

MINUTES

Present: Rebecca Haines (vice-chair), Chris Drew, Debs Hunt, Stacey Mutch, Joyce Cooper, Ian Knight, Kathryn Hubbard, Fiona Houghton, Jonathan Larsson

1. Opening Prayer

Led by Chris Drew

2. Apologies

Henry Curran, Kate Curran and Rosie Adsley.

3. Preparing St Mary's for vacancy

a) Feedback from standing committee meeting held 22/02/2021

[redacted]

b) Feedback from Archdeacon Phil Williams

RH explained that as an outcome of the Standing Committee meeting on Monday, the Standing Committee met with the Archdeacon on 24.2.21 to ask for more information with regards to the vacancy. The Archdeacon was very reassuring, advising the PCC to not be anxious about a vacancy. He said that the PCC needed to consider two things – the governance responsibilities of the church and the operational responsibilities of the church. The Governance responsibilities are the things the PCC are legally responsible to maintain e.g. the church finances, and the operational responsibilities are related to day to day running of the church. Some of these things will be linked. At the meeting, it was discussed that it was important to be realistic as a church and to decide as a PCC what to prioritise moving forwards, recognising that ministry at St Mary's may look different under a vacancy. The Archdeacon stressed that the Diocese is not in the business of closing churches, that the Diocese were here to support us and that the Diocese also had a vision for the future of St Mary's and were keen to share that with us as a PCC. The Archdeacon has agreed to attend our meeting on 15th March 2021 to share some insights, answer PCC questions and help us to understand our responsibilities as a church PCC.

c) Feedback from the PCC

[redacted]

PCC felt that, after reading and considering the role descriptions, they were an excellent document to explain how the church runs now and are very helpful as a tool by the PCC to be used to consider the future of St Mary's. PCC felt that we needed to do a bit of work to recognise within the document which tasks and roles it is realistic to continue with into the future, so we know what to advertise and ask the church to pray about taking on. We felt to give us time to do this, we should adjust the time scale on the original document to allow more time for this

process to take place. We also felt that in order to do this, we needed to schedule an extra meeting for the PCC at the end of March. Action: Churchwardens to consider how PCC can feedback their thoughts on which roles are realistic and desirable to continue with. PCC also felt we should communicate our progress with church as soon as possible to keep the momentum going with the vacancy. Joyce Cooper suggested co-opting people onto the PCC who would be remaining at church during the vacancy and who might be willing to take on some of these roles so we could have their input. Other members of PCC were in agreement on this. Actions from this discussion are set out below.

d) Questions from the PCC

This item was covered progressively during the meeting.

Outcomes of the meeting

- 1) Church wardens agree paragraph to put in weekly news w/b 1st March to update church on progress on vacancy. **Action churchwardens.**

- 2) At the next PCC meeting on 15th March we will;
 - Finalise roles, deciding on what is realistic with the resources we have and pray about it
 - Decide how to communicate this to church
 - Discuss who we might co-opt on PCC and pray about it**Action – PCC to consider role descriptions and tasks as to what is realistic vs ideal and how that might be communicated to the church.**
Action – PCC to consider who might be co-opted on to PCC.

- 3) At the extra PCC meeting towards the end of March we will
 - Pray for and discuss who might take on these roles
 - Agree who to ask and who is going to do it and pray about it**Action – Church wardens to schedule extra meeting.**
Proposed by Chris Drew, seconded by Joyce Cooper, all voted in favour.
Action: Church wardens update Henry on this meeting

4. **Consideration of confidential items**
[redacted]

5. **Closing prayer**
We went in to breakout rooms to pray together.

Close of meeting