

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Tuesday 23rd January 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), Sue Hockley (Churchwarden), Carol Brook-Partridge (Churchwarden & Dean Rep), Stuart Crippen (Dean Rep), Martin Whittaker, Julian Elkington, Stephen Nichols, Kathryn Turner (Treasurer), Sally Batty, and Mary Wood.

APOLOGIES:

Sarah Bell and Richard Fletcher

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the PCC meetings for July were accepted as a true record proposed by Sue Hockley and seconded by Carol Brook-Partridge.

MATTERS ARISING

Choirmaster. The churchwardens are pleased to announce that we have secured the services of Sebastian Thomson as organist and choirmaster from 1st March 2018. He will be on a temporary contract which will be for a minimum of six months as he plans to cover our services during the interregnum.

Steven Nichols has kindly offered to take choir practices and conduct the choir until Sebastian commences his contract. This offer is very much appreciated by the church wardens.

We have secured the services of various organists for most of the February Services. Sebastian will be with us on 25th February 2018 to play at the 9.30am service.

Painting. The churchwardens are advised to apply for a faculty to sell the painting as we cannot afford to insure it. The Archdeacon has advised that we apply for a faculty for the South Aisle floor repairs at the same time as the revenue from the picture will cover the costs of the repairs. No one can be certain exactly how much we will receive for the painting and some members of the PCC were concerned that it may not cover the costs. Martin Whittaker will seek costs and apply for the faculties. This will be brought back to the PCC once the picture has been sold.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 Accounts

I handed over the books to our accountants yesterday.

Parish Share

We paid our Parish share in full last year with the last payment leaving our bank account on 28th December. Our Parish share for 2018 is £77,374, a 6.6% reduction on last year. This will again be paid in ten instalments.

Building Works

We received the final balance of the Heritage Grant from the LPW roof repair fund making the total grant £88,000. Martin Whittaker is to be congratulated for working so hard on this on behalf of the PCC. I have been told that the grant of £13,210 to cover VAT from the LPW scheme will be in our bank account tomorrow. I expect to make at least one more claim for smaller amounts.

Last year we withdrew £95,500 from the Fabric/Ellen Buckland Fund in the year to cover costs not met by the LPW Roof Repair Grant. I will return the grant in respect of the VAT to the Ellen Buckland Account as soon as possible. The current account owes a further £11,000 to the Ellen Buckland Fund which I will aim to repay as funds become available. Please note that the £100,000 which was transferred from the Ellen Buckland Fund to the Fabric fund has now been consumed.

Fabric Fund

In December, the Friends of St Mary's was wound up by Richard Fletcher and the Church received £20,782 which I have transferred to the Fabric Fund.

Parish Giving

Cheques were issued before the end of the year to the charities agreed in the last meeting.

General Resources

The balance in Barclays Bank this morning was £17,560 which includes about £11,000 owed to the Ellen Buckland Fund. The bulk of the Parish giving has now gone through. We are expecting a FIT payment (solar panels) of £3,000. We received £1,214 in the collection on 14 January. We are in a better position than I thought we might be when I last spoke to you but we cannot be complacent.

Chantry House

There is about £1,400 in the current bank account which is not really enough to keep going until the tea income begins. I have transferred monies from the repair account of £700 to pay for the repair of the window and the Chantry house also owes the Church for its share of decorating the toilets which is £435 so I will need to transfer that amount from the repair account as well. There is currently £17,510 in the repair account which is topped up quarterly by dividends.

Ellen Buckland account

We currently have £93,588 in the Ellen Buckland account

LAY CHAIMAN'S REPORT

George informed us that the congregation collected £2550 For Martyn and Anne and the PCC gave a cheque to Peter when he retired as our Organist last week.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After checking with the PCC secretary from Remenham our secretary has informed Charles Chadwick (Parish Development Advisor) and Sara Leader (Registry Clerk) that the two PCC's will be meeting for a Section 11 Meeting on 20th March 2018. All St Mary's PCC members were informed of this date on 19th January 2018 by email.

The Registry will issue a Vacancy Notice on March 12th 2018. This will officially begin the process of recruiting a new Rector. The Secretary briefly spoke of the forthcoming timetable for this procedure and what each meeting involves. The PCC will be informed of decisions made at each of these meetings.

FORTHCOMING DATES

- 27th Jan 2018 - Henley Choir Festival 7pm (Rehearsals from 2pm)
- 4th Feb 2018 - Chiltern Arts Concert 7.30pm
- 10th March 2018 - Henley Choral Society Concert
- 13th March 2018 - PCC Meeting
- 20th March 2018 - PCC Section 11 Meeting
- 8th April 2018 - APCM
- 16th April 2018 - Section 12 Meeting
- 27th April 2018 - Post Advertised for one month
- 5th June 2018 - Shortlisting of candidates
- 10th July 2018 - Interviews

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Sue has asked for list of people who will help to take on the responsibility for closing the church during the interregnum. It was suggested that each person commits to doing the church a week at a time and if there is a day they cannot do they will find a responsible replacement. Sally, George, and Kathryn offered help. Sue will draw up a list of volunteers with all contact numbers to facilitate this procedure. Julie has agreed to open church on the days which are not already covered by Caroline or Carol.

The message on the answerphone at the office has been amended. If a vicar is needed and no one is in the office people are asked to contact a mobile number and from there the appropriate action will be taken to try and accommodate their request. We must remember that we are extremely fortunate in having Father John taking our Sunday and Thursday services, but he is not our Parish Priest and his number must not be disclosed to anyone.

CHURCHYARD

Sue has again contacted the SODC but they are not seeing the need to replace the railings as a priority. She has had some assistance from Hannah Robertson, Assistant Church Buildings Officer at the diocese and is awaiting a response to her most recent correspondence.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

AOB

The Church of England's Children's Society representative, Daniel, wishes to speak at a service during February. Sue will contact Father John to find a suitable date and then contact Daniel. Brian Brent used to collect the boxes for Henley Churches and with Liz, they used to run the Regatta Café. Whilst this a very worthwhile cause it has fallen to just a few people and it is exhausting work. We do not have anyone in our congregation to carry this work on. It was suggested we use the

Children's Society as our lent charity this year. All agreed, and Daniel will be informed.

Signed by the Lay Chairman

Dated

Dates of future PCC Meeting dates

Tuesday 13th January 2018

Tuesday 13th March 2018

Tuesday 20th March 2018 (Section 11 Meeting)

Sunday 8th April 2018 11am

Tuesday 16th April 2018 (Section 12 Meeting)