some people will not come with us and will always resist change.

NC It is still useful to know these concerns

DC Could we have more forums and more discussion - maybe another in September. LW thought that one may be planned on focal ministry in the Autumn.

HB what goes forward to the parishioners must be clear. We do not want to overwhelm our congregations. Let's not make them deal with too much of the legal side of things. It has to be simple and easy to deal with.

Judith - The Worship Forum is something that we can easily share with our parishioners, that affects them all.

SO - The PCC Timeline for July-December 2021 document gives too many unnecessary details for parishioners, the timeline suggested by "Planning for the new single parish" seems more appropriate.

Judith - We need two documents - one for us and one for our communities.

JeanL - Different people in the communities can be quite demanding of information. Some want an awful lot and are quite vociferous in their views. How do we balance the thirst for information and how do we give people the appropriate information?

SL we must love each other and support each other.

HF it is very difficult to manage different information to different people. However we need to unite, not divide.

LW: proposed a timeline available to our parishioners with limited information.

SL we will use Pathways for this.

## New Pattern of Worship

A discussion in response to the proposed new pattern sent out on 18th June WST  
But prior to the open forum with congregation on 27th June - please see attached document

The steering team reflected on a wide variety of worship patterns and styles  
Monthly/weekly, Relaxed/ formal/traditional, For new audiences/ existing congregations  
Variety of venues, Who will lead worship, what gifts to we have to share. The 7 marks of the healthy church were used as a guide.  
It is hoped to begin the new pattern of worship in September

### Thoughts and comments on the proposed pattern of worship

PC: Why are there 3 services in St M on 4th Sunday and 3 in St A on 1st Sunday? How will you find stewards to staff this. It might be that people might work between parishes, but surely this will present problems.

GJ - Cafe Church at St Andrew's is very relaxed and could be supported by a number of people who do not have to live in Blagdon. It is a team event with people drawn in as needed. Sidespeople might be needed for 10:15am but not for Cafe Church or New Horizons at St Hugh's. I think we can find sufficient sidespeople for the first Sunday.

JR: Three services in St Michael's on the fourth Sunday may be problematic for stewards. Helping to support for 3 hours+ is a big ask. We would need very good organisation and rotas completed a long way in advance.

SO would the altar guild still do the chalice? I also worry that the altar guild would struggle to provide people for two services on the fourth Sunday of each month.

SL - We want to build and grow a bigger team over time and for people to move between villages and share responsibility.

SO - Are we envisaging people going to church every week? Do we encourage weekly worship or monthly worship?

SL - We want a balance of weekly and monthly.

GC - It costs a lot to warm up a building. It is more environmentally friendly to use one building on one day rather than three buildings on one day. We are moving towards carbon neutrality.

HB - Timing of Cafe Church - Is 9am the right time? Even 9:30 is better than 9am. Please consider families and younger, working people.

SL - How lively is Breakfast @ 9 (at the Baptist Church)?

HB - It des work, it just feels early

PC - Cafe church - A large number of the wedding couples used to come. Would we be asking them to come at 9am for Cafe Church, especially when many of them travel a long way to form a connection.

SL - We are encouraging them to come to the main service. Feedback from wedding couples over the past year tells us how much they have enjoyed discovering it and being a part of it.

HB - Slightly disappointed that 5th Sunday is not staying at Charterhouse. I really valued it and the gathering together in this special space - it's only 4 Sundays a year. Could we consider reinstating it rather than a rotation between the main parish churches.

DC Why 10:15am for the main Sunday worship? - isn't it easier to go on the hour or half hour, especially for people who don't come often.

JudithL - We agonised over this. We wanted a meeting time between the two congregations on 1st and 4th Sunday.

SL - 10:30am was felt to be too late because people wanted to get back for lunch

GJ - We wanted consistency between the weeks

JeanL - I am excited by weekday worship and especially the Seeker worship.  
Would there be an opportunity for adults to worship without their own children - e.g. a creche?  
Mobility is declining for some. We don't want to discourage weekly worship by moving the services between buildings which some will struggle to get to.

We must be mindful of physical disability and old age, and parking issues.

PC - Is there enough car space for each of these buildings? It can be difficult to find drivers who are free to transport those without cars.

JudithL recommends the range of worship to reach as many people as possible, not only those who already attend, but also new faces.

JR - 9am BCP - has there been a demand for evensong during lockdown? - Would people actually attend two services on one Sunday? Or do they have the same audience - who would only attend once?

KR - With covid, we currently have a lot of organisation. CM would need more support to implement this new pattern of worship.

SO - We need to all think really hard about the altar guild and how it would manage/adapt.

SL - We would want to encourage this.

HF - Echoing Jean and Judith, the inclusion of different styles of worship are much appreciated.

GJ - So much time has gone into trying to provide something for everybody and in a way that might work.

HB - Thought and Prayer has gone into this. We must be aware of views and be prepared to review and change if necessary. We must be unconditionally positive. Thank you to the Worship Group for all your work.

SL Please support the Forum on Sunday

### **Advertising for a new treasurer - Setting up finance advisory team for transition period (until 2022)**

We would like to form a finance advisory team to bridge us through the next six months so that we are properly set up for the start of the new financial year in January and for our transition to One Parish in early 2022. The team will include Simon, Laura and Jim where helpful, but we need volunteers from each PCC (or for the PCC to collectively nominate someone from their parish, as it is essential that all the villages' views are represented.)

This team will meet and decide on the job description of the new treasurer and decide how to advertise. We also need to decide whether we would like them to be more of a bookkeeper or a traditional treasurer (or maybe two roles) and whether they would volunteer, or be paid an honorarium, as is done in some other local parishes, or whether they would be formally contracted and paid.

So far, Helen Barnes and Nigel Crocker have volunteered to be part of this interim finance advisory team. We need at least one other person and would prefer to have a representative from Compton Martin. No-one who is part of this team has an obligation to continue to have a role in finance on the new PCC, and you do not need to be a good bookkeeper!

**9.20pm: We Give Thanks to God**

SL

The Awareness Examen

- *We reflect back on our meeting and note when we were most open and loving toward God and ourselves*
- *We offer thanks for God's presence in our ministry*
- *We ended with a prayer*

**9.28pm: We Go Out in God's Name**

SL

**9.30pm: Home**

## **St Michael's PCC continued to meet for an individual PCC meeting after others had left.**

Kate Reynolds (CW): Chair

**In attendance: KR, JR, JL, GD, LH, SO.**

**Apologies: JA**

### **Resolution**

"We the PCC of St Michael's Church, Compton Martin, due to the pandemic and the financial implications incurred during 2020/21, have taken the decision not to donate 10% of our income to charity at the current time. This decision will be reviewed in six months time at a PCC Meeting in October 2021."

This proposal was passed 11th May 2021 with 7 in favour and 1 abstention.

On the agenda for discussion

### **1. Fundraising including an appeal letter**

Discussion ensued re fundraising. The funds of St Michael's are good, but a large amount cannot be spent. There is a fund of £5,000 for maintenance which can be accessed at any time. However, at present we cannot meet running costs and there is a shortfall of approx. £8,000.

In the past fundraising from the Church Fete and the Bridge Day helped to fill this with approx. £3,250 raised, obviously this has not been possible this year. The Friends of St Michael's have in the past raised money for the building, JL will investigate this.

In general, it was felt the wording of the letters was appropriate, if that to the parishioners was perhaps a little too long. SL, KR and JR to revisit.

Concern was expressed that a signatory on the bank accounts was not a member of the PCC. New signatories will be GD, SL, KR and JR. The relevant forms will be circulated for signatures.

## **2. Opening up of St Michael's Monday to Friday**

St Michael's will now be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

## **3. Confirmation of St Michael services for up to end August**

These were confirmed.

## **AOB**

James Bragg was contacting the surveyor and a building company to mend the side chapel flashing and inspect the finial on The Old School Room at the same time. JR agreed to contact James Bragg to check on progress and it was suggested that Andrew Owst and JR help coordinate the works being commissioned and completed.