

Christ Church Moreton Hall Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 4th May at 7.30p.m.

This meeting will be recorded by Zoom

Agenda for the Vestry Meeting

1. Opening Prayer
2. Vestry meeting including the election of Church Wardens

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th October 2020 and matters arising. (Minutes are already on the website)
2. Minister's remarks (Rev. Jonathan Ford)
3. Report of the PCC (Julian Kearsley)
4. Fabric Report (Jonathan Corwin)
5. Financial Report (Colleen Hart)
6. Blessing Fund (Heather Lovell)
7. Home Groups (Rev. Jonathan Ford)
8. Parish Nurse and Caring Ministry (Lesley Williams)
9. Youth & Sunday school
10. Safeguarding (Heather Lovell)
11. Electoral Roll (Gillian Corwin)
12. Deanery Synod Report (Heather Lovell)
13. Minister's Address (Rev. Jonathan Ford) and Prayer before Elections
14. Elections
Members of the PCC
15. Appointments
 - (a) Treasurer
 - (b) Secretary
 - (c) Deanery Synod Representatives
 - (d) Independent Examiner or Auditor
16. Any Other Business

Closing Prayer and Blessing.

Report to Christ Church Moreton Hall Annual Parish Council Meeting 4th May 2021

1. Introduction

It is just under seven months since our previous APCM, but it seems a lot longer as so much has changed over this time for everyone as well as the church. We have tried hard to adapt to what has seemed like a continuing changing environment due to lockdowns followed by easing and subsequent lockdowns with our aim being to sustain worship and pastoral support for our congregation and the wider community. This is reflected in the decisions made by the PCC and the actions we have taken.

2. Information

Our meetings were held on the following dates:-

APCM – Monday 19th October 2020
PCC- Monday 2nd November 2020
Monday 7th December 2020
Monday 1st February 2021
Monday 8th March 2021
Monday 13th April 2021

The changing regulations regarding Covid and how we have needed to respond to them have featured large on our agendas. This included holding all of our meetings on Zoom.

Covid documentation and protocols have had to be produced and our thanks must go to Heather for her diligence and efficiency.

To ensure that we are as Covid safe as possible, the layout of the church has had to change to accommodate social distancing. Online services via Facebook were developed during lockdowns and have continued during periods of eased restrictions for those not wishing to attend in person or for those shielding and this has been possible due to the technical expertise of Jonathan Corwin and our thanks go to him for the considerable amount of work he has done to enable our community to continue worshipping throughout the pandemic. Perspex screens have been purchased and installed to keep our worship band members safe.

Vatha has done excellent work in producing a weekly video for younger members of the congregation. This has enabled CCMH to retain many of its younger members of the congregation.

Home group leaders have provided excellent pastoral care during the crisis and contact has been maintained with all members of our church family through regular phone contact by our volunteers and the newsletter produced every week by either Jonathan Ford or Heather Lovell. A weekly prayer group is held on Zoom to spiritually uphold the work of CCMH and members of its extended family. Our thanks go to all those involved in keeping us in touch with each other during this challenging time.

Following the APCM we said farewell to Pam Hill, Nick Dorling, Enid Feinson and Gill Shaw and we thank them all for their hard work. The PCC has welcomed Tish Mortlock, Sam Reid, Graham Unsworth and Julian Kearsley.

Our work on Safeguarding has progressed substantially under Heather's leadership with training under the auspices of the Church of England going online for all those in responsible positions within the church and a new safeguarding policy was approved by the PCC.

Ownership of church land has been formalized and confirmed and the Bishop has advised that the boundary of the parish has been extended up to Sow Lane (including all the new housing, airport and commercial area.)

The excellent management of the church's finances continued under Colleen Hart's stewardship, minimum balances were agreed to ensure that no cashflow issued would arise and fund have been set aside to enable key building repairs and maintenance to be carried out. Discussion took place over an affordable parish share contribution, savings were made in running costs and the budget was met. Colleen will be greatly missed when she leaves office at the end of her current term and handover arrangements are being organized.

As Covid restrictions are lifted it is hoped that the majority of our lettings will return to the building and proposals have been discussed for establishing a fundraising group to promote new lettings and activities in the church to reach out to the wider community and generate additional income for the church.

The church insurance policy has been updated by Graham Unsworth and renewal quotes are currently being obtained.

Summary

Throughout this difficult time the PCC has sought to ensure the following:

- We maintain and adapt pastoral care.
- We sustain and innovate worship to adapt to the challenges of Covid
- We retain young members of the church through regular youth work.
- We sustain sound financial management.
- All members of the church are safeguarded.

Conclusion

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to all members of the PCC for their hard work. This is borne out by the recognition we have received from the Lord Lieutenant for our engagement with the community during this difficult time and the success of our rainbow appeal commemorating people who have passed away, those who have survived and the work of the NHS, carers and frontline services.

Fabric Report 2021

2020 was a fairly quiet year with regards to the building.

Gas servicing at the beginning of the year highlighted a few safety related issues which were addressed. These were related to CO detectors, ventilation, damage prevention, and ensuring gas taps could be turned off if required.

In August the electrical consumer units were replaced following an inspection earlier in the year.

The ride on mower finally succumbed to old age, and the PCC agreed to purchase a new battery lawnmower. This was bought a few weeks ago and Roger is very pleased with it. (If anyone else wants to try it out, I'm sure Roger wouldn't mind help!). Thank you to Roger for all his grass cutting and DIY work throughout the year.

And finally Covid... Thanks go to Heather who worked hard to produce Risk Assessments and work was done to reduce risk around the building – signage, hand sanitizers, removing furniture from the foyer and introducing a one way system. Removing items such as books and leaflets, spacing out the chairs, re-arranging the stage and introducing partitions to the music group area. We purchased a camcorder and webcam to assist with the livestreams.

Jonathan Corwin

Churchwarden.

Blessings Fund Report for 2021 APCM – 2020 Blessings Giving

As church, we want to be generous and outward looking – giving back thankfully to God by supporting different good causes at international, national and local levels. We give 10% of church income (regular giving, plate collections and one-off donations). All gifts are agreed by the PCC.

In 2020, we gave the following:

(£250 to the Matthew Rusike Children's Home, £220.14 to Bury Drop In and £200 to Suffolk Mind – included in the 2019 report, but actioned in 2020).

£3000 to the Overseas Mission Fund (OMF) as our yearly commitment to supporting Vatha Theobald in her wonderful work as Under 30s Mobiliser for the East of England.

£500 to Sid Hudson's family, to support them after his head injury. We continue to praise God for his miraculous recovery!

£300 to the Kagera Lent Appeal for our twin diocese in Tanzania.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, lockdowns and service limitations, it has been heartening to see the church responding to need in many other ways too. Not least, in the wonderful caring way church members have supported one another and those in their communities. Special thanks must go to our homegroup leaders and those who took on the role of pastoral carers during the first lockdown and beyond. Particular acknowledgment also to Sam Reid and her amazing work heading up the Rickshaw scheme in Bury St Edmunds. We are also tremendously grateful for our lovely Parish Nurse Lesley and all that she continues to do to support so many in her care.

Christ Church Moreton Hall has been very active in supporting the "Storehouse" food bank this past year, when help has been needed more than ever before. Thank you to everyone for practical gifts and direct financial donations – West Suffolk Vineyard Church are delighted to be able to partner with us in this way.

Christian Aid week in May was a fantastic opportunity to hear about and contribute to the amazing work of Christian Aid – who work with so many of the world's poorest people. The church raised over £2000 on a specially created Just Giving Page, which included a gift of £750 from Christ Church funds. We look forward to supporting Christian Aid again in May 2021. Grateful thanks to Howard and Jane Scott for all their hard work co-ordinating this and keeping us informed about Christian Aid's work

Despite all the restrictions, Christ Church Moreton Hall, under the enthusiastic lead of Jonathan Ford, co-ordinated the collection of 323 shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child". This will have made such a positive difference to many young lives, thank you.

We also ran a slightly different Christingle service in the run up to Christmas – Jonathan Ford delivering all the necessary accessories to those who wanted to make a Christingle at home! Donations to the Children's Society were encouraged in response, and we also thank Val Betson for co-ordinating the collection boxes for this great cause.

Thank you all so much for your generosity – it is a great delight to be part of a church that cares about others in need.

I have stepped down from co-ordinating the Blessings Fund from January 2021. It is now a whole-PCC responsibility, so you will most likely get a different voice reporting at next year's APCM! My particular thanks go to Colleen for her support to me with this role; for making all the blessings payments and keeping such a clear record of giving.

Heather Lovell, 11th April 2021

May 20-21 PCC AGM report.

As your Parish nurse I must begin with thanks for the continued support I receive, to enable my role to remain effective.

Yes, you are right in thinking---you have not seen me, however I have been working from home, with a brief time last year ----when lock down was lifted and I was able to operate from the church.

Everyone has maintained the COVID19 regulations and at last we are able to think of the future, planning slowly but surely our return.

So for my report I have taken a slightly different approach and trust this will answer the question-----what has she been doing?!

I thought it would be a good idea to take a sample of 2 weeks work and identify my actions.

November 30th-December 15th 2020



Working at home.

My work on average each week is: Mondays, 4hours; Tuesdays, 4hours; Thursday 3hours.

Average calls per day: 8, 7, 8, plus at least 2 unexpected need calls

Therefore, in a month an average of 100.

Types of calls divided into 4 categories:

Social calls -12, Wellbeing calls - 36, Health screening calls - 14, Health advice calls - 13.

Please remember this was over 2 weeks and when winter was beginning and the numbers of Covid 19 were worryingly increasing.

Length of calls vary, some taking much longer than others

I try to give the person I am talking to as much time as they need. However on one or two occasions the conversation was necessarily short to enable quick action.

So short calls: quick action/response/advice

Advice commonly for----- Pain relief

Blood test results

Medication reviews

Possible movements/or resting limbs

Correct dietary habits.

When to contact the Practice nurse/ GP.

Covid 19 vaccinations

Breathing exercises

Sleep/relaxation techniques

Grief&loss -----recent loss. Anniversary of loss

Completion of forms.

Listening: long telephone calls also check on drugs, sleep, nutrition, vision and recent changes. Also checking that shopping and meals are organised, sometimes the personal changes such as toileting.

Discussion about personal alarms

Mental ill health: check on cognition, daily pattern changes, medication, social interactions-----or loneliness and unhappiness, mood swings and time of day for behaviour changes.

Dental care advice x 2

Hearing loss x1

Preparation for surgery/hospital admission x3

Discharge from hospital checks

Worried well-----asking about family member health discussion x3

My intuition!

Sometimes I worry about some who I really think might need a check or chat with me -----4 in these 2 weeks

Other things I have been up to during the year

ZOOM meetings with Rev Jonathan Ford

Telephone discussions with Jane Harper

Zoom meetings with Parish Nurses

Production of my Portfolio (Every registered nurse has to produce evidence of practice and updating of nursing awareness). Thanks to Sarah Reader for her Clinical supervision.

The Parish Nursing ZOOM refreshment week (no symposium this year)

Some of the nice things I have implemented:

WITH LOVE FROM JESUS (VALENTINES CARDS) cheer ups x4

Easter greetings: cake and little eggs----5 delivered

Be well message card x2

I trust this provides a short insight into my work and look forward to its ongoing progress.

Oh and I almost forgot ! Thanks for the lovely cards I received on completion of 60 years in nursing.

Lesley Williams, April 2021

Safeguarding Report for 2021 APCM

Safeguarding is such an important area of church life – it is vital that we do all we can to ensure a safe environment for everyone in our care, and that we maintain a culture of informed vigilance - so that people clearly know what to do and where to go if they have any concerns.

Everyone who works/ volunteers at church is required to undertake (as a minimum) the Church of England's online "Basic Awareness" training module. Those with a further degree of responsibility are also expected to complete the "Foundation" module, and those in formal ministry/ lay ministry/ parish safeguarding officers must complete the more intensive "Leadership" level. Training must be renewed every 3 years. Those requiring DBS checks must renew every 5 years – I can report that these are all up-to-date. Christ Church Moreton Hall also requires the completion of "Confidential Declaration Forms" (also every 5 years) for those in positions of trust (such as PCC members or homegroup leaders) where a full DBS check is not required.

I am delighted to be able to report that we are very nearly up-to-date with all training requirements, and sincerely thank everyone who has taken the time and trouble to complete the training. A few people would like to do the training face-to-face rather than online, and this will be arranged with the diocese once Covid restrictions are lifted.

With formal church life much reduced this past year, you might think safeguarding would not be so much at the forefront of our thinking. Quite the contrary!...

Safeguarding is always on the agenda at every PCC meeting, and we have worked through/ updated various policies over the past year. These are available to view on the church website.

Vatha and Alex kindly created a risk assessment to ensure the safe running of the Hydr8 youth group on Zoom, and this was checked and agreed at PCC.

Safeguarding is now included on the hall hire form (thanks to Debbie and Jonathan Corwin for their help with this) and all users are asked to sign that, if appropriate, they have all necessary DBS checks and their own safeguarding policy (or that they agree to abide by ours).

Safeguarding reminders have been given in a few parish newsletters – thank you for reading them!

Anna Lomas and I have each attended a Parish Safeguarding Officer Zoom forum, run by Karen Galloway (the diocese safeguarding manager). These were really helpful occasions, where we met other PSOs and could share both good practice and also challenges. One of the main topics at these forums was the rollout of a new safeguarding system in the diocese, called "Parish Dashboards". This is a green-amber-red traffic light system, which highlights at a glance where action is needed, and gives advice on completing outstanding areas. Action Plans can be created to present at each PCC meeting, to clearly highlight the next priority areas.

Parish Dashboards were introduced to Thingoe Deanery in February 2021, and we have made a good start at working through our CCMH dashboard, completing all that we can achieve in Level 1, and moving onto Level 2 (of 3 levels).

My particular thanks go to Anna Lomas, who has been such a great support in the PSO role, and to the whole PCC for patiently reading and checking different policies and plans! I am also very grateful to both Jonathan Ford and Lesley Williams for their ongoing support and advice in so many areas of safeguarding.

Heather Lovell, Churchwarden and PSO, 12th April 2021

Deanery Synod Report

April 2020 – April 2021

The diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich is split up into 18 smaller Deaneries, each under the care of a local Rural Dean. The parish of Christ Church Moreton Hall is part of Thingoe Deanery.

Each parish is required to have a Parochial Church Council (PCC) which meets regularly to oversee church governance. Similarly, there is a Deanery Synod which normally meets three/four times a year, and every parish is asked to send two representatives to form part of this group. The Deanery Synod acts as a sort of midway point between local level church work and the county-wide work of the diocese.

Due to the unique nature of this past year (Covid-19) there have only been two Deanery Synod meetings. The first took place on 6th October 2020 and the second on 24th March 2021 – both via Zoom. Jonathan Corwin accompanied me to the March meeting.

6th October 2020

Most of the meeting was spent giving parishes/ benefices the chance to reflect on their experiences over the last few months, and to share the ways they had carried on ministry during these unusual times. It was good to share both the positives and challenges.

24th March 2021

It was agreed that the “Deanery Plan” (a plan created for going forwards in the four diocese “Growing in God” areas of: Growing in... Depth, Influence, Number, Younger) will be reviewed in the light of Covid-19 and also a reduced number of clergy.

We were given a report on the recent Diocesan Synod, where Bishop Martin spoke about the importance of engaging with social issues and making the church relevant and active in local communities. We were asked to share the following link with our congregations:

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/news/diocesan-video-flourishing-congregations-launch-.php>

At both meetings, diocese finances were discussed at some length. With support from central church and great generosity across the county, the diocese was able to break even in 2020, for which we give grateful thanks to God. We pray that even through the more challenging picture in 2021, the Deanery and Diocese will be able to cover costs in the year ahead.

Heather Lovell, 11th April 2021