

MINUTES OF ST MARY'S ARDLEIGH PCC MEETING on
Thursday 6 July 2023 at 7.30 pm held at Highfield, Fox
Street, Ardleigh CO7 7PN

1. Prayer

The Chair opened the meeting in prayer. Start time recorded as 19:30.

2. In attendance

Martin West (Chair) (MW), Rosemary Kleingeld (RK), Richard Culley (RC),
Christina Volkmann (CV)

3. Apologies for absence – Revd Phillip Young (PY)

4. Conflict of interest – none declared.

5. Minutes of previous meeting 18 May 2023 were corrected, approved &
signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising: None

7. SAFEGUARDING: MW showed copy of Safeguarding poster prepared by Caroline to put up in
the church after correction of some typos and lamination. As well as being near the kitchen
we felt it should be more publicly displayed in the porch. MW suggests Caroline should
introduce herself and what safeguarding means to all at Sunday's service. There are no
current Safeguarding issues to report. MW has 2 more checks to do, RK all. CV has done all
of them and she and RC think they are helpful and worthwhile, CV suggests domestic abuse
one is particularly good.

8. ARDLEIGH SCHOOL

We have received a proposal regarding consent for Ardleigh St Mary's CE VC Primary School
to become an academy and to join Canonium Learning Trust (CLT). Through the instrument
of Governance for the school dated 20 March 2015 the PCC appoints one foundation
Governor. Therefore, the consent of the PCC is required to become an Academy. The
proposal letter is from Cathryn Adams, Chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) of the
school and dated 20 June 2023.

In discussion, CV had done some checks and reported that Canonium has a good budget and
is accredited by the Diocesan Board of Education. The last financial report was published 31
August 2022. It is local and has worked with a school in Stisted. In her letter Ms Adams
confirms that CLT is committed to the ongoing development of the school's Church of
England Christian character and ethos, providing opportunities for regular collective worship
and prayer and the exploration of Christian teachings and values. We noted that our rural
missioner the Revd Phillip Young is particularly keen to continue association with the school
as are all members of the PCC. RC mentioned that Amanda Watts still visits together with PY
and is committed to the link with St Mary's. RC commented that it is important that we on
the PCC help pull the school round but questioned whether it will remain an Academy if it is
pulled round?

A motion was proposed by RK and seconded by RC, that we consent to the request made in the letter from MS Cathryn Adams emailed on 20 June that Ardleigh St Mary's primary school becomes an Academy and joins Canonium Learning Trust (CLT). The proposal was carried unanimously.

MW reported that we have purchased leavers' Bibles for presentation on 21 July and MW will attend and PY too, if possible. The presentation label says the Bible is from St Mary's.

9. FINANCE. No information available for the meeting. Expenditure to come will be for roof repairs, the tower and bell maintenance.
10. RESOURCING MINISTRY:
 - a. Reach Out update. Café church: David Wright is leading another fundraising walk 30 July. We discussed the problem of the gap between end of 8.00 am service and the 9.30 start of Café church. Susan Carne and RK are working on solving this.
 - b. LITTLE STEPS: We have had reports for June and July sessions from Caroline. Attendance has been encouraging with one mother coming for a second time and one father also attending. RK reported that some who come to Little Steps are now attending Café church.
 - c. SERVICES. The service for Christopher Tootal is Thanksgiving rather than a funeral – MW reminded the meeting that he created the Millenium Green. The name of All Together is still a problem. Possibly All Together Worship would work better. Our 4th service is now Morning Prayer (with PY). RC suggests we recruit another sidesperson for welcoming.
 - d. ARDLEIGH CELL GROUP: This will reconvene after summer holidays. From September 7.15-8.15 at Ardleigh Court or Oaklea Road. Thursday 18 July there will be a social at Susan's 7.15-8.30 open to all.
 - e. Junior church council (Benefice)– no report.
 - f. DEANERY SYNOD: CV went to meeting on 15 June. Parish share – deanery is up to minimum hard target. The deanery treasurer says we have a Parish Giving Adviser we can consult. There's a deanery works group looking at uneven distribution of funds. Tendring Show – the deanery supports even if making a loss on the tent cost. Parish visitations – the previous warden also needs to attend. Waiting report on the well-being of clergy initiative. There's now a deanery Facebook page.
 - g. FABRIC: RC will shortly be weeding the Garden of Rest, also some thistles to be removed from the bee friendly garden before they take over. We still need Keystone's quote for tower and roof repairs including two missing tiles.. Stage 2 of mortuary repairs to be commenced following painting of woodwork. RC will clear leaves from guttering next in early Spring and has recently cleared the traps. RK reports we have acquired some outdoor Christmas lights to replace the broken ones.
 - h. BELLS: We considered a report on bells from David Culham which included information on the Essex Association striking competition finals for North East district with St Osyth (6 bells) and Ardleigh (ten bells). The faculty for work on bells has been approved, now we need to consider funding. David will submit application for a grant with bell restoration fund and education fund of Essex Association of change ringers but will need to cover maintenance costs from the church estimated at £14,000 due October. MW to check our bell fund.
 - i. Friends – no report

- j. Hourly charges for use of church. Waiting news on energy costs.
- k. PEOPLE/ROTAS/CLEANING: RK has done rota for locking up to end November and will do the Christmas one early.
- l. No current H and S reports. We discussed providing improved wheelchair stations either side of the central part of the nave instead of putting people at the back or front, this would mean cutting out space in the existing pews. It would be good to be pro-active here.
- m. POLICIES: RK is maintaining these. Note we have had fire testing done and checked 1st aid box.

11. Correspondence: None

12. AOB: CV has completed and received her certificate for the course in Christian studies following a service in Chelmsford Cathedral.
MW led discussion on whether we should now use the cup for wine at communion. It was felt not to be safe with some still fearful of Covid, also with the coming of winter people will have coughs and colds and we all agreed intinction was preferable and we will continue as now. The church is not really big enough for options in receiving communion, unlike Dedham.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 7 September at Highfield at 7.30

14. We closed in prayer at 21.10