

St Margaret's Church, Angmering
PCC minutes, 1st November 2021, Church Hall

Present: John Bawler, Ben Bennett, Steve Bentley, David Boreham, Alan Butler, David Fordham, Chris Harris, John Heaton, Ann Jones, Hannah Jones, Jackie Johnson, Ben Lucas, Esther O'Toole, Sue Pauley, John Roberts, Mark Standen (chair), Keith Varney, Adrian Warburton, Chris Wild, Chris Wilson

1. Mark Standen welcomed everyone; Ben shared a passage Deuteronomy 5 vv12-15, the 4th Commandment, which says that the Sabbath should be a day of rest for all. He gave a whistle stop tour of the first 5 books of the Bible, finishing by reminding us that God's blessing is his gift to us; and everything we have or do is from God's gift. This was followed by prayers.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Derek Dainton, Tina Smith,
3. **Minutes of PCC meeting, 13th September 2021.**
Couple of minor errors corrected. Unanimously agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising**
None
5. **Chairman's comments**
Looking back: unfortunately Mark, John and David were unsuccessful in being elected to the General Synod. There were however representatives from the evangelical side of the Church elected to Synod from our Diocese in both the Houses of Clergy and Laity. Initial analysis of people elected from the whole country shows a strengthening of representation from people with orthodox views, for which we give thanks. Members of the PCC were encouraged to pray for the meetings of synods over the next 5 years.

Looking forward;

(i) Shaken or Stirred. Chris Wild reported that there was now a team in place to deliver this three week course (although it would be possible, but not ideal, to attend one, two or three weeks) and guest speakers have been invited. Publicity is in progress. Please pray for the team, speakers and wisdom to all to invite people.

(ii) Rememberance Sunday, Sun 14th Nov 21. There has been a request from the village that the minutes silence should be held at 11.00am at the War Memorial, in line with others around the country. There will therefore be a shortened 10am service before the War Memorial service.

(iii) Christmas card delivery – cards citing all the Christmas services are currently being printed and will be delivered to the whole village from Advent Sunday. This will be a big task requiring considerable organisation especially as the village has grown considerably since the last card drop. It is hoped that those who have delivered to roads in the past can repeat those roads this year.

(iv) Capacity for services over Christmas. During October it has been necessary to add a few extra chairs at each service for latecomers with several people, both new and old, returning to the church building. (Overall numbers for Sept were between 130-150 adults over all services with the number of children increasing and at least 50 watching on 'You Tube'). It had been noticed that the north door had been closed in error recently. Also, some people were not wearing masks when singing (this cannot be enforced, just recommended for the good of all) – this was seen as a problem with increasing numbers of covid cases locally. Agreed to make mask wearing signage clearer, and to encourage the use of lateral flow tests.

(v) Christmas services. With limits on the numbers in the church at any one time, it has been decided to hold 2 Christingle services, 2 carol services and 2 crib services. People will be encouraged to book in to these services via Church Suite, but there will be approx 20% of seats available for people who have not booked in to attend. We will try to factor in a gap of at least one hour between services to allow the church to air. If necessary, the Church hall could be used as overflow with the service being livestreamed there.

(vi) Traders evening is unfortunately now not going to take place in the village.

Looking forward to 2022:

The priorities /plans that have already been discussed stand

- (a) Ministry to under 18's and families
- (b) Ministry to seniors
- (c) Ministry to people moving into the village

This is not a definitive list and can be added to.

6. Finance Report

2021 accounts. No account of any giving on Gift Sunday has been included. There will be a surplus of approx £30k due to pandemic savings.

2022 budget. John Bawler circulated comprehensive documents to support the budget for 2022 and explained these. Where necessary the budget has been based on 2019 as figures for 2020 have not been 'normal' due to the pandemic. A request from the Diocese has been received for our contribution to Parish Ministry Cost to be increased. Following discussion, It was proposed, and agreed, that this be increased from 105% of PMC to 110% in 2022, 120% in 2023 and 130% in 2024. The latter two will be aspirational rather than a firm pledge. In addition, we are contributing approx £4K of rebated fees to the Deanery. There is some uncertainty about the Diocese funding our next Curate – should we need to do this the cost would be £40-£50k per year so our proposed future increases in contribution to PMC are dependent on this not happening. We have budgeted for the employment of a second youth/children's worker from September which would cost approx £30k per year (salary, pension, etc but no accommodation). A decision regarding this will be made in Feb 2022.

Thanks were given to John and the Finance team. The 2022 budget was agreed.

Proposed: David Boreham; Seconded: John Heaton

Contactless card reader – with cash being used less now, a contactless card reader is to be purchased (approx. £400 inc VAT). This will need a power supply and wi fi so will need to be sited where the books and cards are currently in the church.

Mission Group - following a recent Mission groups meeting (minutes of which have been circulated) the funds which would have been given to the Downing family in Albania plus a contingency have been re-distributed. This was agreed by the PCC.

7. Youth, Children and Families.

Chris reported that numbers of children in groups is still lower than before the pandemic. Adventurers are increasing in number – and at least one further volunteer is now required (this is quite problematic for Chris as he does not yet know people well enough to approach them). Rooted has fluctuating numbers. The creche is in need of volunteers (currently being run mainly by Susan Standen). Maybe another announcement in the church services would be helpful. Coming up – the St Margaret’s school reception party; Christian Union is starting at the school. Chris asked for prayers for the development of our ministry amongst children and youth, including the inclusion of youth serving in various ways at the 5pm service.

8. Mission Group

As stated in 6 the Mission group has met recently. Thanks were given to the Varneys for hosting the MAF weekend with Becky and Dave Waterman recently. All being well, Helen Sheridan is due to come to see us in person on the weekend of 27/ 28th November.

9. Safeguarding

David Boreham reported that James Nicholls had nothing new to report

10. Buildings

Adrian W, David and Andy Kyte met to look through the quinquennial report. Andy Kyte and his colleague have now replaced the broken tiles (several more were found on inspection as the report is now 2 years old), the lightening conductor is back in place and several other minor problems rectified.

The electrical survey is now complete with minor purchases needed (coffee machine) Andy Kyte has also repaired the front flint wall by the car park and jet washed the steps to the undercroft (where Malcolm fell).

There was an occasion recently when all power to the church hall was lost which resulted in a trench being dug in Arundel Road and the road being closed for several days! This was not chargeable as outside of our premises.

The broken window in the Church Hall has been replaced (paid for by gardener’s insurance) David B has also spent considerable time removing the ivy from the flint wall alongside the churchyard.

11. Wardens items

Ann revisited the suggestion that there should be a defibrillator on church premises. It was agreed that this should be so – Chris H, Alan B, and wardens to take this forward. The cost will be £800-900. Training will need to be undertaken to use it.

12. Correspondence

None

13. AOB

(i) Ben B announced that there will be a Marriage course starting in Feb 22 and running for 7 weeks. It will be run as a hybrid model and be publicized from Christmas onwards (also marketed to other local churches).

(ii) David B has been to visit Julian (Vestry Cottage) about raising his rent in line with inflation. As Julian is now in his late 80's, he is finding the cottage difficult and, with limited mobility, cannot do the practical jobs around the church (such as collecting rubbish bags) so is considering a move closer to family in the next few months. There will be slight rent increase in line with inflation.

14. Meeting concluded at 9.35pm with prayers, followed by The Grace

Next meeting: Mon 29th November 21, 7.15pm in the Church Hall

Meeting dates for 2022 below

24 January

28 February (school half term 21-25 Feb)

28 March

24 April (APCM) (Easter Day - 17 April)

23 May (school half term 30 May to 3 June)

27 June

18 July (school term ends 21 July)

12 September

24 October (school half term 24-28 October. Need to finalise budget for Gift Sunday).

28 November

All Mondays at 7.15pm in the Church Hall