

## ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7.30pm

#### 1. Welcome

Members present John Speed (JS); Katerina Nixon (KN); Mike Harvey (MH); Janice Massy (JM), Martin Massy (MM); Kirsty Finch (KF); Iris Shaw (IS); Jenny Hopkins (JH); Jim May (JM); Sharon Vanns (SV)

#### 2. Apologies for absence:

Father Jim (FJ); Richard Hopkinson (RH); Cathy Brill (CB); (NC),

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 21.07.2025.

Matters Arising (not otherwise covered by the agenda)

- The request for Liz Mullins to lead a session on stewardship will be followed up in the new year.
- KN updated regarding organists – there has been a little interest but nothing productive as yet. Some will charge £100 per service with an additional fee to lead a choir practice. KN to follow up with the 'regular' visiting organists.
- Holiday pay arrangements for the Parish Administrator need to be resolved.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- Key points:
- There is a surplus income of £8,000 over the budget set for operating costs. Expenditure has been £7,000 less than budgeted. Taking into account the previous deficit, this leaves a surplus of £13,000.
- TMBC have confirmed that the grant awarded for food bank expenses does not need to be repaid and can be used as we wish. This will be transferred to Paddock Wood food bank.
- Budget guidelines need to be set for next year, including the parish offer.
- MM recommended that the parish offer is calculated as previously, to include ministry costs. There was a discussion regarding the proportion of the surplus funds that should be included in the parish offer as a one-off donation. A suggestion was made that the surplus should be divided 50/50 between the diocese and St Mary's.
- There is a £6,000 budget for an organist. It was agreed that this budget would be maintained for next year.
- It was agreed that the unrestricted reserve fund would be maintained at £18,000 for next year.
- There will be a need to redecorate the vicarage and replace some carpets. The garden will also need maintaining during the interregnum. Decking also needs replacing but no decision will be made prior to receipt of the diocesan report. The electricity contract will need to be maintained, but water will be drained and no gas will be required.
- The treasurer requested a budget of proposed income from the Social and Fundraising committee and estimated income from a planned wedding next year.

## **5. Interregnum update**

- JS and KN met with the Archdeacon last week. The diocese cannot propose a suitable parish to pair with St Mary's so has proposed that we will retain a vicar. The role will include an additional role with responsibility for overseeing rural ministry. The diocese are meeting next week when this will be confirmed.
- JS is working to update the parish profile. It is proposed the advert will be posted on 22/10/25 in the diocese and the Church Times.
- A meeting needs to be arranged with the PCC and Archdeacon in October to appoint Parish Reps to oversee the recruitment process.
- JS has secured visiting priests for most services, but 4 are not covered:
  - 5/10/25 (Christopher Miles will lead a said communion and Harvest has been moved to 12/10/25)
  - 26/10/25 – no plans yet
  - 25/12/25 – a plea for someone with PTO can be posted one month beforehand.
- The Bishop is now allowing communion by extension, so this may be an option for Christmas Day.
- JS is now working on services for January to Easter.
- Diocese are running leadership courses to allow lay people to lead up to 12 services per year under supervision from a priest. JS has put himself forward for this training, which was unanimously agreed by the PCC.
- Safeguarding status for priests with PTO needs to be checked by the church they are visiting.

## **6. Fabric Committee**

- Nothing to report

## **7. Social and Fundraising Committee**

- Scarecrow trail takes place next weekend.
- There is an event on Remembrance Day
- A Bacchus Wind Band concert is planned.
- The proposed Christmas Fair will be postponed until 14/6/26. This will be a summer fete and opened to outside stallholders. Donations have been made from Gillingham Engineering and Ian Chatfield.
- A Christmas Raffle will be run in December.

## **8. Worship and Mission Committee**

- Not met – no update

## **9. Anna Chaplain**

- Report circulated before meeting

## **10. Deanery Synod**

- Met in August
- Main topic was discussion around the numerous current and future interregna in the deanery.

- Paul Kitsh (Area Dean) is in high demand with the number of current vacancies. There is a need to for congregations to step up to help with numerous roles within their churches.

#### **11. Safeguarding**

- No outstanding training or issues currently.
- KN to attend safer recruitment training.

#### **12. AOB:**

- Fr Jim leaving  
There will be a bring and share lunch on Fr Jim's final Sunday, 28/9/25.  
There was a discussion regarding leaving gifts. JS leading on this.  
Fr Jim's installation is on 21/10/25 – SV to book Community minibuses and seek drivers.
- Fr Monodeep Daniel from Delhi Brotherhood and Rev Samuel Shakhar, Chaplain- at St Stephen's College, are visiting Hadlow from 22-25/9/25. IS will host and cook dinner on Tuesday. Over others to provide activities during this time are invited.

#### **13. DONM: 17/11/25 at 7:30pm**

- Another short meeting to appoint Parish reps will need to be arranged during October – date TBA

*Parish reps need to be willing to stand:*

*Key duties –*

*Review applications*

*Agree interview process*

*Conduct interviews and appoint*