

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Wednesday 17th July 2018
7.30 pm Quiet Reflection - St. Leonard's Chapel
8pm Meeting in Chantry House**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

George Constantinidi (Lay Chairman), Sheila Croton (Secretary & Dean Rep), Carol Brook-Partridge (Churchwarden & Dean Rep), Julian Elkington, Stephen Nichols, Kathryn Turner (Treasurer), Jim Hurst, Joan Edwards, Stuart Crippen (Dean Rep), Mary Wood, Robin Hartley and Richard Fletcher.

APOLOGIES:

Martin Whittaker, Sarah Bell, Sue Hockley (Churchwarden), and Sally Batty.

George began the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the PCC meetings for March were accepted as a true record proposed by Richard Fletcher and seconded by Stuart Crippen.

MATTERS ARISING

Painting - There have been various discussions taking place with small progress being made due to legal issues. The motion below was proposed by Richard Fletcher and seconded by George Constantinidi. It was a unanimous decision to take this forward. The PCC considered the future of its asset, the oil painting "Presentation of the Holy Family in Egypt visited by a native family" [1866] by Petrus van Schendel given to the church by the Mackenzie family and stored for the PCC by Sothebys since 2003. It having been reported that Sothebys were no longer prepared to store the painting free of cost on the PCC's behalf, after due consideration by the PCC, bearing in mind

- That the painting, though valued by Sothebys at circa £35,000, was in a fragile condition and required professional conservation
- That it was not advisable for the painting to be displayed in the church in case of theft, damage or vandalism, that since its removal for storage in 2002 there had no comment from any member of the congregation or otherwise on its absence and that the cost of insurance/further storage would be to the detriment of more pressing parish needs

IT WAS RESOLVED as follows:

- Richard Fletcher be authorized to reclaim the painting from Sothebys for temporary storage in the Parish Office
- The painting be disposed of, whether by private treaty, sale by auction or otherwise on the best terms available as approved by the Rector and Churchwardens, and in any case with the prior approval of the Diocese of Oxford
- That the proceeds of disposal be applied as determined by the Rector and Churchwardens towards furthering the mission of St Mary's in Henley and

defraying costs to be incurred on works identified by the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Incomings

Last week we have received a cheque from the Henley Bridge Charities of £35,000. We also received £1358 at the Regatta service. This reflects a decrease on previous years.

Parish Share

We pay the Parish Share in ten instalments through the year. We have now paid three instalments of £7,737 and I expect to pay another four instalments before the end of the month using the monies from the Bridge Charities. The remains of these monies will help to fund the August instalment. The autumn months usually show steady income and out goings so I am confident that we will be able to fund the final two instalments.

Chantry House

As instructed, I have sold sufficient shares to raise £20,000 which is now sitting in the Chantry House current account to fund the repainting of the building. Out of our holding of 2206 shares we have sold 1181 with 1025 remaining. The shares were originally purchased at £13.60 each in Dec 2015 and sold at £16.93 each. We have therefore made a profit of £3,950 plus the dividends earned.

General Resources

The balance in Barclays Bank on 16th July was £52,408. This includes £35,000 from the Bridge Charities and £4004 of this belongs to the Ellen Buckland Bequest Fund. The amount in the Ellen Buckland Fund Account is £107,588 and the Fabric Fund Account holds £28,823 which includes funds from the Friends of St Mary's. The Chantry house current account stands at £23,078.

GDPR

SAFEGUARDING

A reminder that all PCC members are now required to take the first level of safeguarding training. The course is online which takes about 30 mins. A certificate should be printed off at the end to prove completion and these will be filed in the office. Please use this link to register.

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>

This requirement will help to show that we take safeguarding seriously.

FORTHCOMING DATES

- 21st September 2018 - Harvest Supper
- 24th September 2018 - Fr. Jeremy's Induction
- 30th September 2018 - Fr. Jeremy's first Sunday Eucharist (Harvest)

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Carol confirmed that the induction of Fr. Jeremy will take place on Monday 24th September at 7.30pm at St. Mary's. His first Sunday service will be 30th September when we will be celebrating Harvest.

BUILDINGS

Martin was absent but had prepared the following report:

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT. A copy is attached. It will be seen that there are relatively few urgent or category B recommendations of significance. The category C works which is those recommended within the next five years indicates that significant expenditure will be required during this period if all the listed items to maintain the building fabric in an acceptable condition are to be addressed. I think it is a through report containing few surprises. The heating and electrical systems are not included.

ROOF. John Radice has some concerns regarding the quality of some of the replacement slates sourced and fitted by the contractor during the roof repair work last year. He is taking this up with the contractor. As the 12-month retention period for the contract has not yet expired we still hold some for the contractor's funds. On Wednesday 23rd May water leaked into the church in several locations during a torrential rain storm. Our jobbing roofer was asked to check the roof and valley gutters for blockages and he found nothing untoward. John Radice has been asked to check if these leaks are related to the performance of the contractor. It may well be that this problem is simply that the roof and rainwater arrangements designed by our Victorian forefathers are incapable of dealing with the consequences of climate change.

LIGHTENING CONDUCTOR. Following a routine inspection in October 2107 quotation of £4,125 to update the equipment to modern standards has been received. After a detailed discussion about the work involved it is clear that the cost will increase and a new price from the contractor is awaited.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

AOB

Flying the Flag - (Prepared by Sue H) Last January, Rob Ellerby e-mailed Fr. Martyn about the flying of the flag from St. Mary's. He was concerned that for long periods of time an empty flagpole can be seen in and around Henley.

Unfortunately, this communication was not followed up until I bumped into Rob in March when he mentioned it to me. Once enquiries were made, it was discovered that the flags in our possession were in a very poor state and the pennant flag had been tied into so many knots by the Christmas gales that it was shredded beyond any further use.

Rob has agreed to purchase a new pennant flag (and replace it as and when necessary) on our behalf, for as long as he is resident in Henley as long as it is permanently flown from the tower, (unless the weather conditions require it to be taken down for safety reasons). It has been agreed that he and Geoffrey met to inspect the rope, which has to have an inch by inch inspection regularly and then ensure that the rope is checked (ideally monthly).

Geoffrey was going to get the big Flag laundered so that it can be used for Regatta, Armistice Day etc.

POSTCARDS: (Prepared by Sue H) Someone left a rather sarcastic message in the postcard container at the West End to say that we were rather low on cards for sale. I checked, and we were indeed completely out of two of the designs and stocks are very low on the others. I managed to get the name of the photographer

who arranged the taking and printing of the cards last time and she has agreed that we can replace the cards for the same cost as before.

The cost will be- 1000 each of 4 designs = £350, 1000 each of 5 designs = £400,

This works out to be just under 9p per card (VAT not applicable).

Could I please have permission from the PCC to go ahead and order replacements, and which amount would you prefer?

The preferred option of the PCC was 1000 each of 5 designs £400

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

Signed by the Lay Chairman

Dated

Dates of future PCC Meeting dates

Tuesday 27th November 2018