

The Parish of St Mary-the-Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Welcome & opening prayer: Erwin spoke about St Benedict's rule for good practice for Christians. He gave a few examples.

Present: Erwin Lammens; Heather Edwards; Sue Jones; Greg Butler; Bonnie Hill; Jane Taylor; Eric Jakens; Margaret Allison; Sandra Osborne

Apologies: Graham Wadley; Glyn Stanway; Rick Cawley; Claudia Alsdorf; Douglas McCormick

Conflict of Interest. Heather Edwards 2022\78d

Conflict of Interest & Fit & Proper Person Forms.

Blank forms had been circulated in advance of the meeting with the intention that PCC members bring completed copies to the meeting. Several were handed in.

Minute 2022\72

Minutes of the PCC meeting held on the 14th June 2022 were approved.

Minute 2022\73 Matters arising from the PCC Minutes.

Last months discussion which involved material submitted by Marika – it is still possible to add to the comments\discussion.

Minute 2022\74 Correspondence

a) An email had been received from a member of the Colchester branch of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) who are planning to publish in November a "50 Treasurers of Essex" book. Bonnie had already approached Graham Wadley and James Dodds to ensure that they were content with the description of the window and Lucy Crocker with the use of her photograph which would be attributed. They were all delighted to learn that NADFAS was seeking to include it in their forthcoming publication. Permission was sought from the PCC for NADFAS to include the annexe stained glass window in the book.

The PCC decided that they were content with it to be included.

It was also decided to publish on the website the dates when the church will be open to visitors and that can be kept up to date and always current.

b) Heritage Open Day – Saturday 17th September from 10.00 – 16.00. Help will be needed during the day. Erwin hoped to act as a tour guide around the church that day.

Minute 2022\75 Finance

a) **Cash in funds as at 30th June 2022**

	Nominal Account Name	June	May
Free of Restrictions	General Fund	£76,752.40	£79,801.35
Restricted	Bell Fund	£11,934.67	£11,934.67
Restricted	Choir Fund	£755.27	£755.27
Restricted	Fabric general	£1,219.91	£1,219.91
Restricted	Fabric - Janet Ashton Legacy	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Restricted	Sheila Carrick Legacy	£500.00	£500.00
Restricted	Hugh Brogan Legacy	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Restricted	Jan Richardson Legacy	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Restricted	Delia Schafle legacy	£22,500.00	£22,500.00
Restricted	Jane Cole legacy	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Restricted	Flower Fund	£922.13	£922.13
Restricted	FOSM	£7,372.86	£7,101.36
Restricted	Cory Maintenance Fund	£2,295.00	£125.00
Restricted	Organ Fund	£370.00	£370.00
Designated	Sunday Club	£1,204.44	£1,104.44
Restricted	Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society	£2,060.35	£2,060.35
Rolling Total Available for Transformation		£67,879.57	£67,879.57

Notes: Mis allocation to Cory Fund corrected in this month's statement

Minute 2022\76 Fabric & related matters – Douglas McCormick & Sue Jones

a) Quinquennial inspection 18 July with Simon Marks

b) Shed moved – many thanks to all who sorted this

c) Gates to East Street solution under investigation by Architect, Engineer and Contractor.

- d) Cracked stone at entrance to Choir Vestry to be repaired or replaced
- e) Cill in Annexe Kitchen has been reinstated
- f) Roof repairs to the main roof had been undertaken. Insurances were all in place.
- g) Faculty for Live Streaming received and all conditions met. Date for commencement awaited.
- h) Fire alarm installation to main Church – design issue sorted - awaiting delivery of kit. Worldwide delay because of Covid in China particularly

Minute 2022\77 Mission & Ministry Partnership - Heather Edwards

One of the three meeting each year for the COUNCIL OF COLCHESTER DEANERY (EAST)

There are five churches and the University Chaplaincy in our Mission and Ministry Partnership with aims of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Creating a charitable trust to serve the vision of a 'flourishing orchard' across the MMP. To facilitate and enable the planting of new worshipping communities in the forthcoming Garden. The MMP Council meeting focused on the mission priorities for our MMP. St Andrews and St Anne's also St Matthews Churches on Greenstead. <https://andyanneandmatt.org.uk/our-buildings/st-annes/> Arranging picnics to allow members of the community and the Students Community to meet up. St Johns Church near Highwoods <https://stjohnscolchester.org.uk/> Working at re-engaging with all the different groups. And St Marys church in Wivenhoe <https://stmaryswivenhoe.org/> New groups coming into the Annexe

Minute 2022\78 Adult & Children's Ministry - Erwin Lammens.

a) **Adult & Children's Ministry** – Erwin Lammens

Ceri has joined the Sunday Club leaders' team after the necessary DBS checks. She replaces Alison who has been a leader for many years. Thank you to Alison for her serving and to Ceri for her future commitment. The Sunday Club will take a break at the end of July and will resume in September. Numbers vary between 4 and 12.

Three children were prepared for and received their first communion. They have been attending church and Sunday Club for the last year with their parents or grandparents.

Congratulations to Grace, Lucy and Grace.

Teresa has booked a table for games and crafts at the Free Family Fun Festival in September in Castle Park organised by the churches of the Colchester Deanery. It is an opportunity for St Mary's Sunday Club to reach out to the wider community. The Way is flourishing. Please refer to Heather's report.

b) **Adult Ministry**

The MMP council had a zoom meeting in June. Please refer to Heather's report.

Confirmation date for the churches in the MMP is Sunday 27 November at 16.00pm. This year the service will be at St John's and I understand that Bishop Guli will preside at the service. Preparation will start in October.

c) **The Way Youth Group** – Heather Edwards

There have been two more meetings of The Way - Wivenhoe Affable Youth. Again, with more children coming along to join in the fun and games. With a clear pattern evolving of meeting up in an introductory circle followed by a group integration game, before doing the main event activity. This is then followed by tuck and chatter time which is a free time for the children to socialise themselves and do their own thing. Art, games, and table sports are always available. Finally, coming together for the Tuesday Take Away – Self affirming messages are selected and discussed.

Lately we have built strong tall towers out of newspaper – team working at speed as they were timed. Another activity was making ice cream sundae's – designing from a selection, carrying out theories and testing the results, Yum! The next session the young people will be making papier-mâché bowls in the style of a community recycling enterprise in Africa which makes bowls out of paper packaging. The final session for this term will be different as we are planning on showing a film with popcorn included in the tuck.

Meanwhile events and activities are being planned for next term, with leaders and some of the young people themselves via a face to face meeting.

d) **Nomination of Candidate for Authorisation as a Children's, Youth or Families Worker**

At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the parish held on 12th July 2022 the following resolution was passed. The Council endorses the nomination of Heather Edwards for authorised children's, youth and families ministry and undertakes to support the candidate in this ministry.

The voting was

For 8

Against 0

Abstentions 0

Minute 2022\79 - Safeguarding - Gill Black

New email address safeguardingstmarywiv@gmail.com (no s between marywiv)

Training link for online training is <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> and the parish reference code is 20.23. The training needed by PCC members is the basic awareness level. The link is given below <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/online-training#Online%20Church%20of%20England%20Safeguarding%20Training>

Minute 2022\80 Health & Safety – James Peters - Nothing to report

Minute 2022\81 Review of Policy Documentation

The following documents were circulated in advance of the meeting for consideration by PCC members. The PCC were asked to approve the updated versions.

- a) Data Privacy Notice – approved unanimously
- b) Integrated Health & Safety Policy - approved unanimously
- c) Safeguarding Policy – approved unanimously
- d) St Mary's Childrens Policy – approved unanimously

Having been approved these will all be put on the church website.

Minute 2022\82 To receive reports and take questions on the reports from the following committees.

a) **Fundraising Committee** – Heather Edwards

Bonnie Hill discovered through her contacts that Chris Gibson and his wife Jude have settled in Wivenhoe. They are Wildlife experts on plants and insects. A Wildlife exploration for families was set up for Saturday 25th June in St Marys grounds. About 8 people for each 45-minute slot over three hours was perfect. Chris and Jude led the first one, the children led the second and the third with great enthusiasm.

With the council allowing the grass to grow in a lot more areas around the church, 'St Mary's Jungle hunt' became very exciting. Chris and Jude had explored St Mary's in 2016/17 and were woefully disappointed at not finding any insect life and the flora level was exceptionally low. This year, they were highly delighted to find so much life and so many naturally growing plants. With over 20 different insects (not including the normal ants, worms and snails), some of them whilst not yet rare were not very common either. A leaf mite on the big walnut tree in the north east corner was only the 12th sighting in the UK of this little creature, which is also a great food source for moths. No walnuts for us though as the squirrels get there first every time. So as Chris Gibson commented, "it was a million times better."

Some wild Bird seed in small bags was donated. Mary Jakens and Eric provided the catering with tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits they really did splendidly job between them both. Books/magazines/pull-out leaflets proved very popular, along with the booklet about 'Hidden Meadows – A Wivenhoe Wildflower Quest'.

Some of the children brought magnifying glasses with them and there was a suggestion for children's butterfly/insect catchers. Also more time was asked for as the children wanted to do drawings of the flowers and the insects that they found. Chris Gibson himself asked if we could run this event again. The answer was yes, date and time to be arranged.

Lammas Day BBQ & Curry Lunch

Unfortunately it was decided not to go ahead with this event even though it was to be held outside. The level of Covid infections had risen significantly and it was felt best that it would be best to cancel the event. There had only been a small number of tickets sold so it was not going to be difficult to refund the money already received.

Heather had stepped in as Fundraising Team Co-ordinator and the PCC congratulated her and thanked her for taking on the role.

The next event will be a picnic on 27th August 12.00 – 14.30 for children and their parents.

Fundraising Team to consider having a stall at the Wivenhoe Regatta in 2023.

b) **Catering** – Mary Jakens

The catering team provided refreshments for the bug hunt on 25th June.

Unfortunately it was decided to cancel the annual church BBQ due to the increase in cases of Covid 19 recently.

On 9th July at the dedication of the new James Dodds stained glass window cake and wine was served.

c) **Worship Group** – Graham Wadley – no report

d) **Colchester Deanery** – Heather Edwards

The Bishop of Chelmsford Rt. Revd. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani.

Synod received a talk from Bishop Guli. She started off by offering thanks to Revd. Canon Paul Norrington for his service as Area Dean for the last 8 years. She also offered thanks to all clergy and lay people who serve in the deanery of Colchester.

Bishop Guli, then gave us her testimonial life story, where, as a child in Iran, with her missionary parents where she was raised, to coming to England in her early teens to escape the local civil war going on around her. To joining the faith in earnest through Southwark church and now to being the Bishop of Chelmsford. There was a lot more about her amazing adventurous life but space here is limited*.

She took open questions from the floor and answered them all without pulling the punches by being straight forward and honest about the reality of things.

I chatted very briefly about the new Youth club group. "Wonderful news, just what we like to hear about, keep it going and let us all know how you are getting on".

She took questions from the floor on subject such as Refugees/Migrants. Tensions between Islam and Christianity. When is the Church of England going to reduce the number of churches so that clergy will have more time and energy for mission? And about people coming to faith from a Muslim background. Also, what the next period looks like financially?

At the end of the Q&A session Revd Canon Paul Norrington invited the Bishop into the body of the meeting and invited us all to pray for her.

Parish News

Father Richard was going to attend but was unable to do so, Revd Canon Paul Norrington wished to commend him for his ministry here since 2003 as he moves on.

Ian and Jane Scott-Thompson will moving on - Ian will become priest in charge of a large number of parishes in our neighbouring deanery.

Chris Smith is enabling a plurality in Shrub End, for which Revd Canon Paul Norrington extended thanks.

Thanks were also extended to the Retired Clergy amongst the deanery.

Revd Canon Paul Norrington also extended thanks to all of the Lay Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers and stated that it was his parting wish that he wants to see them meeting with clergy at chapter meetings.

Early in 2023 the next iteration of the Deanery Vision Plan will be presented to the parishes.

Finally Revd Canon Paul Norrington expressed his thanks to everyone for his time as area Dean. In particular he wanted to express his thanks to the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee, for all of their hard work, and indeed to the entire synod for all the hard work that has gone on and continues.

The Lay Chair, Canon Roger Ennals then addressed the meeting and stated that what a good Deanery we have. He also wished to say something of a first farewell to Revd Canon Paul Norrington as he finishes as our Area Dean at the end of July, this being his final Synod. In particular, Roger thanked Paul and the entire team for all of the hard work that has gone into the Deanery Vision Plan. Canon Roger then wished Paul all the very best for his forthcoming retirement.

Bishop Guli then offered a blessing to synod. *If you wish to know more about Bishop Guli background, please see Heather.

e) **Wivenhoe Churches Together** - no report

f) **FOSM** – Bill & Vivien Eborn

Vivien, Bill and Jane spent a lovely day on the quay at the Regatta and took a record breaking £265 selling FOSM goods.

Pastoral Visitors – no report

h) **Administration** – Lynne Horner – nothing to report

i) **Spirituality Steering Group** – Janet Driver – nothing to report

j) **Church Bookings** – schedule circulated in advance of the meeting

k) **Bellringers** – no report

l) **Electoral roll** – Vivien Eborn

Minute 2022\83 – Community – Peter Hill Chairman of the following groups

Music Society

The Society's second concert this year, held on Friday 24th June, featuring Martin Newell and the Hosepipe Band, turned out to be highly successful. 129 tickets were sold for it and we made a profit of £640.

The next concert is on Friday 15th July with Miriam Keogh, an international harpist and two other people, one who plays the flute and the other the violin. They call themselves Goldcrest Ensemble and come from Suffolk.

Friendly Club

Numbers of people attending are slowly growing on a Thursday afternoon. A lot come on a regular basis whilst some come every now and again. We get someone new most weeks. We have had no trouble in getting local musicians to entertain everyone at each meeting.

Minute 2022\84 GDPR, Communications & Licensing Report – Marika Footring.

An invoice has paid for one of the licenses required for the music\hymns played in church.

Minute 2022\85 Overseas – Rosemary Murchie

A small piece was published in the July issue of Tidings expressing the thanks of those in Namalemba. A board with new photographs has been put in church showing some of the recipients of the Boxes of Blessings.

Minute 2022\86 Any Other Notified Business

There was no other business brought forward at this meeting.

a) **Insurance** – The Standing Committee had received information from Ecclesiastical Insurance regarding the renewal of our policy. It is usual for St. Mary's to take advantage of the fixed premium and 10% discount which required renewal in blocks of three years. Our policy runs from 1st August and there is an increase in premium of £161.38 per year which means an increase of £13.96 per month. The policy covers all activities within the church and some external ones together with Employers, Public Liability and that of PCC members should a decision they make be found wanting. It is the recommendation of the Standing Committee that St. Mary's commit to another three year policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

The PCC approved the renewal of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Policy for a term of three years starting 1st August 2022.

b) **Ventilation in the annexe** A concern had been raised regarding the rise in Covid locally and the fact that the doors and roof windows are not opened in the annexe when the Sunday Club meets and again when coffee is served in the annexe after the service. Recently both the north and south doors into the nave are left open in good weather and a breeze travels through but this is not the case in the annexe. It was requested that all PCC members be aware of this issue and if the roof windows and/or patio doors are not open (weather dependent) then would they assist. The Churchwardens are aware but they are busy before the service starts and any assistance would be appreciated.

c) **Next Meeting:**

The next PCC meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th September at 19.30 in the annexe.

The meeting closed at 20.51 and concluded with those present joining together in saying The Lords Prayer.