



St Mary's, Welwyn and St Michael's, Woolmer Green PCC Meeting 22nd March 2021

Following my report of the last PCC meeting that appeared on the church's website and in The Welwyn Magazine I received a number of expressions of appreciation which was nice.

Unsurprisingly Monday's meeting was once again via Zoom only and was ably chaired by the Rev'd Dr David Munchin as usual.

The main purpose of this particular meeting of the PCC was to receive the Treasurer's Annual Report & Financial Statement together with the other primary reports (legally required) as well as the secondary reports of group activities for the year 2020, to approve those reports and commend them to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved and signed by David as an accurate record. (We must be doing something right!).

Under matters arising The Rector advised that the full cost of upgrading the live-streaming equipment had been raised by donations and the installation has been arranged for May 29th. It has also been agreed with Sheila Edmondson's family that the bench they have kindly offered in her memory should be placed under the east window of St Mary's facing Sheila's house.

The Treasurer, Maggie Varco, presented a full set of accounts covering the year to 31st December 2020 (with a supplement covering January and February 2021). This was unanimously approved by the meeting and commended to the APCM with no queries.

Maggie informed the meeting that in spite of Covid-19 severely restricting church and fund raising activities 2020 financial results were "good", producing a surplus that will help to support the much greater expenditure planned in 2021 (new boiler and overhauling the heat pumps etc.).

The refurbishment to St Michael's House was completed on March 18th and the new tenants moved in the next day (under a twelve months tenancy agreement). Those who have seen it say that a very nice job has been made of the improvements and slightly under budget too. Altogether very pleasing.

The Fabric Action Group, (Stuart Jenkin ☺), reported that the new boiler is in situ and the heating project is on track. The required new gas main necessitated a large hole to be dug in the floor of room 4 but this has subsequently been made good.

The churchyard east wall: An email has been received from the parish clerk advising that the council has appointed an architect to draw up a plan for rebuilding the wall. They have asked

whether it could be rebuilt a little less high. Stuart Jenkin and the PCC will review their plan when available and reply thereafter.

The Rector thanked Stuart for all of his hard work in progressing these various projects.

The Rector also informed the meeting that he had been approached by Sarah Butcher (local environmentalist) with a view to placing trays (nesting boxes) for Peregrine Falcons on the roof of the flag tower, between the turrets. Permission was sought from the Diocese and was granted so this will go ahead. There may be an opportunity to place a webcam overlooking the nesting site in future if inhabited.

By the time you read this report Easter Services will have come and gone but were mentioned at the March PCC meeting – that all the usual services would take place (in a Covid secure manner) with the exception of the procession and feet washing. In practice all services, not only Easter services, are being held in a Covid secure manner with live-streaming for those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person.

Under Safeguarding there were, thankfully, no issues reported. However under health and safety the accident to Peter Gill was discussed. Peter was winding the church clock when the strike barrel ratchet failed (a cast iron tooth broke) and the strike weight fell to the floor some way below (above the office ceiling). The recoil (Remember your school physics lessons? For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.) caused the winding handle to fly back and hit Peter in the face necessitating a trip to casualty. Fortunately he has recovered and is managing the repairs (and a possible upgrade) to the clock. An appropriate report was made in the accident book.

A Dutch student had been expected to join the ministry team for four weeks as part of his training towards ordination but in the event was only able to join in via Zoom which was less satisfactory than joining in person of course.

*David Hughes
March 26th 2021*