

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PCC  
OF THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT  
HELD AT GREENWAY HOUSE, HINTON BLEWETT ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018

Present: Graham Sage (in the chair), Elaine Avery, Maggie Brain, Liz Brimmell, Mary Cookson, Robbie Drewett, James Easter, Sara Hall, Hazel Rider & Revd Karen Spray.

Apologies: Judith Hutchins & Guy Stobart.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Revd Karen.

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November** were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Matters Arising**

The **Advent Course** had unfortunately not gone ahead as there were few takers, so many having other commitments at this busy time of year.

Revd Karen said careful consultation and debate needed to take place with the whole congregation about what is meant by **Inclusive Church**, ie "Church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality", before a decision can be made on whether to sign up for it. Not every congregation feels able to embrace this statement of inclusivity immediately but it would be good to debate what it means in practice.

3. **Reports**

**St Laurence:** initial consultations are about to begin with the DAC about Project Newton. A grant application has been made to a Diocesan charity and Guy is exploring the possibility of a grant from Somerset Churches Trust. A briefing and consultation with the church community will begin after the service on 18 February and a similar session for the wider community is planned during March. Bristol Museum has agreed to be involved with the project. **St Mary:** B&NES' risk assessment concurs with our own in that there is no need to fence off the gully and the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office has confirmed by phone that cover is in place. B&NES has erected fencing around part of the churchyard wall in need of repair. **St Margaret:** there was nothing to report. **Health & Safety:** an annual review of risk assessments is under way and it is hoped to report to the next meeting.

4. **Finance**

**Outward Giving:** Biblical teaching on tithing indicates that 10% of income should be donated to charity. For the United Parish this means giving 10% of the parish's income from standing orders, envelopes and church collections. For several years the United Parish has supported the Crisis Centre in Bristol, the Tear Fund and the International Nepal Fellowship in addition to donating the Remembrance Service collection to the Royal British Legion, but the total falls short of 10%. PCC members are broadly in favour of donating 10% and of reviewing which charities to support and it should be made clear in any Stewardship Campaign that we will be giving 10% to charity. It was suggested that an article be placed in Parish News inviting people to nominate appropriate charities for consideration by the PCC.

5. **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) & Training**

New regulations covering data held about any living individual come into force on 25/05/18 and the PCC needs to be compliant. Individuals' clear consent must be obtained for the use of their information for specific purposes. The use of blind copies in circulating emails was again stressed. Robbie kindly agreed to draft a consent form to go to everyone whose data (name, address, email address or any other qualifying data) is stored. Such data should be co-ordinated by the Parish Office and it was noted that its gathering and ongoing updating would inevitably impact on

administration costs. Diocesan training courses are to be held on 24 February and 9 March and PCCs are invited to book two places each. The Parish Administrator will be asked if she will attend.

## 6. **Deanery Synod and the Future of the United Parish**

An open meeting of the Deanery Synod with Bishop Peter was held at Keynsham on 31 January (attended by Revd Karen, 3 Churchwardens and the PCC Secretary) to brief the Deanery on the current state of the **Deanery Mission Plan** and consult upon it. The Plan, entitled “Living the Story, Telling the Story of Jesus” is about putting mission and evangelism at the heart of everything we do so as to connect with people in the wider community. Work had begun on compiling a Directory of the gifts and talents available within the parishes of the Deanery and of their individual needs and it was hoped to make this resource available online to help match needs with resources. A new Diocesan Strategic Development Fund is available to fund the Pioneer Project, prioritising work with young people and families, marginalised people and communities and new areas of ministry.

The new Deanery Lay Chair, Helen Barnes, had found the position more challenging than anticipated and had asked for some assistance. **Graham Sage** had offered to help and in the absence of other offers he was duly elected **Assistant Lay Chair**, a post which will provide the United Parish with increased access to the Deanery Synod and its planning. Revd Karen is becoming involved with the other clergy of the Deanery and has recently met the new Diocesan Spirituality Enabler who may be able offer some input into Project Newton from the sacred space perspective.

**A proposed link between the United Parish and the adjoining Benefice of Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley** is a key objective of the plan. A major imbalance between recruitment and retirement means that clergy numbers will reduce markedly over the next few years, which will impact most severely on rural parishes where remaining clergy will become ever more isolated. A link between us would provide a means of support and advice and cover for holidays, sickness, etc. It is hoped to develop other links between the congregations by means of occasional shared worship and other opportunities, but it is not intended to merge the parishes or become a “superparish”. Revd Karen and the PCC will explore this further once the new Rector of the adjoining Benefice arrives on post.

The Deanery Mission Plan belongs to everyone in the Deanery. The current iteration of the plan agreed on behalf of all the people of the churches of the Deanery at the Oct 2017 Deanery Synod was a first stage. The next stage is to include more fully the passions, concerns and plans of all the churches in the Deanery to see how, working together, we might discern the next step forward.

Every parish is asked to consider two questions. This is an opportunity for all of us to influence the way the Deanery Mission Plan might evolve and include as wide a constituency as possible:

- 1) What is your mission and aim as a church?
- 2) How can the churches of the Deanery support one another? For example: sharing what’s taking place within each other’s parishes; having a collective Deanery Mission Plan.

It was suggested that Denise Calverley who has co-presented recent training courses be invited to preach on the initiative and John Hall has kindly offered to lead worship in her parish that Sunday if a convenient date can be chosen. Feedback from parishes is required by mid-May for the Deanery Synod meeting in June, which is to be held in the United Parish.

## 7. **Worship Advisory Group**

Graham and Guy had received a preliminary paper from the Organist & Choirmaster recommending the introduction of a new **hymn book**. Whilst a great deal of research had gone into its preparation, such a purchase would be costly and Guy has asked Nick Tall to supply

comparative information on what other hymn books are available and on how the cost can be met. It would be beneficial for Nick to have help with this but no-one volunteered at the meeting. It was suggested Andrew Day would have the appropriate expertise and moreover he was much involved in the choice of our current hymn book over 25 years ago. However, he is known to have huge professional commitments. Graham would approach him.

It was noted that **Evensong** is not well attended and congregants can feel left out, having so little part to play, now that the choir sings the whole service and frequently reads both lessons, although some find this spiritually uplifting. Feedback from the recent Parish News article suggested more participation would be appreciated and this should be fed back to the musicians to ensure a return to more inclusive worship; readers should be selected from the congregation. Meanwhile it was noted that the Organist & Choirmaster will be leaving at the end of July and that the parish is actively trying to recruit a replacement.

The WAG suggestion to serve a **complimentary continental breakfast** (donations appreciated) will be trialled on 18 February at East Harptree and again at West Harptree in March **between BCP & Parish Worship** to encourage worshippers at the two services to mingle.

#### 8. **Service Schedule**

The Advent & Christmas services were well attended and it was hoped to repeat the **Advent Carol Service** this year but it should be publicised earlier and more widely. The leaflet drop in West Harptree worked well and should be repeated. Parishioners from Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley had been invited to join us on **Ash Wednesday**. West Harptree Hall has been booked for the **Lent Course** on 5 Wednesdays from 21 February and it is hoped to conclude with a Pilgrimage to Wells on Saturday 24 March, with various starting points and finishing at the Cathedral or Bishop's Palace. On 17 March there will be a Passiontide choir performance of **St Mark's Passion** by Charles Wood at East Harptree at 7.30pm. If anyone knows of a docile donkey which can be used on **Palm Sunday**, please contact Laura Williams. On **Easter Day** Parish Worship with Communion will be at West Harptree. It is hoped another farm visit can be arranged on Rogation Sunday and Graham will make enquiries.

#### 9. **Review of PCC Calendar**

The calendar is in need of revision in the light of experience; Graham and Elaine were asked to come up with suggestions for consideration.

#### 11. **Urgent Matters raised with the Chairman**

**The Archdeacon's Visitation** will be on Wednesday 4 April at Keynsham. Revd Karen and Churchwardens will liaise regarding the **Articles of Enquiry**.

#### 12. **Remaining 2018 meeting dates:** Wednesdays 4 July, 5 September and 7 November. Date of APCM: Sunday 15 April 2018 following morning service.

The meeting was closed with The Grace at 9.05pm.

**ACTION LIST**

<b>Revd Karen</b>	
Evensong: speak to Nick re. congregation participation in music	
Arrange for Evensong lesson readers to be drawn from the congregation	
<b>PCC Chairman</b>	
Review PCC calendar in conjunction with PCC Secretary	
Consult Andrew Day re. assisting Organist & Choirmaster over new hymnbook proposal	
Explore possible Rogation Farm Visit	
<b>Finance Officer</b>	
Report reason for fall in advertising revenue and why subscription income from Parish News is not higher as a result of the increased cover price (left over from previous meeting and not available this time).	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	
Complete review of Risk Assessments	
Robbie Drewett to draft consent form icw new General Data Protection Regulations	