



## LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023

in St Thomas' Church at 7:30 pm

	Pat Cashin (PC), Andrew Clapper (AC), David Hanks (DH), Maureen Harris (MH), Marion Lewis (MW), Andrew Payne (AP), Sylvia Pepin (SP), Christopher Stroud (CW)(CMS), Michael Standage (MS), Celia Swan (CS), Jeremy Vines (JV), David Wansey (DW), Mary Hill (Sec) (MCH). Jonathan Cook (JC) Guest.
1	Opening Prayer: CMS
2	Apologies for absence: Bronwen Bridges (BB), Brian Cox (BC), Daphne Johnston (DJ), Clive Rigden (CR), Peta Walmisley (PW),
3	Proposals for A.O.B. : Handbell concert (DH) This was agreed to be on the agenda.
4	Correction and approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the PCC on January 7 <sup>th</sup> 2023. These were approved unanimously.
5	Correction and approval of the Minutes of November 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022: After minor corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously. Matters arising: CMS gave a detailed account of the events and actions taken post the Churchwarden resignation mentioned in the PCC minutes of November 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022. Each PCC member was asked individually to confirm that they were satisfied with the contents of the presentation. Following the statement given by CMS of actions taken since the last meeting, the PCC agreed that the matter was now closed.
6	<p><b>Safeguarding Report (JC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JC emphasised that any organist or choir leader who helps with services until a replacement organist is appointed must have Diocesan DBS Clearance.</li> <li>• Ensuring that all the volunteers at Monday Lunch Club, Vistas Café and Messy Church have completed the online Basic Safeguarding Training is in process and should be completed by the end of February.</li> <li>• JC reported that Barbara Payne was efficiently managing the DBS documentation.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Finance Report (AP)</b></p> <p>AP had circulated the Financial Report prior to the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AP praised the regular givers to the church and is encouraging new people to join the scheme. Donations through the Parish Giving Scheme totalled £115,499 in 2022 having steadily increased over the past years. However there has been a small decline in donations in January this year compared to last year, possibly due to the Vacancy.</li> <li>2. The Finance Committee proposed that the Parish Administrator's hours should be increased to 4 hours/day due to her increased workload post-Christmas. MS Proposed the increase, CS seconded it and all agreed.</li> <li>3. The choir account is to be closed with the final balance transferred into the Treasurer's account.</li> <li>4. CMS had asked the Finance Committee to consider the cost of employing a choir leader in addition to the current arrangement already approved by the PCC (temporary organist and temporary choir leader). This would add £250/month to the agreed costs giving a total of £725/month. Since the proposed costs are within the budget of £750/month, the Finance Committee approved the proposal.</li> <li>5. Energy. The energy costs with the new supplier had increased in the three months Oct/Nov/Dec 2022 but the energy relief scheme had helped the finances. The Discount</li> </ol>

	<p>Scheme from April – March 2024 should help but details were as yet unknown. The PCC members were encouraged to make sure that heating in the hall was turned off when not needed.</p> <p>6. BC proposed that the PCC approve to finance upgrading the sound equipment in St Thomas' Church Hall so that it was of a reasonable quality for hirers. He provided details of the equipment required (i.e. amplifier and wireless microphones) with a total cost of about £300. This was proposed by MS, seconded by CS. All agreed</p> <p>7. BC had also spent £70 on the purchase of cables for the sound system at All Saints. It was proposed by ML and seconded by AC to reimburse BC for these purchases. All agreed</p>
8	<p><b>Buildings and Land Report (MS)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Security matters. MS informed the PCC that security system at the church needed updating. The equipment could be mended at a probable cost of £1,200 but new equipment could be purchased for approximately £2,300. MS proposed that new equipment should be installed. This was seconded by JV. All agreed. It was also proposed that the Buildings and Land team investigate a service contract for the new equipment.</li> <li>2. Stonework on the tower and the clock. MS proposed to engage Ryan Bunce (the East End Contractor) to do the work. This was seconded by CMS. All agreed.</li> <li>3. MS informed the PCC that a new pump for the heating was necessary at All Saints costing £599. This was proposed by MS and seconded by JV. All agreed.</li> <li>4. Viney Lodge. The solicitors working for the estate of Dr Burge had rejected the latest proposal concerning the disputed boundary. The two remaining options for resolving the dispute are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Legally transferring the land to the executors at a cost of £10,000 - £15,000.</li> <li>b) Taking down and removing the carport and restoring the boundary.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Since the house is now on the market, the Church has offered to sell the disputed land to the estate of Dr Burge but the estate needs to pay the costs of the transfer. There had been no response to date to this offer.</p>
9	<p><b>Health and Safety Report</b></p> <p>There was no Health and Safety Report</p>
10	<p><b>Good Samaritans Report (SP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP reported that the team has continued its work during the winter months. They have strengthened their links and cooperation with NFDC housing officers and continued to offer support to the long term homeless, help that is increasingly important during the winter months.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Vacancy Committee Update</b></p> <p>CMS informed the PCC that the page written by St Marks Pennington had been included in the Parish Profile and that the completed Profile had been sent to the Diocese. The advertisement for the Vicar had also been written and forwarded to the Diocese for comment.</p> <p>The Section 11 Meeting will probably take place at the end of February.</p> <p>CMS said that discussion of the recruitment of an organist during the Vacancy would be discussed under item 14</p>
12	<p><b>Pastoral Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Warm Hub (DW) There have been three sessions of Warm Hub starting January 5<sup>th</sup> with visits by supportive church members and the Mayor. The weather clearly affects the number of visitors but those who come value the facility and the opportunity to meet with others. DW has a rota of helpers running until the end of March. DW said that this was a pilot scheme and they are still seeing what the demand is. They intend to continue with the initiative until the weather warms up.</li> </ol>

b) Pastoral paragraph (MH) MH reported on her work looking after all in the Parish. She has visited the hospital, nursing homes and individual homes but she urgently needs offers of help from church members to join her broader pastoral team. She especially asks help from anyone who is prepared to be trained to offer home communion. AC suggested that MH contacted Barbara Clapper as he thought she would be willing to help.

**13 PMAP: Children and Family Development Report (AC)**

There are 7 members of the team focussing on building links with younger people. AC reported on the progress of the team:

1. The decision to recruit a specialist youth worker has been deferred until the appointment of a new vicar.
2. The change of time and location for Messy Church has proved to be very positive with over 40 children (with adults) going to the Infants School on Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup> after school. The team continues to work on planning the sessions and, if this level of attendance is maintained, more volunteer helpers will be needed.
3. Work is continuing on how to attract families and young people to church. The team felt that Life and Soul was the service most likely to attract young people and had discussed what a more family friendly service would look like. They appreciated that introducing changes at the moment was difficult, but they will continue to explore and plan for the future.
4. The team has contacted other Lymington churches about working together on the children and family mission.
5. Four members of the team have attended Deanery networking sessions on children and family work and AC has completed the BCM course on Children and Youth Ministry and is also joining the Board of Governors at Lymington C of E Infants School.
6. AC said that he had taken on the role of Social Media Coordinator and would welcome items and photos from PCC Members.

**14 Recruitment of Organist and Choir Master.**

Documents from JC and CS had been circulated to the PCC members prior to the meeting.

- JC had asked Diocesan advice concerning the recruitment of a new Organist/Choir Leader during a Vacancy.
- CS had, as a member of the 4 choir members on the PCC, had spoken to six organists and the Royal School of Church Music concerning the issue of recruiting a new Organist/Choir Leader.

CMS asked both JC and CS to speak about what they had found out, after which there was an extended discussion on the way forward for the Church. The main conclusion was that since the employment of an Organist and the Vicar was the responsibility of the Vicar and that the interpersonal relationship between the two is extremely important as they work together to decide the music of the church, it was not advisable for us to attempt to recruit a permanent Organist. The diocese had also informed JC that any appointment made before the new Vicar was appointed, would be ultra vires following the arrival of the new incumbent.

Therefore, the following proposal was put to the PCC:

To agree the arrangement between Phil Daish-Handy (Choir Master for Evensong and the choir practice preceding Evensong) and Birgit Biel (Organist for the 9:15 services and Evensong) lasting until Easter and possibly beyond. This was proposed by CMS, seconded by CS and was agreed by all.

CMS and CS said that they would continue to make enquiries about a piano player who could accompany the choir at Choir Practice so that the Choir would continue to thrive.

15	<p><b>Diary Dates</b> MCH suggested March 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 as the date for the APCM.</p>
16	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After the situation at the Church the previous Sunday evening when it appeared that two people had become locked in the Church and had set off the fire alarm, CMS reminded key holders to check that the doors to the gallery were locked before they lock the Church.</li> <li>2. DH asked for permission to use the Church Hall for a Handbell Concert on February 19<sup>th</sup> in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship. This was agreed.</li> <li>3. JV suggested that future meetings could be held in the Hall rather than in the Church since the acoustics were better and energy usage was less. DH seconded the proposal and all agreed.</li> </ol>
17	<p><b>Date of the next meeting: March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.</b></p>
18	<p><b>The meeting closed with prayer at 10:00pm</b></p>