



Summary of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council St Mary's Parish Centre on Thursday 27th July at 1930

Present: Rev'd Stuart Silk (Chair), Mary Bacon, Roger Burns (Secretary), Lee Castle, Maureen Dale, Malcolm Eacott, Sue Eacott, Jonathan Elvy, Brenda Hill, Keith Newby, Ged Pugh, Monica Pugh, Rhona Teale, Arthur Watts, Janet Western. **Apologies:** David Hollis

Stuart opened the meeting by reading Psalm 1. He wants to be a church that bears fruit and that is reflected in the new PCC meeting agenda. Stuart reminded us of "Fruit" and "Trellis" thinking. If we do too much "Trellis" then attendees must highlight so we maintain our focus. The minutes of the last meeting held on 25th May 2023 were signed off as a correct record.

PCC discussed the return of the Common Cup and use of bread, rather than wafers, at Sunday Communion. Stuart shared some research that had been undertaken. The chances of catching Covid from the Cup are remote, almost negligible provided the cup is wiped properly. PCC agreed to resume use of the Common Cup and to start using real bread from September 17th with alternative options available for those who do not wish to take it. Stuart will produce and circulate a leaflet explaining the change for the congregation in August.

PCC discussed the introduction of a special service to include Baptisms on the second Sunday morning of the month. Past experiences and learnings were shared. Stuart outlined the sequence of events in preparing a family for baptism or thanksgiving and the expectations for church attendance. PCC acknowledged the importance of engaging with baptism families and making them welcome in church. The proposal was endorsed such that the first service will start in August.

PCC officer reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Stuart stepped through each report (Churchwardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding, Secretary) and asked for any questions or additions to the reports.

- Jonathan said he attended Bishop James farewell service.
- A future PCC discussion on "Stewardship" was agreed.
- As Safeguarding certification frequency has moved from 5 to 3 years then all PCC members are to check their DBS and Safeguarding credentials.
- Whilst we have a broad range of social events planned for the community it's important we reflect on why we do what we do.
- Discussions with the Council Cemeteries Office will continue to improve management of churchyard borders and pathways.
- New church signage needs to be firmed up by our Communications & Connect team.

In Any Other Business the PCC agreed to:

- Decline an offer from the NBGS to purchase a church building plan.
- Set a nominal fee for Burial searches due to the significant effort involved.
- Pay "Open the Book" membership fees for Ged and Gwen Sharpe.
- Review and then sign off the Statement of Terms for the Church Cleaner role.

Next meeting is on Thursday 28th September at 1930.