



**LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023**  
**in St Thomas' Church at 7:30 pm**

---

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Bronwen Bridges (BB), Pat Cashin(PC), Andrew Clapper (AC), Brian Cox (BC), David Hanks (DH), Maureen Harris (MH), Daphne Johnston (DJ), Marion Lewis (ML), Andrew Payne (AP), Sylvia Pepin (SP), Clive Rigden (CR), Christopher Stroud (CW)(CMS), Michael Standage (MS), Jeremy Vines (JV), David Wansey (DW), Mary Hill (Sec) (MCH). |  |
| 1   | <b>Opening Prayer</b>  |
| 2   | Apologies for absence: Celia Swan, Peta Walmisley.   |
| 3   | Proposals for AOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving back to using the chalice for communion (MW)</li> <li>• Reaction to the General Synod Voted on same sex blessings (MW)</li> <li>• Possibility of an assistant vergers (SP)</li> <li>• Replying 'to all' (AP)</li> </ul>   |
| 4   | Approval of the minutes of last meeting. This was proposed by Daphne Johnston and seconded by Marion Lewis. All agreed.  |
| 5   | There were no matters arising.   |
| 6   | <b>Safeguarding report.</b><br>JC gave a verbal report : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JC was continuing with the routine job of proceeding with DBS checks etc.</li> <li>• Progress is being made with Safeguarding Training and people are being cooperative. However, this is a long job.</li> <li>• JC has been going through Safer Recruitment procedures where necessary.</li> <li>• JC has circulated a role description to all PCC members.</li> </ul>  |
| 7   | <b>Good Samaritans Report.</b><br>CS had invited David Fenton (DF) to the meeting to update the PCC on the activities of the Good Samaritan Group. DF said there were three ways in which the Good Samaritans helped people in need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing material aid but not cash.</li> <li>• Advocacy with the local authority, doctors etc.</li> <li>• Offering friendship and companionship.</li> </ul> DF then gave examples of people that had been helped and answered questions.<br>AP and JC requested that the PCC be kept up to date with how the money was spent and the outcomes of any actions.<br>SP and ML said that additional helpers were always needed to respond to emergencies.<br>CS thanked DF for talking to the PCC.<br>DF then left the meeting. |
| 8   | <b>Finance Report (AP)</b>   |

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AP</b> had circulated the Annual Accounts for 2022. The total income for 2022 was £326,500 of which £93,500 came from the Parish Giving Scheme on which £22,000 from Gift Aid was added. The total expenditure was just over £337,000. This included both our regular expenditure and exceptional expenditure including the major works carried out at the East End of the church and at All Saints. making an overall deficit of £10,540. In addition, the Church received exceptional income of over £90,000 in the form of legacies and donations, including from the Friends of St Thomas. Exceptional expenditure over the year was £99,000 which resulted in a deficit for the year of £9,169. However during the year, since the value of the investments fell by nearly £34,000, the Finance Committee recommends continuing to spend money on improving and repairing church buildings. Approval of the Annual Accounts was proposed by MS and seconded by CS. All agreed.</li> <li>• The Finance Committee recommended that the PCC agree to designate a Buildings Reserve of £20,000 to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of the church buildings both at St Thomas and at All Saints. This was proposed by MS and seconded by ML. All agreed.</li> <li>• The Diocesan Three Year Plan. In response to a survey from the Diocese, the Finance Committee suggested that the Diocese should endeavour to increase stipendiary posts where possible and that they should be index linked but without increased contributions from parishes. AP proposed that we should pay our CMF linked to inflation. This was seconded by CS. All agreed.</li> <li>• The Insurance on St Thomas' Church and Halls is due in April at a cost of £6,118.24, an increase of £688.47.</li> <li>• Source for Business are now responsible for St Thomas' water supply at an annual cost of £113.71, an increase of £36,27.</li> <li>• The Finance Committee proposed that we continue with two will writing services: "Why Every Christian Should Have a Will" and the "Will for Free" scheme in collaboration with Scott Bailey.</li> <li>• AP recommended that we send £75 to join the Eco Church community. This was proposed by AP and seconded by CS. All agreed.</li> <li>• Our Annual Deanery subscription is £252.17.</li> <li>• Choir Fund. There was a discussion about this after the departure of Martin Penrose. AP agreed to investigate the account and report back at the next meeting.</li> </ul> |  |
| 9  | <p><b>Buildings and Land Report (MS)</b><br/>MS proposed that the PCC amend their faculty application to the Diocese to request that the 1916 oak altar table remain in St Thomas Church. This was seconded by MH and all agreed.</p>   |  |
| 10 | <p><b>Health and Safety Report (CR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CR reported that the H and S Policy had been revised and a copy is on view in the Church Office. CW will sign these.</li> <li>• CR recommended relevant PCC members and volunteers to consider attending courses provided by Community First New Forest.</li> <li>• Risk Assessments for all church activities in both St Thomas' and All Saints are being prepared.</li> <li>• CR will undertake a check of all electrical and portable equipment as required by the H&amp;S Policy.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 1  | <p><b>Chairmans' Report</b></p>   |  |

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| 1      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacancy update: the Parish Profile is now on the website and applications will close at the end of March. The interview process will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of April.</li> <li>• Updates on the Deanery Synod meetings should be included on the PCC agenda at the appropriate times.</li> <li>• CS is proposing to update the inventory after the APCM.</li> <li>• In answer to a question about recommencing the video recording of services, CS advised that consent forms would be necessary before that could happen.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 1<br>2 | <p><b>Pastoral Report</b></p> <p>MH reported that the pastoral work continues but that she is shorthanded and would appreciate more volunteers to help. She is researching the possibility of offering home communion with Sue Abernethy after a request from a care home. MH has nine contacts that she regularly phones to offer comfort and support.</p>   |  |
| 1<br>3 | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>DH had received a letter from Mission Aviation Fellowship thanking the PCC for the donation of £210 after the Reflections concert.</p>  |  |
| 1<br>4 | <p><b>Diary Dates</b></p> <p>APCM Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023</p>  |  |
| 1<br>5 | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving back to communion with the chalice. MW said that we were at present going against C of E advice by not offering the chalice. After a discussion, MW proposed that we should revert to the use of the chalice in future. Pre indicted wafers will also be offered as an option for a transitional period. This was seconded by DJ. All agreed.</li> <li>• The PCC's decision on same sex blessings. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that we should agree to do nothing until we have a new incumbent.</li> <li>• The appointment of an assistant verger in case of sickness. CS agreed to discussing this at a further date.</li> <li>• "Replying to all" email responses. (AP).This should be discouraged to avoid unnecessary usage of electricity. All agreed</li> <li>• Installation of a dishwasher in church. This topic is already under discussion with the Fabric Committee and the Finance Committee. A decision will be reached at a later date.</li> </ul> |  |
| 1<br>6 | <p><b>The date of the next meeting: Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023.</b></p>  |  |
| 1<br>7 | <p><b>CS closed the meeting with prayer at 21:45.</b></p>   |  |