

Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes Benefice

Minutes of St Mary's Ardleigh PCC Meeting

Thursday 1 December 2022 at 1930hrs held at Highfield, Fox Street, Ardleigh

In attendance:

Chair: Martin West (MW)

Attending: The Revd Phillip Young (PY)

Members: Susan Carne (SC) Richard Culley (RC) Christina Volkmann (CV)
Rosemary Kleingeld (RK)

Apologies: None

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
1	Prayers Meeting began with prayer by Phillip	
2	In attendance - see above	
3	Apologies for absence - see above	
4	Conflicts of interest - none declared.	
5	Minutes of last Meeting 20 October 2022 were approved and then signed by the Chair	
6	Matters Arising: 9 (e) RC has cleared the drains. Spare chairs – not wanted by Dedham or by any of the 9 parishes. We will offer to the congregation. Then SC will put for sale on Ebay. h) CV asked for clarification that food donations were going to Beacon House and not Food Bank	
7	Safeguarding policy review. SC reported that there were no current safeguarding issues. Deb is willing to do the administration from the parishes' office on the basis of half an hour a week for each parish. CV (who was unable to attend the last meeting) raised the reasons behind Amanda Watts' resignation from the PC as safeguarding officer as an issue and strongly felt that Amanda was within her rights to take up her concerns over the Little Steps event with the Archdeacon and the Diocesan safeguarding team. CV has also herself taken the matter further. This was not disputed. RK pointed out that Amanda had been treated with great kindness and had been encouraged to not resign and remain to discuss things further. This she had felt unable to do. SC commented that the 'issues' she had raised were confidential and had been rectified. CV requested that her concerns were minuted. PY observed that anyone is, of course, entitled to discuss concerns with the Diocesan team and that now it has gone up the chain it may be that they request further clarification from the PCC.	
8	Finance Our next update will be to the end of December. Sara will talk to us in the New Year when accounts are ready to go to the auditor.	
9	Resourcing Ministry A) Reach Out SC is doing a financial reconciliation which will include Heritage cafe accounts. Deb is doing DBS admin. SC is arranging two services for December, Carols and Christingle. CV is looking after the Bellringers' carol service and giving a talk.	SC

<p>RC suggested we look out the Christmas lights and and arrange round the yews by the porch (there is a waterproof socket by the Lychgate). The Heritage cafe plans are to be revisited in the New Year. MW reported a discussion with the Parish Council about some reordering in the churchyard to improve safe access to the church and to open up the vista. If the church becomes a community asset we are are eligible for financial support from the PC. SC and MW are to engage in further discussion with the Council.</p> <p><u>B) Services</u> We discussed Remembrance Sunday. It was well attended. Things to attend to for next year: We printed 70 service sheets and need to print double that quantity. PY suggested including a Remembrance tract for participants to take away with them for study. We need to let uniformed organisations know about it earlier and encourage their participation. As we do inform the police in advance, there could be a more formal parade, for instance. We should discuss accessibility including wheelchair access to the war memorial. SC will update our blueprint to talk through at next PCC meeting.</p> <p>Christmas. Our carol service is at 4pm. RC will look for the crib in the mortuary. Christmas eve Christingle (table share). SC is arranging with a colleague, Sarah, helping.. Candles have been ordered. Midnight mass – shall we have hymns or carols from the Bethlehem sheet? MW to check with Antony Watson. Merv is taking the service, Richard Hopkins preaching and Gregory is on organ.</p> <p><u>C) Changes to service pattern</u> MW outlined a suggestion that we should alter the timing of services and have a regular service starting at 9.30. It could be HC or Morning Praise or a specifically family service. The intention is to encourage wider participation from the village and not to be dependent on Dedham people joining as appears to be the case now. CV and RC were strongly opposed to losing the 8.00am BCP service which they explained is very popular currently and is a very beautiful and familiar service. PY commented that Ardleigh Church is for the village of Ardleigh; his task is to think missionally and bring the gospel to a wider audience. The PCC must look into this carefully. While we can try to keep our traditions, the question is how best to do so. Can we find a way to move to 9.30 while keeping the 8.00am which means finding an available ordained minister? We noted that the current pattern of services remains the same for the next 3 months so this is very much a consultative process. Parish magazine – RK felt we need one. However we have the Ardleigh Advertiser and PY felt it would send a bad message to the village if we were to attempt to hi-jack it. But PY could do a simple Ardleigh only website (apart from the Benefice one) and we can talk further to him if we want to.</p> <p><u>D) ACTS/Living Stones</u> SC discussed the background – ACTS was a group formed with members of the RC and Methodist churches. Neither church group is now represented in the village and Living Stones already meet in the church regularly. We therefore agreed to discontinue the ACTS services.</p> <p><u>E) Deanery Synod</u> CV confirmed as previously minuted that she is no longer running an ECO church programme for the Deanery and Sara Marshall has taken over. She suggested that we invite the Revd ? Emmerson to come and share her experience with us.</p> <p><u>F) School report</u> – to be carried over.</p> <p><u>G) Fabric</u> - MW said that a bell Faculty application has been filed by the Tower Captain</p> <p><u>H) Hourly charge</u> for groups using the church SC waiting for update on prices.</p> <p><u>I) People.</u> RK has updated the current door locking rota. We need a church clean before Christmas. Susan Scott will be in church at 9.00am on Monday 19 December to start this and helpers would be welcome.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>SC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>SC/ MW</p> <p>SC</p>
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J) First Aid training
SC will bring details to discuss at next church wardens' meeting

K) Ardleigh Church Facebook page – C/F to next meeting

L) Church Suite. This is what PY would like to use as a reference Directory for all 9 parishes, to be administered by church wardens.. Deb has a list of people who would like to help with this. PY asked if we could give any new contact details to Deb to update. Any information uploaded should be copied to Phillip.

10. Correspondence – there was none

11.AOB - None

12. Dates of next meetings:

**Thursday 26 January 2023 at 1930 Highfield, Fox Street,
Ardleigh CO7 7PN.**

Future meetings in the year to be scheduled.

Next Joint PCC with Dedham Tuesday 17 January 7.30. We are welcome to join and could car share – let MW or SC know.

13. Meeting ended at 2110hrs with prayer by Susan.