



St Mary Magdalene Church Helmdon

Helmdon Church Council Meeting 11 March 2024 7:30pm

Present

Rev Hugh White, Jenny Saunders, Wiggy Smith, Ann Netten, Rebecca Peacock, Vanessa Vicars, Fiona Mason, Paul Stothard, Niki Philips, Judith Elkington, Bill Elkington Chair.

1. Bill opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Apologies, Penny Bonner, Cliff Netten.
3. Minutes of last meeting, any outstanding items will be covered by the agenda minutes agreed.
4. Finance, Ann talked us through the accounts and clarified questions about gift aid. Hugh raised the Diocese Direct Debit (DD) regular giving scheme as this was being adopted by Lois with a whole village appeal to meet their parish share this year. Syresham adopted this a few years ago but lost some givers due to DD that is increased annually. Helmdon has standing orders from people that do not attend church and we felt they may withdraw if changed to DD. Paul explained that the Leicester Diocese had implemented this as well. Ann undertook to find out what advantages this system may have.

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Paul suggested that new members should be put on the DD scheme if advantageous and the others left on our existing system. This would mean claiming 2 lots of gift aid. Hugh emphasised the need to pay our full parish share and this will actually encourage other parishes to look at a united benefice.

5. Legacy, Christine Klien Wassink has left £11,000 to our church £1,000 of this to the bellringers. There are no restrictions on how the

money is used. Bill suggested that the money should be towards something within the church that could have a brass plaque attached, rather than used on walls or paths. Jenny suggested it should go towards the children's church as otherwise this could take years. Rebecca said making a larger room would not automatically produce more children. A discussion took place and it was decided that each of us should ask people we know what the money should be used for and report back at our next meeting. Post meeting note: Bill spoke to Julian Partis about the bellringers money, Julian wanted his to go to something and a plaque with Christines name. When he was told we were doing something similar yet to be decided Julian said it could be a combined item with church and bell ringers mentioned on the plaque.

6. Quinquennial, all the no1 priorities are done. Bill will carry out the electrical works when the weather improves. The biggest item is the footpath to the church door, concern was raised about grade II listing. Bill will write to the DAC for clarification. Bill will talk to John Marchant to approach HS2 to pay for this work. **BE** The church yard walls will be done over the next 5 years a little at a time.

7. Fundraising,

a. Pancake day was not well attended with a reduction in takings. It was decided to try making it a ticket event and to have more competitions.

b. Wappenham Hopefully Cliff or Clive Preston will be available for quiz on 15 March to complete a team.

c. Helmdon Quiz on 19 April, Bill will do drinks and nibbles, it was decided that Chilli con carne and rice plus a fruit crumble for pudding. (1 gluten free pudding by Wiggy)

d. Horse racing evening is put back to 20 September, all to sell horses, jockeys and race sponsors. Big raffle to be incorporated.

e. Benefice final quiz night 10 May at Lois, a team will be required.

f. Open gardens 9 June to be finalised by sub committee.

g. Barn dance at Wappenham with raffle 15 June need to get as many as possible to come and buy tickets all to reduce parish share payments.

8. Pastoral Care, 2 tea parties held in Syresham well attended, Wiggy to start hers again. All villages covered except Wappenham this is still ongoing. Lucy may join the committee as Jenny is standing down, but will continue her contributions by letting Wiggy know of villagers needing help, advice or visits. Many thanks Jenny for all you do for our villages.

9. Safeguarding, is up to date unless we have new people appointed at the AGM and vestry meetings.

10. Worship, Sundays praise and prayer sorted, Palm Sunday ok Stations of the cross from Monday 25 until Thursday lunchtime on the 28th.

Tuesday 26 7pm Taize at Lois or Wappenham?

Maunday Thursday last supper 28 March at 6:30 Syresham Church.

Friday 29 March 2.15 Walk to the church, with the cross from the war memorial. The cross to be placed in the chancel with a white sheet at an angle to the floor. Service starts at 2:30pm.

Easter day dawn fire at 6am at Radstone church service followed with toasted hot cross buns, lantern required to light the pascal candle in church.

Church Service at Helmdon 10:15 (note time change) Service; Holy communion.

Any suggestions for April P&P let Bill know.

11. Refreshment volunteers, Bill and Judith will set up teas unless away, volunteers needed for serving teas, washing up and putting

away. Niki will try allocating this after Easter. Choir will put up hymn numbers on Thursdays if provided, so that hymn books may be used.

12. AOB.

a. Rebecca ask about using the chalice for communion, after discussion it was decided to leave it to Hugh, who will remain with intinction for now.

b. Vanessa and Fiona have some storage boxes to enable the vestry to be sorted out, wiggy will store them in her garage.

c. Vanessa would like to buy new table cloths for the kitchen area, agreed.

d. Fiona would like to buy another electric heater for the choir, agreed and Jenny has one in Hereford we can use (saving on oil?).

e. Rev Hugh requested that 20 or so wafers be put out for communion to save time setting up the table in stacks of 10 and 5.

F, Rev Hugh asked if anyone provide accommodation for Alison (Archdeacon of Oakham) on the walk 17 May? Bill and Judith agreed to do this. Bill has sent an email to Rural Dean Fr Matthew about the footpath closure due to HS2, he has notified Peterborough.

f. Bill requested that members please advise at the next meeting if you are standing for election at the vestry meeting in May.

13. Date of next meeting Monday 13 May 7:30 pm 9 Wappenham Road.

14. The meeting closed with the grace.