

## MINUTES

**Present:** Revd. Henry Curran, Kate Curran, Debs Hunt, Becca Haines, Stacey Mutch, Kathryn Hubbard, Jonathan Larsson, Ian Knight, Chris Drew, Fiona Houghton. Joyce Cooper joined us during item 2.

### **Apologies**

Rosie Adsley.

This extra meeting had been called to update the PCC on some urgent news, to make a final decision on parish share payments for 2020 and to decide whether to hold in-person services during the new lockdown period.

### **1. In-person services during the new lockdown**

Services have been suspended pending a safety review by the PCC. Henry reported that we cannot guarantee 2 metres social distancing at entry/exit of the church unless we add another steward to enforce this. In light of the current infection rate and the views of the church family, we decided to stay closed and hold online services only.

We will review this decision after the government lockdown review at February half term, unless there is a significant change in the pandemic situation or attitudes among the church family which makes us want to review sooner.

### **2. Parish Share payments for 2020**

We had previously expressed our intention to pay more Parish Share if possible. Our final 2020 accounts were better than expected, with an increase of £476.06 over the year (see appendix).

Joyce proposed and Chris seconded *that we pay £4,000 more Parish Share for 2020.*

### **3. Urgent news**

Henry informed the PCC that he has accepted another job so will be leaving St. Mary's in summer 2021. He understands this will be a shock and may feel like bad news for some, but as well as a challenge it will be an opportunity to think through with the diocese what our church's distinctive role is and for church members to step up to new responsibilities. The vacancy between vicars can be expected to last between 6 months-2 years, during which time our Area Dean will organise support from visiting clergy. As we process the news Henry pointed us to 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (we are followers of Christ, not any particular church leader) and Ephesians 4:11-16 (Christ is the head of the church and its members do ministry and grow the church while the minister's job is to equip them).

[redacted]

Henry will bring a handover plan to our next PCC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February. He plans to spend from now until Easter identifying and training people to take on different areas of his role, then to hand over responsibilities to others and act in a supporting role until his departure. The future of St. Mary's after this is not for Henry to shape, so the PCC will need to have some meetings without the Currans to start work on this.

### **Confidential items**

[redacted]

Chris closed in prayer.

### **Appendix – 2020 finance update**

Stacey showed us these figures during item 2:

1 January 2020 balance - £28,659.72

31 December 2020 balance - £29,135

Increase of £476.06

Parish Share paid £25,500 of £33,492 requested. £7,992 owed.