

Annual Report of the proceedings of Bolnhurst Parochial Church Council for the year 2020

4 March 2020 PCC meeting: The new Services pattern across the 2 Benefices, started Jan 2020, is settling in. The PCC discussed various future events and plans. However, due to Covid-19 Lockdown, from 21 March 2020, all churches closed and all services, meetings and events “on hold” until at least October 2020. Sale of Keysoe Vicarage: Formal Notice (signed by the Bishop of St Albans) of this sale was received from Iain Blythe, Diocesan Estates Secretary, on 28 Feb 2020. The PCC agreed it had no objection to this sale, and that F Shipsey reply to Iain Blythe’s email accordingly.

24 August 2020 PCC meeting The first “Zoom” meeting of Bolnhurst PCC! Opening Prayers remembered Ann Moss R.I.P. Due to Covid-19, events for 2020 VE & VJ Day 75th Anniversaries were much curtailed. However, Jim Hills tolled a bell at St Dunstan’s on both days. The PCC agreed that the weekly “Words of Hope” Services on the Benefices website are inspirational. Deploying all Covid-19 safety precautions, a weekly rota of Benefices Sunday Services began this August, including a Morning Prayer Service at St Dunstan’s on Sunday 30 August at 10am.

2020 Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by David Llewellyn 29th May 2020.

His QI Report shows the following Category 2 items:

External Masonry Repairs: Tower-Louvres and Inner Guards to Belfry Windows.

Category 3/6: Smaller Francklin Memorial.

Double-Deep Gravespace Reservation in Bolnhurst Churchyard for Jocelyn Howells and Denis Howells {cousins of Rex Whitmore R.I.P.}: The PCC unanimously passed the Resolution. F Shipsey to progress paperwork for this Faculty Petition.

8 October 2020 PCC meeting [via Zoom]: Judith Norfolk and James Gooch were elected as Vice-Chairmen. Florence Shipsey was re-elected as PCC Secretary. Wendy Levy was re-elected as PCC Treasurer.

26 November 2020 PCC meeting [via Zoom]: Further to a 28 Oct 2020 Diocesan Consultation – Suspension of Presentation for further 2 years in Benefice of Bolnhurst with Keysoe, the PCC agreed that F Shipsey will email PCC’s reply: “To foster the growing on-going sense of unity between the two benefices, Bolnhurst PCC recommends that the two benefices’ suspensions of presentations be merged and run concurrently until end Dec 2024.” The PCC agreed to pay 2020 Parish Share fourth quarterly instalment, which will pay 2020 in full. As detailed by the Treasurer, the PCC agreed to hold “designated funds for Churchyard maintenance” within the Current Account. QI 2020 Church Repairs: Tower-Louvres and Inner Guards to Belfry Windows: Tom Frost’s 2021 estimate is £6816 [£5680 + 20% VAT £1136]. When the PCC confirms that funds allow, Mr Frost will arrange to carry out this work

by Oct 2021. Estimates are being obtained for other repair-items {External Masonry, and Smaller Francklin Memorial}. Electrical Supply to Church: The Electrician (CAM Electrical) who carried out the QI Electrical Condition Test at St Dunstan's on Friday 4 Sept 2020, has confirmed that "7 more pew heaters on a ring main should be possible". For further discussion when funds allow. Safeguarding: James Gooch agreed to be the Representative for Bolnhurst on the Benefices' Safeguarding Team. Deanery Review – Reimagining the Deanery: Revd Tim said that every Parish in the Deanery has been asked – "What is the purpose and mission of the Church?". The PCC agreed that the Church of England needs a presence in each parish, to spread the Word of God, to promote community-based activity and togetherness, and a physical Church building to provide a sacred space for family events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

General Data Protection Regulations [GDPR]:

Benefices Statement from Lorraine Knight, as approved by Revd Tim

During this challenging year, the main focus on GDPR was ensuring we had a website data privacy notice in place for those parishioners wishing to access our on-line services and keeping our contact lists centrally managed and protected. We hope to be able to continue with our individual churches GDPR audits once we have returned to worshipping again in our churches and it can be reported that the majority of our benefice PCC members have moved to dedicated e-mail address. We actively encourage and recommend that, where possible, everyone starts to use the dedicated church e-mails - allowing enhanced data protection of our parishioners' personal information.

F Shipsey, Bolnhurst PCC Secretary. May 2021.