

Arminghall Parochial Church Council 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at St Mary's Church in Arminghall
on 10th May at 7.30pm.

In attendance: Revd Rob Baker, Revd Lyn Marsh, Annie Leathers, Carolin Buchholz
Apologies: Pam Kemp

Minutes from the Meeting

Opening Prayers were led by Rob Baker

Church Electoral Roll

The question occurred, if Joyce & Brian Williams and Anne Moltun belong on this list. Rob will check with them and put the revised list up.

Annual Vestry Meeting (Annual Meeting of Parishioners)

1. **Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting** were read and approved.
Proposed by Annie, seconded by Lyn - all in favor.
2. **Election of Churchwardens:** Vicar appoints Annie as Churchwarden because there were no parishioners present.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** It became clear while going through the minutes that the 'Mr Arminghall Church' bank account still needs to be sorted. There were no issues with the minutes.
Proposed by Lyn, seconded by Annie - all in favor.
2. **PCC Secretary's Report – Rob Baker**
Due to the pandemic no services were held in the building since March 2020 except one burial and a carol service. Parishioners across the group of churches have been meeting for daily prayer online.
3. **Treasurer's Report & Accounts – Rob Baker**
(Looking at the statement of accounts) The accounts have been audited. Some electricity bills are on file that have been paid but haven't been claimed (maybe from Jim), recognizable by the fact that the money didn't come out of the church's bank account. There has been one donation of payment for the electricity bill by Annie, as shown in the notes on the bottom of the statement.

Everything else has been confirmed to be okay for 2020. At the moment the insurance is covered by four regular givers and there has been a small excess of income (278.06£) over expenditure at the end of April 2021. But keeping in mind that there was no parish share paid this year due to the pandemic and regarding the overall statement of accounts, it's not much.

Rob and Annie looked at the service register from last year and it shows that the church received 100£ from collection. They were able to identify some of the money but guess that Jim has maybe banked up some cash at his house which has been cleared out by his family. They might have not been aware that there was some money that belonged to the church with his things. Rob apologized that he and Annie did the best they could but that this money hasn't been retrievable.

Rob needs to hand on the administration of the bank account before August since he will be on Sabbatical this year.

Lyn asked if the people who are on the electoral roll give regularly and if not, if it would be possible to write a letter explaining the current situation and maybe asking them to consider giving. Rob replied that most people already give in one way or another but that he and Carolin could write and send out something.

The election of Independent Examiner or Auditor is to be deferred.

Action: Rob & Carolin to write a letter about giving for Arminghall Church.

4. Fabric Report – deferred until next PCC

The Quinquennial Report is now three years old. It says in the 2019 minutes that Matthew Coleman offered some help with practical jobs.

Action: Rob to get in touch with Matthew and ask if he's still prepared to help before the next PCC. Discussing the Fabric Report will be part of the next PCC meeting.

5. Election of Parochial Church Council Members

Had to be skipped because only one parishioner attended the meeting.

6. Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Review – Rob Baker

Alison Peck is happy to serve as Benefice safeguarding officer. Rob and Alison got together to see where the church stands in view of DBS checks, safeguarding training and other bits. Everything seems to be in place except a few updates needed which Alison will look after in the next few months. The safeguarding policies for Stoke Holy Cross have just been reviewed, the plan is to take those as a base and adapt them for Arminghall. Carolin might be able to help with that. To review the updated safeguarding policy will be part of the next PCC meeting.

Action: PCC to review Arminghall's safeguarding statement in their meeting.

7. Vicar's Report – Rob Baker

Rob started off by thinking back about the New Wine Congress in Harrogate at the beginning of the year and how different the world looked back then. The church was very much affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the step to bring church online. Around Easter (March/April) the

subject “Remember to pray” came into focus, we started to pray together on a regular basis and remembered that Jesus is with us, even in a locked room. Many people gathered for that. Receiving God’s peace as an ‘antidote to anxiety’ became an important message. Rob showed a video that was made in summer lockdown in cooperation with the local Primary school to spread hope. Andy was very involved in that. This was a summer highlight. In summer and autumn church leaders from the area were invited to speak about ‘What is God telling us right now?’. There was a feeling that God was calling this church to come back to the second half of the book of Acts and think about how to spread the good news. The question ‘How does mission shaped Christmas look like?’ (Act 20:20 for 2020) arose. The Christmas theme was ‘Bringing light into the darkness’. A video was produced and spread around the village. People were messaged to come out to the doorsteps and listen to the video together as a ‘mini carol service’. Around 100 households engaged in that and there were some really good encounters between neighbours.

Loddon Denery Synod - excerpt from APCM report written by Rob Baker

Meetings of the Deanery Synod have been suspended since March 2020 because of the Coronavirus pandemic, but earlier in the year we welcomed once again Alan Palmer, lead chaplain at the James Paget Hospital, who encouraged us to slow down and wait on the Lord, recognising that the faster we go, the more anxious we become. He acknowledged that any work with people, which is what the church is all about, can be stressful, but we all need an amount of stress in normal life – it just mustn’t get out of hand. He urged us from his own experience to get help before we risk burnout or even nervous breakdown.

Just in time before the pandemic arrived, we were pleased to welcome +Graham to the deanery on 5th March as part of his programme of visiting the whole of the diocese at the beginning of his ministry here. He spent time with the clergy, then at Ellingham school, the Nook, and St Mary’s Gillingham. There was an open evening at Loddon where +Graham spent time meeting as many people as possible.

As clergy in the deanery we have met more often this year, and over Zoom, to provide support for one another and avoid isolation. We look forward to gathering a bit more in person, and as Deanery Synod in 2021!

8. Any Other Business - none

9. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council

1. Election of Secretary: Carolin Buchholz (as part of her role as administrator)
2. Election of Treasurer: Rob (until he found someone new which needs to be done by the time he leaves for Sabbatical), proposed by Annie, seconded by Lyn
3. Appointment of Vice Chairman: Annie appointed by Rob
4. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer: Carolin
5. Minutes of the last Meeting: **Action: Rob will send around the last minutes to be approved by email.**
6. Any Other Business:
A big Thank You to Roger Hartley for his long and faithful service overseeing the bins in the churchyard. Rob appreciated his work and will get in touch with him to thank him in person. Annie kindly offered to empty the bin from now on.

The next Service in person with picnic will be on 27 June 2021 in the churchyard.
We will try to organise an event for Norfolk Day (27th July 2021), Annie will look into this.

Next PCC meeting: Thursday 24th June 2021, 7.30pm at Annie's Home (revised)