

St Michael Smarden PCC

Minutes of virtual Zoom meeting of the PCC held on 23rd March 2021 at 6pm

Present: Tom Hay(Chair), Tony Lush, Mike Barkway, Edward Demery, Stu Tucker, Tanya Ling, Ewa Loffstadt, Vivienne Rose

Item		Action
1	The meeting opened in prayer.	
2	Apologies for absence None	
3	Election of Chairperson Tom Hay was nominated by Tony Lush and seconded by Vivienne Rose. All in favour.	
4	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January 2021 The minutes were adopted as a true record and virtually signed by Tom Hay.	
5	Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
6	Opening the church for face-to-face services PCC discussed on whether to start face to face services . A large majority of the congregation have been vaccinated and infection rates are locally are very low . This has been considered very carefully by the churchwardens and also noted that other local churches are now going back. Churchwardens propose that we go back into church from Palm Sunday. Services are also be offered on Zoom as view only. Interactive zoom services have been a very good option during lockdown. It was noted that there is Still some anxiety in some parts of the congregation about going back. Suggested a mixed service approach in the beginning to see how it goes. Tony Lush queried why we were proposing to open the church when the government is opening up society from mid April . Easter is a very popular time for the church . PCC members noted that the PCC group should give people the choice to go back to church and also give them a virtual Zoom option if they do not wish to return. The majority of the PCC were in favour. Tom Hay proposed that we open for services from Palm Sunday and also run a Zoom service. All Easter services (apart from Good Friday) will also be transmitted in Zoom parallel to face to face services. Seconded by Ewa. All in favour apart from Tony Lush who abstained.	
7	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office have received an email from the Diocesan House and GRO about some marriage law changes that start this year in May. Online training will be offered to the office to make the required admin changes to the marriage paperwork and processes that will be affected. 	
8	Nave Altar update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to start a faculty but a statement of need which Alex has promised to do. Keep on the agenda for next meeting. 	
7	Interregnum update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC have not been told if a replacement rector can be advertised for yet to replace Alex. Diocesan House are currently reviewing on how they can build a sustainable church going forward and hoping to report back to the PCC at Easter. Churchwardens are watching this closely and will update the PCC when they get feedback from the Diocese. • A parish profile working party has met to start to draft the Parish Profile 	

	<p>document. Mike and Stu are collaborating and will discuss further at next meeting. Each parish is looking at their sections which can then be brought together to give a full vision of what our churches want.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service planning is very time consuming and shows how much time Alex spent in preparing for these. • Active Church update –Stu confirmed that we have had two Active Church services since Alex has left led by the parents which have gone very well. Alex has been assisting with these. Once Alex leaves in June, the the Active Church team will lead themselves. Tom has offered to join the next AC meeting to assist the admin side. Action Office to add Active Church to the agenda going forward. 	Office
11	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewa sent the finance reports to the PCC before the meeting. • For the annual 2020 report, £5K donation was gratefully received. It was noted that no payments were made to joint benefice for several months – still on budget taking into account the circumstances for last year. Giving the circumstances of last year, the figures are very positive and this needs to be acknowledged in the annual report • Some of the £5k donation has been spent on xmas cheer vouchers and donatio to the primary school - there is approx £3k approx left 	
12	<p>Magazine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscriptions still coming in so no total figure yet. 	
13	<p>H&S</p> <p>Refer to opening up church for face to face services</p>	
14	<p>Churchwardens report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further updates • Church notice board has been put up. 	
15	<p>Events and fundraising update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewa has collated Smarden scenic photos ready for the Smarden calendar 2022. Asked if we should create a calendar working group specifically for this. Identifiable pictures specific to Smarden. Vivienne, Stu , Ewa and Edward to form the working group. • Smarden Christmas Tree festival dates (10-12 December) have been sent to the Office by Fran Hackett. PCC needs to discuss this further at the next meeting Action Office to add this as a proposal to the agenda for next month. Action Vivienne to speak Pat Palmer and Fran to see if a committee needs to be started. 	VR/Office
Date of the next meeting:- PCC meeting on Zoom on Monday 19 th April at 6pm.		

The meeting closed with prayers at 7.35pm