**MINUTES OF THE PCC OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021 VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

**Present**

Mr Bradley Smith (Acting Chairperson), Mr Steven Maple, Mr Gary Courtnadge, Mr Julian Buxton, Rev Sheila Higgins, Mr Peter Higgins, Mrs Lesley Bryant, Fr Tony Brant, Mr Andrew Dunlop, Mrs Sarah Tripp, Fr Graham and Jackie Reeves, Mr Richard Brown, Mrs Barbara Coombes, Mr Chris Wells

**Also receiving copies of minutes but not required to attend meetings**: Mrs Sarah Nichol, Mr John Hayes, Mrs Vera Saunders

**In Attendance**

Mrs Maggie Courtnadge (taking minutes)

**Not in Attendance**

Mr Chris Climpson

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|  |  | | | **ACTION** | |
| 1. **.** | Fr Graham opened with prayer.  Bradley welcomed Chris Wells to the PCC.  Rev Sheila and Fr Tony were co-opted onto the PCC again, as this was the first meeting following the APCM:  Rev Sheila – proposed by Andrew, seconded by Barbara  Fr Tony – proposed by Steven, seconded by Julian  All agreed. | | |  | |
|  | **Apologies for absence**  Mrs Gillian Angrave, Mrs Jill Armstead, Mrs Mary Camerer Cuss, Mr Jonathan Stapleton, Mrs Lisa Martin, Ms Gill Lambourn | | |  | |
|  | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2021 were proposed by Gary, seconded by Rev Sheila and agreed by all, with the following amendment:  It was reported under Item 6 that: “Andrew went on to explain the Barnham Cancel Fund of £26K (page 6) had been reclaimed by the Diocese but the Parish was entitled to the income from the capital, which could amount to £6-8K”. This amount was incorrect, as the amount due to the Parish would not be that much – only a few hundred pounds a year. | | |  | |
|  | **Matters Arising**  None | | |  | |
|  | **Safeguarding Report**  Peter said there were no issues and nothing to report. | | |  | |
|  | **Treasurer’s Report (Management Accounts copied below at the end of these minutes – A)**  Andrew went through the accounts to the end of May and explained that the £151 deficit was misleading as it included £9K tax recovered. The Parish was losing money at the rate of about £2.5K per month. However, the Summer Fair had been very successful and the fees to the PCC were good. Also there had been no drop in standing orders. Sarah asked about money from the Parish Magazine and Andrew said it would come in the Autumn.  The question of card readers was raised and Andrew said he had been looking into this, but he wanted a system which allowed people to donate £5, £10 or £20 at a “tap”. Gary had seen one called “Goodbox” which allowed donations of £5 with no internet needed, but Andrew said he would continue looking for one with the ability to take higher donations.  Grateful thanks were passed to Andrew for his hard work. | | |  | |
|  | **Interregnum Update**  On behalf of the Parish Representatives, Julian reported that the process of finding a new Rector was moving forward, but that the details were confidential at the moment. This comment was met with some dismay and Bradley said that they would be able to say more soon. | | |  | |
| 1. **Shops** | **Report from Fundraising and Social Sub Group (copied below at the end of these minutes – B**  Richard reported that the total raised at the Fair had increased by £200.  Grateful thanks were extended to Lynne and her team and to Roger and Vera for counting the money. | | |  | |
|  | **Easy Fundraising Initiative (copies below at the end of these minutes – C)** | | |  | |
|  | **Church Committee Reports (copied below at the end of these minutes – C** | | |  | |
| 1. **02.** | **Synod Reports – Deanery, Diocesan and General**  Bradley reported that the General Synod had met on Zoom for 47 hours! He would do a report as soon as possible. The other synods had not met. | | |  | |
| 1. **22.** | **Church Schools Update**  Rev Sheila reported that the link with Eastergate School was going well and that it was a tremendous help having Hedda as Chair of Governors. Enough money had been raised to buy every leaver a Bible with some over for next year! | | |  | |
|  | **Service Arrangements**  The Wardens and Clergy had met on Zoom the previous evening and discussed how to move forward now that the Government had relaxed the rules on Covid. A discussion followed with some people wanting to stop wearing masks etc and others more cautious. It was finally agreed that each Church should think about how they approached the end of lockdown and to seek the views of the congregation. | | |  | |
|  | **Authorised Lay Ministry**  Rev Sheila reported that Caterina, who works with the hospital chaplaincy team, wanted to do some further training in this ministry. This training needed PCC approval, which was proposed by Rev Sheila, seconded by Gary and agreed by all. Thanks were extended to Caterina for her valuable work. | | |  | |
|  | **Parish News Vacancies**  Sarah reported that the new applicant for the job of Advertising Manager was Zeta Phillips | | |  | |
|  | **Dates of Future Meetings**  Wed 8 September 2021 – Sequestrators to decide whether to meet in person or via Zoom  Wed 10 November 2021  The meeting closed with the grace.  **REPORTS MENTIONED ABOVE:** | | |  | |
|  | 1. **Treasurer’s Report** | | |  | |
|  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **ABE PCC management accounts** | | | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | *5 months to 31st May 2021* | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | *2021* |  | *2020* |  | *Difference* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Monthly standing orders  plus envelopes | | | | 21765 |  | 19154 |  | 2,611 | | Tax recovered | |  |  | 9541 |  | 10797 |  | (1,256) | | Uncovenanted planned  giving | | |  | 1415 |  | 2138 |  | (723) | | Collection plates | |  |  | 988 |  | 737 |  | 251 | | Donations | |  |  | 593 |  | 1340 |  | (747) | | Fetes raffles etc | |  |  | 827 |  | 250 |  | 577 | | Parish magazine | |  |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 | | Fees paid to PCC | |  |  | 9250 |  | 3850 |  | 5,400 | | Dividends & interest | | |  | 1099 |  | 779 |  | 320 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | | TOTAL INCOME | |  |  | 45478 |  | 39045 |  | 6,433 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Light and heat and insurance | | |  | 5993 |  | 3165 |  | (2,828) | | Administration costs | | |  | 3905 |  | 5702 |  | 1,797 | | Diocesan contribution | | |  | 30806 |  | 32390 |  | 1,584 | | Other costs | |  |  | 4925 |  | 3963 |  | (962) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | TOTAL EXPENSES | |  |  | 45629 |  | 45220 |  | (409) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **Excess of expenditure over income** | | | | **(151)** |  | **(6,175)** |  | **6,024** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | *Cash at bank current account* | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | At 1st January 2021 | |  |  |  | 12646 |  |  | |  | Transferred from deposit | | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12646 |  |  | |  | Balance at 31st May 2021 | | |  |  | 15381 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | **Increase in cash** | |  |  |  | 2735 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | *Cash on deposit* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | At 1st January 2021 | |  |  |  | 10000 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | At 31st March 2021 | |  |  |  | 10000 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | **Reduction in cash on deposit** | | |  |  | 0 |  |  | | | |  | |
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|  | | 1. **Fundraising and Social Committee**   **July 2021**  Plant Sale. Saturday 12th June at Manor Farm Eastergate.  The Plant Sale was successfully held as a Table Top Sale of plants on the green in Manor Farm with Covid controls and an impressive £1,585.45 was raised. We will also sold some Summer Fair raffle tickets at the Plant Sale.  Many thanks to the committee especially to Vanessa Barker and Sarah Nichols for arranging and helping at the sale.  Summer Fair and Raffle.  The Fair was held on Saturday 10th July at Manor Farm Eastergate and St Georges Church with Covid compliance and consequently with a reduced number of stalls. Despite the damp weather and caution coming out of Covid restrictions there was a good attendance. A big thank you to Lynne for leading the organisation and to all who help prepare and on the day. The current total raised is £5,634.80, and under the circumstances was an excellent result  Future Events  Parish Event. Saturday 28th August.  A walking treasure hunt (location a secret) and picnic afterwards in Sarah Nichols garden, Level Mare Lane. It will be optional to do the walk or picnic or both. Details to be advertised.  Richard  On behalf of the Fundraising and Social Committee   1. **Easy Fundraising Report**   We now have 18 registered for Easyfundraising. I have given out loads of flyers with the parish newsletter and at plant sale and I believe they were also at the Fair. I will explore the opportunities to promote the cause - as indeed anyone can if they log on. I can't give any info on this as I haven't tried it yet. Please feel free to have a go yourselves  Arrangements for the concert are proceeding. We have Tim Lewis on the organ, Jean & I reading sorting free wine and monologues and David Bathurst and his acappella group singing. Maggie is sorting free interval wine and nibbles and hopefully tickets are already on sale. I have sent a poster to Steven along with a few words for the website. So fingers crossed we will raise a respectable sum for church funds. I assume you will all be there along with as many friends as you can muster. Gill |  | |
|  | | 1. **Church Reports**   **St.Mary’s Church, Aldingbourne**  July 2021  Services  A Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service will be held on every 3rd Sunday of the month. We have welcomed back organists for three of the four Sundays in each month. We have a number of weddings arranged for July and August.  Property  One of the wall memorials in the South Aisle had developed a crack in the rear tablet of the memorial (the memorial comprises of two bonded tablets). Gary Courtnadge kindly inspected the memorial and recommended that two brackets be placed on either side of the crack. Quotes for any additional work which Gary recommended should then be sought. Richard Meynell agreed with this approach. Permission for this emergency work has been granted. The emergency work has been carried out. At a cost of £350.  There is no news from the Chancellor on the Norman Arch.  We have a small leak in the roof at the back of the South Aisle. The builder has been to look at the leak, and I am waiting for a quote for the work.  Julian |  | |
|  | | **St Mary’s, Barnham**  Building:   * Again, no work has been done on the quinquennial report and the hole in the north ground gutter is our biggest repair concern.    Services:   * Attendance at all Sunday services continue to be well supported. * Online attendance also continues to be well supported. * With ‘Freedom Day’ looming we await guidance from the CofE, we will continue to consider returning to our standard pattern of services or to adopting our temporary pattern permanently. * So far this Summer we have had 3 weddings and a funeral service.   General:   * The ‘Friends’ church bookstall had its collection box stolen on the 6th of June, the three individuals were clearly identified on the church CCTV. We posted images of them on the St Mary’s Facebook page asking if anyone knows them, the post was shared 615 times and viewed over 45k times. Within an hour we had their names which were reported to the police. The ‘main’ thief handed himself into the police the next morning. We have received a letter of apology from him for his involvement and actions. * Keene Boiler Services who have quoted for a new boiler and oil tank will commence work on replacing the boiler and tank W/C 16th August.   We would like/aim to:   * To get the hole in the ground gutter repaired and repointed this summer, using the Greenfield legacy. * We are considering having a new church path installed. The current gravel path takes a lot of maintenance and gets very muddy in the winter. This could be funded by ‘The Friends of ABE Churches’ or St Mary’s restricted reserves. |  | |
|  | | **St George’s Church, Eastergate – Report to PCC, July 2021**  Services  Sunday Seekers has resumed its weekly services in church at 11.30am with a good attendance of children with parents.  Play-and-Pray (for pre-school age children) has also resumed its weekly activities in church on Friday mornings at 10am.  Numbers at the 10am services have been generally increasing, sometimes to the maximum number that we have been able to accommodate under social distancing measures. Places are now allocated via a bookings seating plan. We continue to appreciate the support of visiting priests to cover for the occasional holiday absence of Revd Sheila.  We have decided to suspend, for the time being, the monthly Evening Prayer service due to declining attendances and pending the arrival of our new incumbent.  Parish fundraising concert at St Georges  St George’s Church will be hosting a Concert on Friday 30 July to raise funds for the Parish. This is being organised by Gillian Lambourn, with performances being given by various church members. It is hoped that this initiative will be well supported by many in our congregations and from the wider community, including by PCC members and their families. The concert is now being advertised in Contact and on ABE’s website.  New pew cushions  New cushions for pews and choir stalls were commissioned in early 2020 using funds raised for the purpose by the St George’s congregation. The cushions were made many months’ ago but kept in storage by the manufacturer (the Church Cushion Company) due to the Coronavirus lockdown measures which have prevented us from having them dedicated with a full congregation present. We have now decided to take receipt of the cushions and have them dedicated at our 10am service on 25 July. This will allow them to be used and appreciated as ‘added comfort’ for those attending the Parish Concert on 30 July.  Churchyard maintenance  A group from the congregation are regularly cutting the grass in the churchyard. This has reduced the reliance on Richard Timlick and has also reduced our costs. |  | |