

HELMDON CHURCH COUNCIL (HCC) MEETING ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023 AT WAPPENHAM ROAD HELMDON

Present

Cliff Netten (in the Chair) Bill Elkington Judith Elkington Fiona Mason
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

Minutes of the last Meeting (18 September 2023) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were Agreed as a true record, subject to inclusion of Wiggy in the list of those present. Matters Arising were:

1. We agreed it would be helpful to have a list of forthcoming events and any special services on the village website and Facebook page. Cliff to Action.
2. Cliff had been in touch with our Architect who was finalising the Quinquennial Review Report.
3. The small sum outstanding from the September Jazz evening had now been received.

Finance

Ann summarised the financial position as at the first of November, as circulated with the Agenda. In addition, the Radstone bank account issue had now been resolved. Recent urgent repairs to the roof above the choir seats next to the organ had been funded by the Friends. Ann hoped that in 2023 we would match the 2022 figure for Parish Share

During the time Radstone Church was closed for repairs owing to a serious bat presence, it had been insured under Helmdon's policy: in January we would need to inform the insurers that it would now be open for five services a year.

Fundraising events

- Vanessa's sub-Committee for the Christmas Fair on 2 December was making good progress. A young member of the drama group had volunteered to be Santa's Elf. We would set up tables, etc, on Friday 1st. Cliff had organised Phillip Ward's small van to move some tables from church and Santa's Chair.
- Judith asked for cakes for the Refreshments as well as Pat Woodham's Cake Stall. Other stalls and children's games were coming along well.
- Bill had drafted a brochure for the Open Gardens event on Sunday 9 June. Any further comments to be sent to him. The village pub was keen to run simple lunches that day. We agreed to run teas in church, and the Elkingtons would do so as well.

Appointment of a new Rector

We discussed several practical points for Rev Hugh White's Installation on 7 December. Pews would be reserved for representatives of local organisations and schools. Paul hoped to organise some solar lights to help car parking and was looking into warm drinks dispensers to help with light refreshments in the Reading Room after the service (for a limited number of invitees).

A thorough church clean was going to be needed just before the service Rehearsal. We agreed that some seasonal wreaths to decorate key parts of the building would be a suitably festive touch.

Pastoral Care

Wiggy looked forward to a meeting the following Monday. Her Group was also organising Communion at home for those unable to attend church services.

Safeguarding

Judith updated us on the current Training situation.

Worship

We looked forward to Rev Hugh leading services during December. On Christmas Eve (which is a Sunday) he will lead Holy Communion at 10 am. Vanessa and Rebecca are organising the Christingle service to be led by Paul at 3:00 pm that day. There is also a 10:00 am Christmas Day service to be led by Hugh.

Several points had arisen from the Remembrance Day services, especially the one at the War Memorial. Wiggy had coped brilliantly despite them. We agreed it was essential to have a proper discussion at the September 2024 meeting.

Any Other Business

- Bill said that the school would be holding their own Carol Service on 13 December at 6:00. Heating would need to be put on in readiness.
- Vanessa was concerned about the condition of candles, in particular the tea lights. Cliff will investigate this and discuss with her.
- The pub was opening less and less these days, which added to the difficulty faced in holding outdoor Carol singing. It was agreed to leave it for this year.
- Paul was looking into the Lessons and Carols for the Carol Service on 15 December.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15 January 2024 at Bailiffs Cottage, Falcutt (Ann and Cliff's house).

We ended with The Grace

