

**Hertingfordbury St Mary with St John Parochial Church Council.  
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 27 September 2024 at 7.30 pm at the  
Fobury, Hertingfordbury and on Zoom**

Present: Robin Bishop (Robin B) (chair), Rev Alan Stewart (Alan), Philip Juniper (Philip), Barry Wade Simkins (Barry), Robin Densem, (Robin D), David Gorton (David), Kath Oates (Kath), Alastair Curry (Alastair), Rachel Carter (Rachel) (Secretary)

Rev Alan Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer.

Items are recorded in the order they were taken at the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Jean Skinner (Jean). Ritchie Copues (Ritchie), Rev Bill Church (Bill), Stephane McCarthy (Stephane),

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 The minutes were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

3.1 Item 3.1 Alan noted that Simon Cutmore had been licensed to All Saints. They were hoping to work together well, and Simon had agreed to help with weddings during Alan's sabbatical.

3.2 Item 3.4 Prayers of love and faith had now been published in the magazine and on the website.

3.3 Item 5.3 Helen Harris had agreed to become pastoral visitor. It was hoped to license her on the first Sunday in October.

3.4 Item 5.4 The Civic service had taken place on 15 September.

3.5 Item 5.5 Alan had now approached All Nations College regarding the Awayday. It was a little more expensive, but seemed like a good choice. The Awayday was scheduled for **4 May 2025**.

3.6 Item 8.1 The Bike and Hike event at St Mary's was now being organised by the Friends and would be reported under that item.

3.7 Item 15.2 On Eco Church, Alan noted that Environment Sunday would be the first Sunday in October and there would be a Creation Compline online.

**4. Correspondence**

4.1 There was no correspondence to report.

**5. Priests' Report**

5.1 Alan reported that a Children and Families worker, Lynsey Betteridge, had now been appointed. Barry was thanked for providing the initial contact. She would be based at St Andrew's. Tracy would be paid to mentor Lynsey until Christmas and was continuing to share collective worship at the schools. Robin asked about St Mary's

contribution and Alan noted that it had previously been relatively small, though perhaps there was scope for doing more. Kath said that she was happy to get involved in Children and Families work.

5.2 Starting in January, there was to be a Junior Community Choir at St Andrew's. Rehearsals were planned for Friday nights with appearances now and again for special services.

5.3. Alan's Sabbatical would be from 5 May to the beginning of August. Simon Cutmore had agreed to take two weddings, Bill would take two and Alan one (a teacher from Hertingfordbury Cowper). No baptisms were scheduled for that period yet. Bill would choose one (or more) week per month to do any that came in. There was an ordained minister in the congregation at St Andrew's and there was some negotiating with Diocese for permission for him to officiate. The Archdeacon had also agreed to take one service.

A service of the Word which could be led by Geoff and Lynsey, was also being considered, perhaps at the All Age service.

5.4 There was planned to be a new PCC appointed governor for Hertingfordbury Cowper, Jack Hollis, an active member of Christ Church Baptist church and a parent.

5.5. Christmas plans were Carol Service on 19 December beginning with Handbells. Handbells and Carols in the White Horse [Secretary's note: this is now scheduled for Wednesday 27 November]. Beer and Carols in churchyard on 21 December. Christmas Eve – two Crib services. Christmas day 9.15 Eucharist. Mindful Christmas at St Andrew's Monday 16 December 7.30 pm.

5.6 Christmas cards were discussed and it was agreed that it would be a good thing to get them out early.

## **6. Reaching New People**

6.1 There was nothing new to report.

## **7. Friends of St Mary's**

7.1 Although fewer people participated, Bike and Hike had been successful at raising funds.

The Café Francais had been well advertised and was hoped to be a success.

Race Night was scheduled for 22 February at St Joseph's in the Park

The Village Breakfast was planned for 3 May from 8.30 am

Welwyn Male Voice choir was scheduled for 13 December.

## **8. Events**

8.1 There had been no events not organised by the Friends.

## **9. Churchwardens' Report**

9.1 David reported that there had been no major issues to be looked after. The previous serious issues (the Brace Room roof and the drainage issue had now been resolved). The plasterwork was scheduled. The Quinquennial inspection was now booked for November. The boiler service had been booked.

## **10. Churchyard Manager's Report**

10.1 There was nothing significant to report. All was In good order and there had been favourable comments. Hedge cutting was booked, probably for half term with the cost shared with the school.

## **11. Monuments Sub-Committee Report**

11. 1 Some repair work was being organised for the Paget Memorial. The Paget trustees would be organising this.

11.2 There had been a guided tour of St Mary's churchyard. The organiser would like to advertise more widely next time and it was suggested that there could be a joint event with the church.

## **12. Treasurer's Report**

12.1 Robin highlighted some of the key points: the majority of the Capital funds were restricted for the maintenance of monuments etc.

12.2 The Brace Room had funds to cover maintenance.

12.3 There were contingency funds of about £25000.

12.4 The Parish share covered a range of things not just stipends.

12.5 St Mary's overall was relatively solvent and although a small church had good attendance and a reasonable income. Most giving was through the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders and Direct Debit. The Diocesan quota was approx £3000 pcm, which included support for struggling churches.

## **13. Deanery Synod**

13.1 Nothing to report.

## **14. Safeguarding**

14.1 Robin reported that the safeguarding newsletter had been sent to inboxes and reminded members that safeguarding was an issue everywhere and people needed to be ears and eyes.

## **15. Any other business**

15.1 Parish Magazine and communications

Philip noted that information from the Friends of Panshanger about events would be included.

It was suggested that HMWT events could also be included - Nick Hoyle would be a contact.

15.2 Eco Church.

The two nature trails had been published and were on the website with a few copies in the church. They might be developed in the future by adding QR codes.

15.3 St Joseph's

Doug Brown had sent a letter regarding a new sign, which was discussed. It was agreed that Alan would follow up.

15.4 Robert Taylor had requested a grave faculty in the Lower Churchyard near the Paget Memorial. This was unanimously agreed.

**16. Date of the next meetings**

16.1 This was confirmed as 28 November.

The Rev Alan Stewart closed the meeting with a prayer.