

PARISH of STAPLEFORD TAWNEY with THEYDON MOUNT

PCC Meeting on Wednesday 2nd February at 3pm via Zoom

APPROVED

Present: Revd John Fry (Chair), Maggie Dennis, Colin and Edna Flint, Martyn Lockwood, Anne Padfield and Gill Southall. Debbie Lee joined later by phone.

1. The meeting opened with a reading and prayer
2. Apologies for absence were received from Jo Shephard, Cindy Pridmore, Jack Stewart and Revd Carol Newnham. It was noted that some of her family members had suffered a serious house fire and lost many of the contents, including clothes. Church contacts would be circulated with details of how to donate the right size clothing and other items.
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 3rd November 2021 had been circulated and were approved.
4. There were no proposals for additional items under AOB
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (if not on the agenda later)
Janet and Rodney Lyons had decided not to apply for a formal faculty application, but their preferences were known.
The Jubilee lunch on 5th June, organised by the Parish Councils of Tawney and Mount, would now be held at Mount Farm, Tawney Common. Tables and chairs would be borrowed from Tawney.
The bells inspection by Mike Coggins had been deferred due to family difficulties.
6. Vicar's report, including date of Annual Meetings and arrangements
 - a) We had returned to offering separate bread and wine at communion. We hoped to change back to using the altar rail as before, if allowed, at Easter.
 - b) Arrangements were agreed for the Candlemas Christingle service to be held on Feb 6th. It was decided not to have Val Ellis's stall this year, but collection and donations as always would go to the Children's Society.
 - c) It was noted that organists are not employees of the church and have no formal relationship with it, but are treated as self-employed by HMRC, and responsible for their own tax.
 - d) Lent courses would be offered, online and in person, with a choice of three topics. The possibility of running a Lent lunchtime course was discussed, with weekly lunches on a Wednesday. Gill Southall offered to help with the lunches if needed.
 - e) The next Parish lunch was arranged for Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, at which interest for a Lent course in future weeks could be gauged.
 - f) The Annual Meeting would be at Tawney on Sunday 15th May, after the service.
7. Churchwardens' reports
Stapleford Tawney
 - a) Maggie reported that attendance at the Carol Service was good, including some non-regulars and a new choir member. There had been only one attendee on Christmas

Day. She suggested that at the APCM and a subsequent PCC we should discuss the Christmas services for 2022, maybe combining with Theydon Garnon for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

- b) Covid mask-wearing was no longer compulsory in places of worship, but we would encourage people to wear them for now.
- c) The fixings for the mosaic reredos in the sanctuary appeared to be coming away from the wall. To be inspected more closely and monitored.
- d) The yew tree outside the east end of the church needs attention before Reg Larkin's upcoming funeral.
- e) An offer had been received from a new Tawney resident, Keith Buckley, to replace the notice board in the churchyard.

Theydon Mount – sent in writing by Jo.

- a) The Christmas Eve service had been sparsely attended. She too recommended review.
- b) During heavy rain in December, water had entered the church through the junction between chancel and nave. Malcolm Eckton had repaired it.
- c) The congregation remains steady at a regular 16-22.
- d) Wine-dipped wafers and optional masks had been accepted by most attendees.
- d) Arrangements had been made to cover for Jo during her absence throughout February, including the password Barnowls needed when phoning for any alarm reset needed.

Martyn added that extra lights had been added in the chancel, which was a great improvement.

8. Treasurer's Report

Cindy was unable to submit a report to the meeting itself, but this was subsequently sent:

Treasurer Report for PCC Meeting February 3rd 2022

Current Account £25,224.97

CCLA Accounts

St Mary £ 9,914.18

St Michael £ 9,388.53

Capital Reserve £ 11,100.43

Parish Share Request

Parish Share request from Diocese for 2022 is increased by 5%, despite the information we were given that the share would be reducing by 5%.

Our future cost of ministry request has increased by £5000

Please remember that these costings are subject to the agreed split between the parishes in the benefice, and we would be responsible for 11% of the totals requested.

Our Parish share cost would be approx. £14,000 per annum. We are currently paying £9000 p/a by direct debit, and make further payment of £3000 in the early part of the year, to top this up to £12,000.

I wish to ask the PCC if they agree to me making this top up payment for 2021, and if agreed, I will send that in the near future.

Currently there is nothing else of note to report.

Cindy Pridmore

John reported that the allocation of our Parish Share (see above) was being queried.

9. Safeguarding Report
The updating and extension of the requirements for CRB checks was reported.
The current churchwardens' checks may need updating.
10. Deanery Synod report
At the November meeting there had been a presentation and discussion on working with the local community. The next meeting would be on March 17th.
11. AOB
People on the large group email list would be encouraged not to use 'Reply all' to every email, to avoid inboxes clogged with irrelevant messages.
Blind carbon copy (bcc) should be used for the wider group emails for GDPR reasons, but not for the PCC-only list.
12. Items for discussion at the next meeting – an opportunity for members to raise any concerns for the agenda for the next meeting
Cindy would present the accounts, and finance in general to be discussed
13. Date of next meeting
March 30th was proposed, but if Cindy as treasurer couldn't manage that, then March 23rd would be substituted.

The meeting ended with prayer.