

JOINT PCC MEETING FOR ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, SMARDEN, AND ALL SAINTS, BIDDENDEN.

Held on Monday 17th June 2019 at 7.30pm in The Charter Hall, Smarden

Present: Rev. Alex Bienfait (Chair), Mike Barkway, Ann Courtness, Peter Cutts, Tom Hay, Julie Lupton, Vivienne Rose, Stu Tucker, Paul Webster, Joanna Winston,

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Opening Prayers: The meeting opened with a reading and prayers by Alex Bienfait.	
2.	Apologies: Edward Demery, Tony Lush, Ewa Loffstadt, Tanya Ling (administrator).	
3. i	<p>Open Forum/ other business:</p> <p>Margaret Wheatley: AB had invited MW to share her concerns about (a) the pressure on churches resulting from the burden of excessive Parish Shares and (b) the use of funds by the Diocese in general. MW has written to the Diocese. A copy of her letter is attached.</p> <p>AB pointed out that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • these concerns are widespread amongst the clergy as well as the laity. • a review of Parish Share is currently taking place at Diocesan level. • the next meeting to discuss these matters at Diocesan level is on 10th July. • Senior Diocesan are scheduled for a meeting in the Deanery 8th October. <p>It was agreed that a letter expressing concern about the general management of finances within the diocese, seeking more transparency and improvement in management in general, should be sent. A response should be requested.</p>	AB/AC/ TH/ED
4.	Minutes for APCM meetings for Biddenden and Smarden: all comments to be emailed to Tanya.	All
5.	<p>To review the Safeguarding Policy and statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no changes were made to the policy or statement and it was duly signed by AB and churchwardens for each parish. New statements to be on noticeboards in each church. <p>Biddenden: proposed by Joanna Winston, seconded by Ann Courtness. Smarden: proposed by Vivienne Rose, seconded by Mike Barkway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers' Audit: both PCCs were assured that the church websites are currently compliant with Safeguarding requirements. 	AB
6.	<p>The use of our buildings in the future – Diocesan Synod speech:</p> <p>A 20 minute speech (available via this link https://www.canterburydiocese.org/synod-march-2019/ by Becky Clarke Director of Churches and Cathedrals, Secretary of the Church buildings Council and Cathedral Fabric Commission) Buildings was played. The theme, how to realise the full potential of building for mission, ministry and worship, was then discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed that individual PCCs should revisit this matter at their next meetings.</p>	office
7.	<p>5 year church plan review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the plan should include an allocated person in charge and a target date for completion/ updates. • PCC members felt that the document is too general and that priorities need to be narrowed down, made more specific. • AB highlighted his current focus: welcome leaflet for both villages; Active Church; Faculty application for reburial in Biddenden graveyard. • Welcome leaflet: Currently PW and JW working on a Welcome to All Saints leaflet. • It was agreed that AB, ST and PW should form a small group to work on a leaflet welcoming people to the villages. 	TH/AC/ ED/AB AB/ST/ PW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that one of our challenges is to address the declining congregation numbers in Biddenden. 	
8.	<p>Donation Envelopes: It was pointed out that the white Gift Aid envelopes are unnecessary for gifts of £30 or less as these donations, from the church's point of view, already qualify for Gift Aid. However, they should still be available for larger donations on request and a standard note should be included in all the Pew notices to this effect.</p>	PC/AB/ office
9.	<p>Update on joint Benefice finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office to circulate email from TH to all members TH reported a current surplus of £221 to the end of May. PC will transfer £120 shortfall for January and February. Currently the joint account finances are within the budget. 	office
10.	<p>To approve photocopier contract proposal: It was agreed that we enter a 36 month contract with Managed Technology. The Director lives in Smarden. There is no networking or contract fee. No charge for telephone support. Call out/ repairs £95 per visit. Inflationary costs capped at 4% (per annum?) Printing costs: B/W £0.0048 per page Colour £0.048 per page. Estimated annual cost £414.72 Biddenden: proposed by PW, seconded by JW Smarden: proposed by ST, seconded by TH</p>	AB
11.	<p>To agree organist contract: It was agreed that the contract extensively reviewed by the churchwardens should be adopted. Mark Wilson to sign the completed contract once a satisfactory DBS has been approved. JL to action this and to send MW details of online Safeguarding Training to be completed. The PCCs approved an increase in wedding and funeral organ playing</p>	AB/ JL TH
12.	<p>Review of service planning notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document was circulated. Corrections/ queries to be emailed to AB. 	
13.	<p>Dates of next meetings: Biddenden PCC meeting: Tuesday 23rd July 2019 Smarden PCC meeting: Monday 15th July 2019</p>	
14.	<p>The meeting closed at 21.40 with everyone sharing in saying the Grace.</p>	