

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Tuesday 22nd January
7.30 pm Mass St. Leonard's Chapel
8pm Meeting in Chantry House**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Father Jeremy, Sheila Croton (Secretary & Dean Rep), Sue Hockley (Churchwarden), (Treasurer), Mary Wood, Sally Batty, Robin Hartley, Martin Whittaker, Carol Brook-Partridge, Stephen Nichols, Richard Fletcher, Jim Hurst, George Constantinidi, Julian Elkington and Sebastian Thomson (Director of Music)

APOLOGIES:

Joan Edwards, Stuart Crippen, Kathryn Turner and Sarah Bell.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the PCC meetings for November were accepted as a true record proposed by Sue Hockley and seconded by Mary Wood.

MATTERS ARISING

The super frontal has been ordered and should arrive early next month.

The Sound system engineers have been contacted and will be visiting the church over the next few weeks.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (ST)

Sebastian gave a detailed account of his vision of the direction of the choir. He highlighted areas of concern and solutions where possible to rectify these issues. He handed a paper out to the PCC, (copy with the minutes) giving details of his future plans and ideas. In brief he hopes to restart a junior section of the choir (Melody Makers starting in March and to build links with some of the local schools and Henley college. He also plans to introduce Choral Scholarships and the possibility of running concerts and organ recitals. The PCC agreed to fund the initial start-up of these ventures which will become self-funding in future years. Jim Hurst proposed a figure of £10,000 which was voted on and carried by the majority. This will be transferred from the Ellen Buckland Fund and will be paid into a separate account. He hopes to launch St Mary's Music Foundation and hold regular concerts which will bring musical excellence to Henley

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Father Jeremy hopes to hold a procession from the Market Place to the Church on Palm Sunday. The PCC all supported this idea enthusiastically.
- Bishop Colin will be coming to St Mary's for a Confirmation and Baptism Service on 17th February. The service will start at 10.30 and will be a joint benefice service.

- There is a Youth Club being held on Sunday evenings. The group range from ages 8 to 15 years and are looking into ideas of games and/or equipment they may require.
- There has been a delay in starting the Toddler Club but hopefully this will be up and running sometime in March.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathryn was unable to be present at the meeting and has asked for this report to be included in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report to the PCC on 22nd January 2019

2018

We paid the full amount of our parish share for this year and the planned giving proposed at the last meeting was completed before the end of the year although most of the cheques were cashed this month.

The remedial work on the roof which we had thought might cost £4000 turned out to be £1983. We will be able to reclaim the VAT on this.

The Gift Day on 1st December raised cash of £1525 some of which would have been gift aided. We also received two standing order forms which are now in force.

2019

Parish Share

Although the parish share allocated to the deanery remains nearly the same our parish share has increased by about £4,000 to £81033. We pay the Parish Share in ten instalments through the year. We usually start in March after we have paid the insurance.

General position

The balance in Barclays Bank today was £9,158. Most of the parish giving has now gone through. Given my concerns at the end of November this is rather better than I 'd hoped but it is about £9,000 less than we had at this time last year.

So far this year we appear to have a negative net movement in funds of £2503 but that is due to the repayment of VAT of around £13,000 in respect of the roof repairs, which went back into the Ellen Buckland Fund. Obviously, we will get a better idea when the accounts are produced at next meeting.

We are looking at other ways to raise money for the church, but it will take some time before these come to fruition although I look forward to Father Jeremy's gift day on Saturday.

The amount in the Ellen Buckland Fund Account is £107,588 and the Fabric Fund Account holds £23,823 which includes funds from the Friends of St Mary's.

The Chantry house current account stands at £23,547.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Forthcoming Dates

- 1st February 2019 - Bible Study Group 10-15am in the Chantry House
- 17/02/2019 Confirmation (Joint Benefice Service - 10.30am)
- 1st March 2019 - Bible Study Group 10.15am in the Chantry House
- Further details to follow in the pew sheet in relation to Lent Study Group (will be held on Friday mornings) and the range of Lent and Easter Services.

- Preparations for the APCM are underway. Four of the current PCC will be standing down, Sarah B, Julian E, George C and Richard F. Providing the new electoral Roll gathers a minimum of 101 names there will be 4 vacancies to be filled on the PCC at the APCM. There will also be elections for 2 Church wardens. Forms for all positions will be available shortly and once completed should be handed to the PCC Secretary (Sheila)

DEANERY REPORT - No recent meeting

BUILDINGS REPORT (MW)

I have nothing to add to my building comments at the last meeting which are in the minutes. I have however been talking through in some detail with Joan Bennett and Geoff how they will be progressing the Bells Project. On reflection it seems sensible to exclude the sound control that had been suggested thus avoiding placing any obstacle between the window louvres and the telecom dishes which may eventually be positioned in the bell chamber under a current scheme that has for some time been dormant. The key factor in the Bell Groups plans is their need to obtain the support of the Diocesan Bells Adviser. He was approached in writing in 2012. The response was not entirely encouraging. Joan is now going to invite him to come to visit the tower, discuss the plans and seek to obtain his support which is of course essential to enable the work to go forward. I have discussed with the clock maker Smiths of Derby the possibility of their mechanising the Sanctus bell when they are here to install the automatic clock winding. A firm estimate is awaited. The cost is expected to be in the region of £2,500 to £3,000. It is hoped that the PCC might approve and also agree to fund this item.

RESOLUTION

The PCC agree to install a remote controlled mechanised ringing device for the Sanctus bell together with the associated expenditure up to the value of £3,000.

The decision was carried by the majority voting in favour.

HEALTH & SAFETY - No new issues raised

SAFEGUARDING (SH)

Please use this link to register. <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php> if you have not yet completed this on line training.

The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and update at the Standing Committee and has been passed to the Diocese.

GDPR UPDATE - No changes

AOB

Richard informed the PCC that DAC had turned down our request to sell the painting (yet again!!!). They advised that we didn't need to insure it and should hang it in the church. No-one was happy with this and Fr. J said he would speak to the bishop at his meeting. Richard agreed to write to Sotherby's to advise them of the DAC's decision but say that we would be consulting the bishop. If we do not

get any positive response from him, we would collect the painting and it would be stored upstairs in the little room, behind the filing cabinets. Some members were not happy with this arrangement. The painting would need restoration before hanging and most members could not see any reason to throw good money after bad.

Carol thanked George for all his hard work during the interregnum as he is standing down from the PCC for a well-earned rest. The PCC acknowledge their thanks as he has given many years of service over the years.

The meeting finished with the Grace

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

Dates of future PCC Meeting dates

Tuesday 26th March 2019 PCC Meeting

Sunday 28th April 2019 - APCM

Tuesday 21st May 2019 PCC Meeting

Tuesday 16th July 2019 PCC Meeting