Benefice of BCMU: **St Michael’s PCC Meeting**

*A Community of Spiritual Disciples Leading our Benefice through Worshipful Working*

**MINUTES**

**Date: 20th September 2022 Time: 5.00pm Venue: The Old School Room**

**Present:** Helen Palmer (HP, Church Warden, Chair ), James Bragg (JB, Church Warden), Axel Palmer (AP, Treasurer), Sue Owst (SO, Secretary), John Allen(JA), Julia Halling-Brown(JHB), Lucy Hemsley(LH), Jon Reynolds (JR),

**Apologies:**  Jean Luckett,Kate Reynolds.

**1. Approval of past Minutes - from Meeting on 19th July 2022**

Proposed AP, Seconded JA. Carried unanimously.

**2. Matters arising**

**2a Correspondence**

* Laura Williams sent a thank you card for her leaving gifts.
* Barbara Wakeling emailed re two dogs in the churchyard which frightened children.

HP and JB to write to owners asking that the dogs be kept on a lead in the churchyard. A sign to be put up in the churchyard demanding dogs are kept on a lead.

**3. Finances**

**Accounts**

Benefice expenditure for 1st quarter of year amounted to £1,000, Heating, Lighting and Water to approx.. £5,000. The Lightening Conductor has been checked. Some of the Planned Giving, amounting to £250 a month, has stopped. The printer is being moved to the office at St Andrew’s, we will pay a proportion of the removal cost. The website is up and running, expense of £120 this year covered by AP.

**Resolution** £1,000 paid towards Parish Share.

Proposed AP, Seconded JA. Carried unanimously.

**Insurance**

Insurance of OSR and Church is now in one policy, 2 copies will be made to put up in the buildings.

**4. Fabric**

**Quinquennial report**

This is now published on the website.

**Old School Room** – Progress on Window and Electrical Report

Window has been bought, it will be fitted by Matthew Govern as soon as possible.

no further progress on Electrical Report.

Tap washers to be replaced by P Shipman.

**CIL application**

Andrew Owst has costed the Disabled toilet at £17,500. An application will be made for a grant of £10,000 from the Parish Council.

**Church Yard Tidy Up** – possible dates, 15th, 22nd October, 5th November

The date of 5th November was chosen for the Tidy Up.

**5. Fundraising**

**200 Club**

80 people have joined, expect to have 100 before next draw.

**Fete**

Interest in this has been shown by some parishioners, JA to follow this up.

**James Hornsby Evening 8th October**

Tickets were distributed to PCC members to sell for the event.

**Bridge Day 28th October**

In hand.

**6. Mission and Ministry**

**Update from JL**

**Eco Hub**

The committee is hoping to get expert advice from Somerset Wildlife Trust re a churchyard plan, and is consulting St Laurence, East Harptree re their church yard plan.

**Thank Cake It’s Friday**

This will celebrate is first birthday in October. The choir is now meeting on Wednesdays, so will not be attending, but there is a regular core group who are being joined by new people.

It was agreed that the venue is moved back to the Old School Room to reduce costs.

Thanks were given to Kate, who will be unavailable to help in future on a Friday, for her help to establish Thank Cake.

**Bats in Churches**

We will be hosting the art installation “On a Wing and a Prayer” by Ilene Sterns, with the launch on 24th September, 5pm-7pm followed by a bat walk. Volunteers were requested to help at the event.

This has been postponed to 29th October due to illness.

**Prayer group “Listening to God”**

The plan is to meet once a month and move from church to church. At St Andrew’s prayers are offered before the service. It was suggested that at St. Michaels they could be offered in the church after the service.

**Deanery Youth Worker**

Please see attached report.

Angela Fraser has met with the joint Head and RE/Collective Worship Coordinator for Ubley and East Harptree schools. Dates are in the diary for 2022.

**7. Deanery Synod Report**

HP and JB reported on comments received concerning the Draft Provisional Plan.

Concern was expressed re one person coping with 8 parishes. HP is meeting with other Church wardens to discuss the proposals, and it was felt that this was important to keep the conversation going.

It was expected that something like this was going to happen, but 8 is too many churches.

This led to a discussion on how to encourage younger members of the village to come to services and how to make the church buildings more welcoming. This will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

In summing up the discussion; In principle the need to join with other parishes is understood, but this is too many, and we should continue to hold conversations with these other parishes about the future.

**8. Communication**

**St Michael’s Website**

This is up and running. PCC Minutes will be published on it, together with the Quinquennial Report and the Report on the Organ.

**9. The Future**

**Altar Guild**

Members of the Altar Guild will help in the Communion Services again. At the next communion, wafers will be given by the Priest, as happened before Covid, and the Altar Guild member will follow with the chalice, so that parishioners can dip their wafer in it.

**Services for the rest of this year**

HP has organised services for the rest of this year, the programme is attached.

**Luncheon Club**

Discussion ensued about starting this up again. This may happen in OSR, but there may be other possibilities.

**10. AOB**

None.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm.

**Next meeting Monday, 21st November at 5.00pm in OSR.**