

PARISH of STAPLEFORD TAWNEY with THEYDON MOUNT

PCC Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm, via Zoom

DRAFT

Present: Revd John Fry (Chair), Colin and Edna Flint, Martyn Lockwood, Revd Carol Newnham, Anne Padfield, Cindy Pridmore, Gill Southall.

1. The meeting started with a reading and prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** received from Maggie Dennis and Jo Shephard.
3. **The minutes of the last meeting** held on 21st November 2023 were amended and approved.
4. **Proposals for any other business:**
Boundary fence, polling station and Nativity scene.
5. **Matters arising** from the last minutes:
 - a) Proposed carol singing in the pub had been cancelled.
 - b) The Harlow Archdeaconry consultation had not yet been circulated.
6. **Vicar's report**
 - a) Revd Carol, regrettably for us, would soon be moving on, to a parish in Hertfordshire. Her last service here would be on Sunday 25th February at Mount, and would be followed by a lunch in Theydon Bois church hall. Her induction service would be on 14th March at 7.30pm in Firthfield church. After the move, more lay people would be taking services, so it's likely that there would be a communion service only twice a month. Simon Elman had been booked for Easter Sunday.
No decision had yet been made on a replacement for Carol, but at least John would be more available now that his cathedral duties had finished.
 - b) The APCM would be on Sunday 5th May at Tawney.
 - c) The benefice Lent course would begin on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, at 12.00. An Ash Wednesday service would be held that morning at 10am at Theydon Bois. The second week of the course on 21st would be taken by Carol, as John was unavailable.

7. Churchwardens' reports

St Michael's

Jo had sent a report in her absence:

- a) An estimate of £5328 from Gumbrill's for the new Memorial Stone had been received. Additional costs would be the heading inscription and the support wall, which would need to be constructed by a local builder. Nick Eckton was suggested.

It was also agreed that we should secure two more estimates for comparison. Bennett's of Brentwood was suggested, and Cindy had further names. A faculty would be needed, and John advised Jo to contact the DAC (Sandra Turner) for advice.

- b) A Mr Jacob Schwar will visit Mount on Sunday 28th January to attend the service and photograph our monuments and hatchments. It was agreed that we should find out where the photos would be published before agreeing.

St Mary's:

Maggie had sent a report in her absence:

- a) Attendance and participation at the Christmas services had been good and the services had gone well.
- b) Jonathan Eaton (01992 814108) would be contacted to survey and quote for work to the churchyard trees.

John commented that for the future we needed to consider churchwarden succession planning.

8. Treasurer's report

- a) Current account holds £57,063. £10,000 of this is a bequest from David Bellamy, to be spent at Mount only. Another £10,000 from Maurice Padfield had been received and is to be spent at Tawney. The CCLA accounts hold £9,700 for Mount and £10,200 for Tawney.
- b) Donations over Christmas had been very generous.
- c) The new electricity contract with Eon was cheaper than before. They were now able to install a smart meter at Tawney, which would be progressed. Cindy thought there may be a fault with the smart meter at Mount.
- d) The music licence and security contract had both been paid for.
- e) Mike Coggins had agreed to act as Examiner again for the APCM.
- f) Cindy was authorised by John to sign some correspondence from Tees solicitor on his behalf.

9. Events

- a) The next Parish Lunch would be in April after Easter.

- b) Arrangements would be made for an event in memory of Stephen Moyle. Colin and Edna will liaise with Chooi to discuss. Proceeds would be given to a charity of Chooi's choice. Contact would be made with St John's Leytonstone, where Stephen had also played.

10. Deanery Synod

There had still been no recent meeting.

11. Any Other Business

- a) There had been no Nativity scene on display at either church. The one for Mount was at Anne Stewart's, and the one for Tawney was under the heavy altar but had been forgotten this year.
- b) The Parish Room will be used as a polling station on Thursday May 2nd.
- c) George Padfield will erect a fence on the only unmarked part of the churchyard boundary. The Land Registry map had been consulted and the line agreed.
- d) George and Emily would be getting married in May at Blackmore church, with John taking the ceremony.
- e) The Christingle service will be held on Sunday 4th February at Tawney, with proceeds to the Children's Society.
- f) Venues for the fifth Sunday benefice services will be circulated in due course.

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13th March, 7pm, Zoom

The meeting closed with prayer.