

## PARISH of STAPLEFORD TAWNEY with THEYDON MOUNT

PCC Meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7.00pm  
via Zoom

### APPROVED MINUTES

**Present:** Revd John Fry (Chair), Colin and Edna Flint, Debbie Lee, Graeme Logan, Martyn Lockwood, Anne Padfield, Cindy Pridmore, Jo Shephard, Gill Southall, Jack Stewart

1. The meeting opened with the reading of a psalm, and prayer
2. **Apologies for absence** Maggie Dennis, Revd Carol Newnham
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved.
4. **Proposals for items under AOB:** None
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the May meeting**
  - a) 4G router. Ongoing.
  - b) The confirmation service on 30<sup>th</sup> May at Tawney had gone well. John thanked Maggie and Sarah Bowen for its organisation.
  - c) Theydon Bois Parish Council had received a further £2000 from EFDC for improvements to the church hall, part of which would become a Parish Office.
  - d) The marriage registers for both churches had been deposited in the Essex Record Office, leaving one copy with the parish.
  - e) Eco-Church project: Using china cups for refreshments is recommended, or bring-your-own, rather than non-recyclable paper and plastic cups. Debbie would lend a free-standing Smart Meter to check electric usage.
6. **Vicar's report**
  - a) West Essex Arts Society had asked if they could create a schoolchildren's trail at both churches. Agreed.
  - b) No further guidance had yet been provided by the C of E relating to post 19<sup>th</sup> July relaxing of restrictions. It was assumed that congregational singing in church would begin on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Edna would resume choosing hymns and booking organists. All organists are paid £30 for a normal service, £110 for weddings. It is good for the organ to be played regularly, so learners practising are welcome. Use of the church by Christine's choir is a useful source of revenue.
  - c) Taking communion wine. There was a discussion about the choices:
    - using the common cup
    - the priest dipping each wafer briefly in wine before offering (simultaneous intinction)
    - using small individual cups. John reported that this has been banned by the House of Bishops for theological reasons, which he attempted to explain. The PCC were unconvinced by the Bishops' justifications. It was suggested that Martyn or Gill should raise the subject at the next Deanery Synod meeting.

It was agreed by a majority that until October we would try simultaneous intinction.

Future services: September 5<sup>th</sup>, Pets Service, non-communion  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Harvest Festival, non-communion

John would try to ensure that there was a communion service at Mount on the second Sunday of the month after these occasions.

- d) A Community Payback team (offenders on community service) were working in High Beech churchyard. John would make enquiries about the scheme.
- e) He would be away for 3½ weeks during the summer holidays.

## 7. Churchwardens' reports

St Mary's: Maggie had emailed to ask that the church should be left open 24/7 after July 19<sup>th</sup>, which was agreed. She had also made suggestions about future fundraising events.

St Michael's: The area for cremated remains would soon be in use, for David Bellamy's ashes on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Anne Padfield would buy a Remembrance Book like the one for Tawney. It was felt that some sort of protection case for the book was needed, against bird droppings etc inside the church. Cindy would look into possibilities.

The hatchments would be rehung on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and adjustments to the lighting done at the same time. The text boards are currently being restored and will hopefully be ready to hang at the same time.

A service of celebration will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, with Archdeacon Vanessa in attendance. Grant donors, and locals who had contributed, had been invited. The Hatchments committee would meet on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in Mount church to plan the event.

## 8. Treasurer's report

Cindy reported that there was £34,300 in the current account, of which £10,520 was already earmarked for the last of the hatchment expenses.

The investment accounts were unchanged.

Invoices for mowing the churchyards had been received but were muddled and very late, but Cindy had the relevant emails confirming the arrangements and would sort it out with John Fradd. Stapleford Tawney Parish Council regularly donates towards churchyard mowing, currently £700 a year. Theydon Mount has not contributed since 2016, because of a breakdown in the Parish Council. A new Council has now been established, who will pay two contributions of £500, but they may not pay in future. Parish Councils have been told that legally they must not favour a particular religion or denomination.

Cindy emphasised the importance of future fundraising, through events, sponsorship (eg Christmas lights in the churchyards) or donations.

## 9. Safeguarding

No issues were reported.

## 10. Deanery Synod

The meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May related to the Diocesan Environmental Group. Examples of how churches can avoid non-recyclable waste were given. Debbie

explained that “compostable” does not necessarily mean “home compostable”, as not all district councils have access to specialised facilities.

11. **Any other business**

There was none.

12. **Items for next meeting**

Fundraising plans

13. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 7.30pm in the Parish Room.

The meeting ended with prayer.