**HELMDON CHURCH COUNCIL (HCC) MEETING ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2023 AT WAPPENHAM ROAD HELMDON**

Present

Cliff Netten (in the Chair) Bill Elkington Judith Elkington Rebecca Mount Ann Netten Niki Phillips Jenny Saunders Wiggy Smith Paul Stothard Vanessa Vicars

The Meeting began with a prayer.

Apologies for absence

Penny Bonner Fiona Mason

Minutes of the last Meeting (27 March 2023) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were Agreed as a true record. Matters Arising were:

1. Cliff had not managed to make much progress on the charitable fundraising point but had raised the subject with the Benefice Administrator.
2. We again discussed in-service collections, noting that children liked to be involved by helping with bags. Recent collections on a plate after a service had not been very high. Paul also explained that money collected during a service could only be blessed by ordained clergy. We agreed to try in-service collections once again, but with larger bags to better hide from view individual contributions: **Action – Cliff** to look for suitable collection bags.
3. Cliff gave agreed dates for the architect’s inspection (9 August) and the electrical system survey (14 June).

Finance

Ann summarised the financial position as at the end of April. We would claim Gift Aid later in the year, which would be a good boost for income figures. Ann was thanked by Council for her hard work on the Finance front.

Summer Fete on 1 July

Vanessa took us through work on the Fete organisation so far:

* Main Raffle prizes were now established: tickets for an event at Silverstone the top prize, a £100 cash prize, half a load of wood, a hamper, and a meat voucher. Helen Timms had very kindly offered an hour’s gardening. Ann Smith could now organise printing 2,000 tickets and Council members would then start selling them in the area. The Promoter would be Astwell Benefice.
* To avoid possible congestion, we would not sell tickets at the main gate.
* Tables and chairs from both church and the Reading Room were being taken down to Fountain House.
* The Refreshments team needed more helpers, and we needed cakes for teas as well as the cake stall.
* We would have a Craft stall (Jenny); Vanessa’s gifts and miscellaneous items stall; a Children’s Tombola (Rebecca); a Cake Stall (Pat Woodhams) as well as a Bottle Stall which Helmdon Together would help with. Alex Corrin would run a beer, lager and Pimm’s stall. We also discussed having Prosecco but since the meeting Niki and Alex have spoken about this: it would mean specially buying some plastic flute glasses. We hoped to have some games as well as the Morris Men and an informal set or two by local musicians. Hugh and Lynn Walmsley would run a plant stall.
* The Fancy Dress competition on the theme of “Coronation” would be open to children up to 12 years old. **Action**: Cliff to investigate suitable prizes for the top three winners.
* We agreed there should be a Programme of main events. As well as a copy at the entry gate, we would have it on the school and Helmdon websites.

Other Fundraising events

1. Trad Jazz Band evening with drinks and nibbles. 2 September in church.
2. Race Night. Saturday 21st October to avoid the village Bonfire event. **Action:** Cliff to check Reading Room availability.
3. Christmas Fair 2 December.
4. We discussed holding a Themed film and cheese/bread/platters light meal in October, but the general view was that we were running several events over the autumn. Food costs were continually increasing, too.

Pastoral Care

Wiggy updated us on tea parties at Helmdon and at Syresham which had been popular social events. There remained a need for someone to represent Wappenham in the Benefice Group.

Worship

We thought the Easter services and Walk of Witness up Church Street had worked quite well and congratulated everyone involved.

June service patterns had now been settled. Ann Smith was leading on local tickets for the Rogation meal following the Rogation Service at Weston.

We agreed to continue with tinctured wafers at Communion services until a new Rector had been appointed.

Rebecca and James would decide on the Father’s Day service and ensure Bill knew in plenty of time to prepare slides and music.

The September Praise and Prayer service would be a Pets Service led by Wiggy.

We thought it would be a good idea to have a sheet at the back of church for people to nominate hymns they would like to sing. **Action:** Cliff/Bill

.Church Sound System

We had a detailed discussion about the church sound system. The main problem was with the dead zones near the altar, but a complete system upgrade would be very expensive given our tight finances, imminent Quinquennial Review costs, and need to increase our contribution to the Parish Share. **Action:** Bill agreed to talk again to our sound system suppliers to see what might be done at minimal cost and quickly.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21 August, again at Bill and Judith’s house

We ended with The Grace