**HELMDON CHURCH COUNCIL (HCC) MEETING ON MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2023 AT CHURCH STREET HELMDON**

Present

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

Apologies for absence

Bill Elkington Judith Elkington Penny Bonner

Minutes of the last Meeting (24 October 2022) and Matters Arising

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

1. Although Bill had contacted the DAC Secretary about our re-ordering project, the Committee was swamped with other projects to consider. We thought it would be a good idea for HCC to have a site meeting in church, ideally when our Architect was undertaking the Quinquennial Review. **Action:** Cliff to raise with Adrian Ringrose.
2. The further roof work had stopped the Lady Chapel leak. We continue to keep an eye on the toilet area, although no more puddles have occurred recently.
3. We agreed to order more oil now that prices had fallen.
4. Sources of grants for church projects to be picked up once we had firmer ideas for the re-organisation: there were plenty of bodies to be approached. **Action:** Cliff
5. We were very grateful to Bill (and Cliff as his Elf) for stepping in as Santa at short notice, and the Christmas Fair had been very popular.
6. The Farewell Lunch following Revd Diane’s last service was very enjoyable for everyone who came along.
7. We were most grateful to Bill for getting the Church Advent Window illuminated cross in place behind the churchyard wall, as well as to Vanessa and all the helpers who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.
8. The Carol Singing was a success, and we were delighted to have a church event in the centre of Helmdon again.

Finance

Ann N had drawn up full-year Accounts circulated before the meeting. Council members liked the format used, which made the Accounts much easier to read than in the past.

There were no questions and it was agreed unanimously that the Treasurer should submit the Accounts to our Auditor. **Action:** Ann N

Draft Benefice Profile

Members had a few editorial comments, since passed to Bill. Cliff asked for any final drafting points to be sent to him by the 3rd February. **Action:** HCC Members then Cliff

Helmdon Worship Committee

Paul noted that the Worship Committee was outside the formal Benefice worship structure, and that Helmdon was the only church to have a parish level Committee. This raised the total number of meetings to be attended each year by Officers. We discussed the option of including “Worship” in HCC meetings, which would increase their length.

We agreed that there would be at least one more Worship Committee meeting on 6 February to take this topic forward and that the Note of it should be circulated to Council members. **Action:** Paul

Fundraising events

1. Pancake Breakfast 18 February. Vanessa had spoken to Helmdon Together about arrangements. Sub-Committee of Bill and Judith, Cliff, Wiggy and Vanessa for the event. We also needed some Raffle prizes from villagers for Niki and Ann S. Ann S would organise some Easter Bunny prizes. . Cliff to oversee Pancake Tossing **Action:** Sub-Committee (Cliff has since recruited Chris Gartside for the Pancake Tossing).
2. Summer Fete. The aim is for the first Saturday in July. Rebecca would check with husband Chris in case of any clash with other village plans As it had proved an excellent venue for the last Fete, Vanessa would speak to the Crabbes about using Fountain House. . **Action:** Rebecca and Vanessa We would have a sub-Committee to take the Fete forward (possibly both Ann’s and Niki at the early stages. One idea was to have a Dog Show as part of the fun.
3. It might also be possible to have an Open Gardens Day with plant sales later that month: Vanessa, Jenny S, Wiggy and Cliff to be a sub-Committee on this with Bill if he were agreeable. **Action:** Vanessa
4. We liked the idea of having the Trad Jazz band who had performed at David Brookehouse’s recent funeral and a meal at church. Date to be decided.

Pastoral Care

Wiggy reported that all Church Councils had this on their meeting Agendas. An Easter lunch was being organised to help raise funds, in the Reading Room on 12 April with a limit of 48 people.

Wiggy also spoke about her afternoon teas as part of Pastoral outreach. Not many men had been involved to date though.

Other Business

1. The sound system amplifier needed replacing and Bill was on the case. Paul also had some thoughts We also discussed the portable system used for Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial. We could look for a sponsor or simply hire equipment for this once-a-year event. **Action:** Bill and Paul.
2. We discussed possible engagement with the village in Lent – one idea was to help staff the pub – or to join in with other events.
3. On Maundy Thursday there would be a Benefice Meal at Syresham, with each parish providing a course. Helmdon would do the puddings.
4. We would like the children to be a more active part of the Eucharist services, such as offering the wafers at the altar rail.
5. We agreed that better communications with the village were needed, such as making our Minutes public. Cliff to ensure that minutes were sent to Sarah Rudkin specifically for the Benefice website, and to display copies in the church porch. **Action:** Cliff

Next Meeting

29 March at Ann Smith’s

We ended with The Grace