

PARISH of STAPLEFORD TAWNEY with THEYDON MOUNT

PCC Meeting on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.00pm, via Zoom

APPROVED

Present: Revd John Fry (Chair), Maggie Dennis, Colin and Edna Flint, Debbie Lee, Martyn Lockwood, Revd Carol Newnham, Anne Padfield, Cindy Pridmore, Jo Shephard.

1. The meeting started with a reading and prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Gill Southall.
3. **The minutes of the last meeting** held on 14th September 2022 were approved.
4. Proposals for any other business: burglar alarm contract, more efficient recorded hymn system.
5. **Matters arising** from the last minutes:
 - a) **Memorial at Mount** to babies buried there 1939-1940.
Martyn's research had discovered eight names so far. He would continue to try alternative sources, as the burial register had been seriously water-damaged after a theft in the 1960s and there may be more identifiable burials. The area for the memorial in the SW corner of the churchyard needs clearing and tidying. To be viewed and discussed after the service on 27th November. Possibly a suitable project for the Community Payback scheme. A skip would be required.
If the memorial itself is one of the standard gravestone sizes and designs, a faculty will not be needed.
 - b) A **card reader** would cost £300 initially, with an ongoing annual fee of £80. Not considered viable.
 - c) **Communion cloths** – there doesn't seem to be enough linen in good condition for both churches. The cloths at Tawney have suffered mouse damage. Martyn to find costs of new cloths from church suppliers. Judy Scrivener had offered suitable fabric if we wish to make them.
6. **Vicar's report**
 - a) **Carol singing at the Moletrap**, Thursday 15th December, 8pm. Carol would provide songsheets from Theydon Garnon.
 - b) **Carol Service** Sunday 18th December, previously agreed as at 4pm at Tawney, with no morning service. Discussion followed about the clash with

the World Cup football final, but it was eventually agreed to stay with 4pm. A later 6pm service was available in the benefice, at Theydon Garnon.

c) All members of the PCC have to do online Safeguarding Training before the APCM in the spring. John would email information and instructions to all members. When completed, the certificate should be emailed to John Chaplin (charlie-chaps@hotmail.co.uk). If members had difficulty with the technology, alternatives like completing it as a group might be necessary.

d) The **Advent course** starting on Wednesday 23rd November at 12.00 had not been publicised, but all would be circulated and the first one would go ahead to gauge uptake.

e) On January 1st 2023, there would be a **Benefice service** at St Michael's, starting 10.45am.

7. Churchwarden's reports

St Mary's:

The Quinquennial report had been received and recommendations were being studied. It was believed that there may be a forthcoming bequest which could cover the costs.

St Michael's:

The Quinquennial report had been received and its recommendations were being pursued. Again the costs may be covered by a bequest. Since the inspection, the entrance gates had suffered damage and would need repairing.

The new design of Safeguarding posters would be provided in both churches.

John raised the subject of whether as a PCC we can continue to maintain two listed churches in one parish. Alternatives could be:

- a) to designate one church as a Festival Church, with only special-occasion services rather than regular ones. The PCC would still be financially responsible for its maintenance and repair.
- b) to close one of the buildings for worship altogether (probably Theydon Mount, due to the better facilities and flexibility of Stapleford Tawney). The Diocese would then be responsible for maintaining the building, but the PCC would still maintain the churchyard. Raising the possibility of closure might generate more interest locally.
- c) to continue with two church buildings

The PCC were asked to think carefully about these alternatives and a full discussion would take place at the May in-person PCC meeting. John would email documents explaining the processes for the alternatives.

8. Treasurer's report

Current account £41,792

CCLA accounts: Tawney £9900

	Mount £9400
Capital reserve	£11,100

We had been notified of a generous bequest of £10,000 from Tina Bellamy, to be spent at Theydon Mount church.

It was suggested that repairs to the gates and gatepost might be covered by insurance – to be investigated.

The new cremated remains area had no user-friendly way of identifying or memorialising those interred. Ideally a stone large enough to carry all the names would be erected. Cindy and Jo would research. Would a grant be available? – ask Ann Clay. It would also be an appropriate use for the Bellamy bequest.

9. Events

a) Quiz Night, 19th November. Ticket money received £510, donation £40, raffle £205, with a hall fee of £70. All the organisers were thanked. Cindy highlighted the worthwhile co-operation with Theydon Garnon and hoped it could be reinforced generally.

b) The usual Christmas viewing of decorations and refreshments at Tawney would be on Saturday 17th December from 10.30. Arrangements were in hand.

c) The Christmas Day service would be at Tawney at 9.15am, with a Christmas jumper theme.

d) The next events meeting would be on Wednesday 18th January, 2pm, Parish Room

10. Deanery Synod

Bishop Guli had spoken movingly about her family background in Iran and the persecution of Christians there. The next meeting would be in the New Year.

11. Any Other Business

a. Should there be a better way of identifying those interred in the cremated remains area at Tawney?

b. The monitored alarm system at Mount was expensive and not entirely suitable. Cindy and Jo would research alternative contracts/systems.

c. There was to be a demonstration at Epping Upland church of a recorded music system called “Hymnal”, costing £1900.

[Since our meeting, the demo date has been chosen - 8th December 2023, at 11am. Epping Upland church, Upland Road (B181), CM16 7PH. All welcome]

13. The next meeting would be on **Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7pm by Zoom**. The following meeting in May would be in person..