THE UNITED BENEFICE OF
HENLEY-ON-THAMES WITH REMENHAM

PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, HENLEY-ON-THAMES

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
held on
Tuesday 25th September 2007
at 8.00 pm
in the Chantry House

PRESENT

The Rector, Carol Brook-Partridge (Churchwarden), George Constantinidi, Ceridwen Cranford, Stuart Crippen (Treasurer), David Dew, Anne Forrest, Peter Hopkins (Secretary), Stephen Nichols, Liz Preston, and Martin Whittaker .

The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist in St Leonard's Chapel.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Val Barter, Andy Butler, Andy Hurst, Alan Tang and Geoffrey Taylor (Churchwarden).

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last PCC meeting on the 19th of June were approved and signed by the Chairman, with a note that Andy Butler had been present.

3 BUILDING MATTERS

Leaks

The Rector reported that there had been no more major leaks of water into the Church.

Quinquennial inspection

The Rector reported that the Quinquennial inspection was due soon, and this would hopefully pick up the question of leaks which had occurred.

Flooring – south aisle

The Rector reported that work would start on the repairs to the south aisle floor on the 22nd of October and noted that there would be no cost to us as the architects had agreed to pick up the cost.

St Catherine's Arts

The Rector reported that a meeting would take place soon to consider the St Catherine's Arts applying for Charitable Trust status.

Churchyard

The Rector reported that a public meeting had not been called pending a grants meeting with the Town Council. They had sought further information, including costings and planning permission, etc.

Heating

The Rector reported that the heating was to be serviced shortly; the radiator which stood alone in the north aisle will be removed in due course and 'cannibalised' to repair the faulty radiator in the Lady Chapel.

The Church clock

The Rector reported that the clock had failed to keep good time recently, but was to be serviced in the next couple of weeks.

4 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HENLEY

Stephen Nichols reported on the last two meetings. There had been a barbeque at Trinity Vicarage, Andrew Lonsdale (the minister at the United Reform Church) had given an excellent presentation following his sabbatical and visits to various holy sites.

There would be a joint service for Churches Together in Henley on the 7th of October at Sacred Heart at 6pm.

5 CHANTRY HOUSE

It had been strongly expressed at the Chantry House Management Meeting that the disability access requirement needed to be met by the installation of a lift, and the PCC was asked whether it would progress this. There was a brief discussion as to where the lift would be installed, and how the money would be raised, but the proposal that the PCC should progress the installation of a lift was passed unanimously, nem con.

The Chantry House teas during the summer had been hugely successful, with the sum of £4,711 being raised, and grateful thanks was expressed to all those helpers who had contributed.

6 TREASURER'S BUSINESS

The Treasurer reported that there had been no great change in the Church finances compared to this point in the financial year in 2006: there was £72,089 in the unrestricted funds and £83,776 in the restricted funds, with a total balance sheet (i.e. including the COIF shares) being £209,756.

The PCC had a general excess currently of receipts over payments of just over £8,000, but, projecting this towards the end of the year, the Treasurer thought there would be a small deficit at the year end.

The Treasurer reported that it was the time of year for the revision of the organist's salary, and he was proposing a standard increase from £5,050 up to £5,302 from the 1st of September. This was approved unanimously, nem con.

The Treasurer agreed to come back to the PCC with a suggestion for a pay increase for Julie Griffin, the Parish Secretary.

7 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

The Secretary had no business to report.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

It was pointed out that the floodlight on the path leading to the Chantry House on one buttress needed repair, and this was noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The organ

The Rector reported that nothing had so far been done to follow up the previous proposals to replace the organ because the person who had been approached whom it was hoped would be able to help play a leading role with regard to finding funding for the new organ had not been able to accept such a role. The PCC therefore needed someone to concentrate on the fundraising role, and although no one had yet been found to head up the fundraising, three people from the PCC agreed to work together initially to consider the matter of the fundraising, namely Stephen Nichols, Liz Preston and Carol Brook-Partridge.

It was agreed that the Rector would write to Mr Wiggins to ask for first refusal on the organ that was available for sale.

Clergy Fraternal

The Rector reported that the next Clergy Fraternal would be from the 8th to the 10th of October in Walsingham.

The meeting closed with prayer at about 10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman ……

Dated ……