

**The Parish Church of St Mary, Arnold**  
**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting**  
**Held via Zoom on Thursday 4th March 2021**

**Attendees:** Kirsty Aplin     Verity Blakemore     Michael Bolton  
Margaret Caunt     Andrew Fisher     Trevor McElroy  
Lisa Middleton     Veronica Prestidge     David Rodgers  
Andrea Sands     Ed Sands     Larrie Thompson  
Liz Turley     Melissa Watt     Brian West

**Apologies:** Mandy Brookshaw Ron Price

**Minutes of Previous Meeting - 5th November 2020**

**Ed Sands Proposed and Melissa Watt Seconded that we accept the minutes as a correct record:  
Unanimously approved**

**Churchwardens Report**

**Clock:** the clock has been serviced by Cumbria Clocks. There is still an issue with the Curfew Mechanism as it's very worn but the clock is working (but not chiming the hours). We are getting a quote for repair - if it is too expensive we will leave it as the clock is working.

**Family Centre Door:** We are waiting for this to be made in European Oak. We had asked about UPVC but the Council said NO! However, the Council have donated most of the money for the new door. Eventually all the doors/windows in the Family Centre will require replacing. Hopefully some or all of these can be UPVC.

**Church Heating:** We had to have a new pump which cost £800. H&V haven't sent us an invoice yet, and Simon will probably let us pay in instalments. He has also done some work for free at St Mary's Close.

Margaret wanted to Thank David & Liz for all their hard work.

Michael Bolton said it might be worth contacting the Council and asking for some money towards the Clock repairs. Brian said they used to pay Annual Maintenance but that stopped a few years ago. They have given all the money they have left to the Family Centre door!

**Financials**

All income streams are down: Weddings/funerals from £11K to £2K, Hall Fees from £11K - £5K and Planned Giving is down £59K to £54k

We just scrapped through paying Parish Share last year. This year although there is an increase overall we have been given a discount to compensate for loss of earnings - though it is still £6487k per month. We have paid this in January but the Standing Committee agreed we would pay £5k per month going forward. This will still be difficult to achieve in the current situation.

We have made savings where possible including the furlough of staff.

Ed said Thanks to Brian for keeping us going.

**On-Line Giving**

The Church of England and Parish Buying have been running courses to give advice on On-Line Giving. Larrie explained that Sum-Up in conjunction with Give a Little seemed to be the best option. Sum-Up allows contactless payment options which would be £20 per month if we wanted a terminal for contactless payments. Though she didn't think this was the right option for us at the moment, we need to be registered with Sum-up for other forms for On-line giving. Signing up for Sum-Up and Give a Little will enable us to take card payments on-line and have links on our website and Facebook. The fee for this would be 1.95% so a £10 donation would give us £9.80. It also provides the option to add Gift Aid and records the payments to make claiming easy. We get this rate by signing up through Parish Buying where the CoE have secured the best deal.

**Larrie Thompson proposed and Kirsty Aplin Seconded that we register with Sum-Up and Give a Little via Parish Buying - Unanimously approved**

## **Vicars Report**

Margaret talked through her report (attached) and highlighted the following:

### **Review**

- Thanks to Andrea and the team for Christingle & Messy Church
- Encouraged by all the work behind the scenes
- Several Private Prayers held for funerals
- Lots of visits, phone calls and waving through windows

David said there had been good feedback about all we were doing. Margaret said we were caring for our family.

### **Plan**

- Palm Sunday Zoom service 1030 - crosses will be available in the Vicarage Porch from 21st March
- Holy Week: On Mon/Tue/Thurs at 7.30 there will be a 10-15 minute Zoom Reflection
- Good Friday - Church will be open 2 - 3 for Private Prayer (15min slots)
- Good Friday evening there will be a Zoom service at 7.30
- New Course of either Alpha/Start/Saints Alive on Zoom shortly
- St Mary's Community Kitchen - providing a hot meal on Saturdays. We will really be serving God and our Community

We're Growing Church and have new possibilities. We've responded to change and connected more during the pandemic. We've had lots of blessings and re-discovered our call to be One Family. We are Thankful to God for our blessings.

**Margaret Caunt Proposed and Trevor McElory Seconded that the PCC take the decision to bring our services together at 10.30am each week with the 2nd Sunday being communion. In addition, the 4th Sunday will have a BCP Communion at 8.30am and there will be a monthly communion at 2pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to run along our Private Prayer session.**

**13 For, 1 against, 1 abstention - carried**

Michael explained why he had abstained; Based on Canon Law that there be a Holy Communion service held on every Sunday in the Parish Church. Margaret said he needed to do what he felt right and vote with integrity.

This is new and a change, but we will work it out together with God and each other. No one will be excluded, everyone can make a choice to come along with us, including the children and the choir. We will try to keep our Zoom presence too once we're able to go back into Church.

### **AOB**

Synod Reports are as attached. The next Deanery Synod is on 25th March.

There is a Zoom Training Course called "PCC Tonight" that we are hoping to attend on 26th May. Larrie will be in touch with details.

APCM - 28th April 2021 (unless the CofE allow an extension due to the Covid situation)

Andrea Sands and Ron Prices are due to come off PCC at APCM, both are eligible to stand again.

Veronica Prestidge asked to come off (she currently has 1 year left)

Larrie will be in touch with future PCC dates once the Standing Committee have confirmed them.

The meeting ended with The Grace