



East Preston with Kingston: St Mary the Virgin

**Mini Meeting of the PCC
29 September 2020
by eMail and Post
to vote on a resolution,
pass previous minutes and
agree to the Treasurer's reports.**

Minutes

- 1 The "meeting" was held, via eMail and post, to consider a resolution for the purchase of broadband to be used in our church.**
- 2 The following PCC Members all received information sent out with regard to voting:**
 - a. Fr. Andrew Perry (Chair), Sue Baldock, Nova Brookes, Lynne Brunton, Jacky Collett, Stella Collier, Colin Crane, Mary Darby, Revd. Emma Ham-Riche, Charis Harbidge, Claire Hind, Mary Jeavons, Kathy Lockyear, Joe Padfield, Gill Quigley, Lois Townsend and Chris Wood.
 - b. Votes were received from every PCC Member.
We were sorry to hear of the sad death of Gill Mauderne and appreciate her time given to the PCC. We send our condolences to Andrew, her son, other family members and friends.

3 Minutes of Last Meetings

The only comment received with regard to the minutes for the meetings of 10 March 2020 and 21 July 2020, was that the next Quinquennial Inspection date, mentioned in the 21 July minutes, should read March 2021. This has been corrected.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's August 2020 accounts were sent out together with St. Mary's PCC accounts for July 2020.

Questions were raised and a comment made with regard to the August financial report. These are detailed below, together with Fr. Andrew's responses in bold:

- 4.1 Q) Do Fr. Andrew's expenses include the financial contribution the church is making to his MA and please may we have some feedback as to how this is progressing?**

A) My regular expenses include things like telephone, travel, mileage, stationery, books, stamps, maintenance of robes and hospitality. All these expenses are legitimate expenses reimbursable from the parish. (Fr. A provided a further breakdown of his 2019 expenses.)

I try very hard to keep my expenses as low as possible. Viking Stationery are the cheapest supplier I've found.

I try to cycle as much as possible, to keep transport costs down. When driving I claim 40p a mile rather than the recommended 45p. I don't actually claim for the maintenance of robes and only occasionally for hospitality.

The parish are supposed to pay for a room of the Vicarage to be re-decorated each year. We have not taken this up in the three years I've been here.

No, these regular expenses do not include the fees in association with the MA. The MA is proving hugely enjoyable. It's been affected by the Lockdown in that we have missed one term/unit, which will be "tacked on" to the end of the course - so graduation should be in the winter of 2022, rather than the summer. Marks so far have averaged 65% (varying between 58 and 72) which is a "B" in Chichester University terms. Topics over the first year have included: Public & Practical Theology; Christian Spirituality and The Bible and Public Theology.

4.2 Comment by Nova Brookes: Although it has been and still is great for us all, including Fr. Andrew, to have Emma with us, when she moves away from this parish, I do not think we can afford another person to fill her shoes. We have not had a curate/second in command before and the cost is too high.

A) Emma is here at East Preston as a training curate - we are privileged to have her and any cost to us is *more than* repaid by the contribution she makes to our life together in the parish. She is here because I am designated as a Training Incumbent. Emma's stipend, pension, National Insurance and housing are met by the diocese. Our responsibility, as a parish, are her working expenses, Council Tax and Water Rates. We don't know whether she will be replaced when she leaves, but I hope you will agree that she has been a great blessing to life here at St. Mary's.

4.3 Q) What is ADC printing as opposed to RICOH photocopier? Could these be reduced?

A) ADC = Arun District Council, and they print physical copies of the parish magazine for those who refuse (and some who are unable) to access the magazine via electronic means. We sold off the heavy duty printing machines we had because they were inefficient, expensive and took up a lot of space. ADC provide a better quality product than we were able to produce (printing in house) at reduced rates for charities, making it cheaper than doing it ourselves.

The magazine has not been produced since Lockdown, and currently editor, Fr. John Quigley, is not in a position to start production again in the immediate future. We could reduce ADC costs in the future if more people could be persuaded to access the magazine online.

4.4 Q) I thought we had a group of parishioners who cleaned the church - perhaps we do and the £210 (March+April) relates to some other aspect of cleaning?

A) The cleaning costs incurred are for the professional cleaning of the Spire Room, not the church, The Spire Room was (pre-Lockdown) hired out to various user groups each week, providing some revenue for St. Mary's.

Rather than rely on parishioners to clean toilets, floor and kitchenette facilities weekly, the PCC took the decision to engage professional help. This has been suspended since Lockdown.

4.5 Q) Does the gardening just cover the church grounds or does it include the vicarage garden? If applicable, could a cheaper arrangement be made for the vicarage garden?

A) The gardening costs JUST cover the Vicarage garden. It's a situation I inherited when I arrived, and given the size of the garden, is a huge blessing. In my previous parish, members gave a day a week to keep the Vicarage garden in shape. If we think it wise to dispense with gardening for the Vicarage, the choice will be either parishioners doing the work, or the Vicar taking a day a week out of parish duties to do the work.

Church grounds are maintained by Arun District Council; the home-grown Fantastic Gardeners (co-ordinated by Jane Penny) and more recently with help, on a Sunday, from the Community Pay Back Team. All this maintenance costs us nothing.

4.6 Q) What are the Church items?

A) "Church items" from Hayes & Finch are things we consume or use during services - usually wafers, wine, candles and occasionally things like altar linen.

5 Voting concerning the resolution

Father Richard's Live Streaming information, costing and proposal were sent to the PCC and the PCC thanks him for all his hard work.

Members of the PCC voted by phone and by eMail about the following resolution:

"We agree to the installation of broadband in St. Mary's Church so that WiFi may be used for various administrative purposes and provide the ability to live-stream worship and events to those who are physically unable to join the community."

The majority of PCC Members voted **"In Favour"** of this resolution with 15 voting "For" and 1 person voting "Abstain".

The following observations, however, were made. Fr. Andrew's responses are in bold underneath:

5.1 I'm sorry though that we need to use yet another Legacy. Could we not appeal for contributions? I am also concerned that so many of our housebound members will not have the equipment to receive the broadcasts and therefore not benefit.

I would like it noted (again) that I hope that some of Gerry Parker's legacy is saved for a memorial to him and his generous gift.

The legacy we're spending on the broadband is that of Gil McAlpine, not Gerald Parker.

It's good to spend legacies:

- a) so that we have something to show for the generous gift and**
- b) because the Charity Commission gets twitchy if we sit on them.**

Also, this is not just for our existing congregation, but for outreach to those who want to have a look, but not yet commit, or want to attend a service but can't, or who are interested in the faith in general.

- 5.2** Just a thought on security in church when/if the WiFi is installed, being as the church is open daily with no "church watch" - just putting it out there to bear thinking about.

Yes, the "box of tricks", which contains the valuable bits, is detachable and will be stored under lock and key, not left in the open church.

- 5.3** WiFi. My daughter and some of her family suffer from electric sensitivity. She works from home, tutoring OU students and uses an ethernet cable to connect her via her laptop to students and colleagues. There may be others in our parish who are similarly affected and should be considered before implementation of an expensive WiFi system.

- 6** **The Safeguarding Update, Deanery Synod report back, Reports from some Groups and Reports from Sub-committees are not applicable due to changes during COVID-19.**

7 Reports from Groups

7.1 Sunday Club Report

A Sunday Club Report has been received (and forwarded to all members of the PCC) from Charis Harbidge on behalf of the Sunday Club Team which also includes Gloria Russell and Carol White.

The PCC would like to record its thanks for the stalwart work done by the team.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1** Our Curate, Rev. Emma Ham-Riche, is due to be ordained on the evening of Sunday 11 October. Attendance will be for 25 and via invitation only but will be live-streamed (not yet with use of broadband but with an alternative temporary method).

Emma's first Mass will be at St. Mary's on Monday 12 October at 7pm.

8.2 **APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)**

In his letter of 4 July, Father Andrew explained that the deadline for the APCM had, due to COVID-19, now been extended to October 2020.

Those who were due to step down at the postponed meeting, would need to continue in their current positions until that date. **The meeting will now be at 12 noon in church on 18 October 2020.**

8.3 **Procedures for church services and times for private prayer:**

Services are currently:

MASSES

Thursdays 10am

Sundays 8am and 10am

From October 2020:

Tuesdays 7pm

Morning prayer is now in Church, not on Facebook and the church is open, for private prayer, all day from about 8.30am to 5pm.

The church is able to take 15 placings (ie: individuals or household groups) and arrangements are on a first come first-served basis. Toilets will be available but there will be no refreshments.

For Test and Trace reasons, names and contact numbers will be taken by a "door keeper" and retained for 21 days. Also, there is now a QR (Quick Response) Code at the church door and those with the NHS COVID-19 App. downloaded onto their iPhone, can scan it, instead of signing in.

Pews have been roped off to ensure social distancing. Face coverings **are now legally mandatory in church** unless you are one of those who are excluded. Hand sanitiser will be available at the north door to be used on entry and exit. People are asked to socially distance when queuing for communion which is taken in the form of "one kind" (only the bread) and words are not spoken. Worship will not involve any singing and the Peace will not be physically shared. A collection plate will be available on the font for any offerings.

On Sundays, there will be no Sunday Club and children will be the responsibility of the adults who bring them. There will be no "happy bags" or activities provided.

Everyone is thanked again for their care with regard to these necessary regulations. Thanks also go again to Father Andrew, Revd. Emma and Father Richard, for the ways in which they have kept us all buoyant and connected to communal spiritual life.

9 **Date of next PCC meeting:** (After the APCM on 18 October at 12 noon in church)

Tuesday 17 November 2020. Further details nearer the time and in the light of COVID-19 restrictions.

AoB must be notified to the Chair 24 hours before the PCC Meeting.

Please email all reports to WendyWAllen46@icloud.com by Tues.10 November 2020.