

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Tuesday 26th March 2019
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), Kathryn Turner (Treasurer), Mary Wood, Sally Batty, Robin Hartley, Martin Whittaker, Carol Brook-Partridge (Churchwarden), Stephen Nichols, Richard Fletcher, Jim Hurst, Julian Elkington. and Sarah Bell

APOLOGIES:

Sally Batty

ALSO PRESENT: Hazel Howard

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the PCC meetings for January 15th and 22nd were accepted as a true record proposed by Richard Fletcher and seconded by Sue Hockley. These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

The super frontal and ligillum fall have both arrived.

The Sound system engineers have been contacted and there were found to be no major faults with the system.

Clock Winding Automation - Jim Hurst suggests we do a big thank you and a gift for doing this job for so long. Robin Hartley has agreed to help Norman out with this task until such time as the clock is automated.

Resolution: The PCC give their approval to the recent decision of the Standing Committee for the installation to the church clock of a three train automatic winding system, together with the installation of a PAR100 Pendulum Arrester/Regulator for the sum of £7672 plus VAT. Proposed by Robin Hartley and seconded by Kathryn Turner.

Votes for 14

Votes Against 0

Abstention 0

Numbers of members on the council 17

The Bells There are now counter proposals from the Bells advisor and until these are worked through, we cannot go forward. Joan Bennett is aware of these amendments.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FJ is very keen to make a better connection with the weddings, funerals and baptisms families. He plans to invite all families who have had funerals at Henley to an All Souls Service, people who have been married are to be invited on the day of the reading of the Wedding at Cana and those who have been baptised, to the service on Feast day of the Baptism of Christ.

Secondly, he has a hope that people will engage in Holy Week. We have a full programme of services and he hopes these will be well attended and he wants us to feel we are walking with

Jesus that week. Come to as much as you can. Sue suggests we do the baptism cards on the annual occasion of the baptism people. All thought this was an excellent plan.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Accounts were distributed to members of the PCC.

General Report

Legacies

We have recently received a legacy from Andrew Finlay's estate which we used to partially fund the seed corn donation into St Mary's Choir Fees Account of £10,000 thus preserving more of the Ellen Buckland Fund. His family were keen to know how it was used and we felt that given his membership of the choir this would be appropriate.

We are also beneficiaries of Nancy Barker's will. She left us 2/18ths of her estate which includes the flat at Hewgate Court valued for probate at £300,000. We will have £50,000 from her liquid assets but will have to wait for the sale of the flat to receive the full amount which will hopefully be in the region of £80,000. I will be setting up a new CCLA account for this, so we at least get some interest.

2018 draft Accounts

These show a deficit of £12,310. Our planned giving has decreased by about £3,000. Sundry donations are down but last year's figures included the winding up of Friends of St Mary's. We were also short on legacies. We sold £20,000 worth of the Coif shares held by the Chantry House to fund the repainting. This has decreased the level of dividend. Given that we were in interregnum for most of last year we did well to keep up the level of giving which is partially down to Fr John Croton giving us continuity.

Chantry House

We did well on Chantry House teas and the Regatta café but lettings were down and we are hoping to use more modern ways of advertising to increase these particularly since we have an internet connection.

2019 Parish Share

This is £81,033 for this year. As usual I will pay in 10 instalments starting this week once the insurance has gone through.

St Mary's Choir Fees

An account has been set up at Lloyds with signatories, Sebastian Thomson, Sue Hockley and Kathryn Turner, two to sign and funded with £10,000

Pensions.

We now have two members in our pension scheme, Julie Griffin and Sebastian Thomson. The rate of our contribution goes up from 2% to 3% in April.

Balance of Current Account

On 21st March the balance was £29,966. I am expecting the insurance of £9,919 to be paid today.

To put the current situation in context, in my report on the 2014 accounts I commented that we were running at a deficit of £20,000 as that was the amount we need to borrow from the Ellen Buckland Fund to pay the 2014 Parish Share. We are in a better position today as we paid our full parish share without the help of the Ellen Buckland Fund although we are using that to help fund the choir project. We have about 60 regular givers in standing orders and coloured envelopes. To get extra income of say £15,000 we would need an extra £250 per year from each of these some of whom are no doubt giving all they can afford and others giving very generously. However, I think we need to be more creative and I think we should at least invite someone from the diocese to talk to us about the new Parish Giving scheme which is being adopted throughout many dioceses in England and cuts down on the work of the various officers. We should also consider a card reading machine as we have a lot of visitors in the summer from all over the world and a lot of people don't carry much cash. (Prepared by Kathryn Turner)

The accounts were proposed by Richard Fletcher and seconded by Sally Batty. All agreed to accept the accounts.

Stephen asked about the cost of the card machine and the cost of running it. FJ stated the cost is negligible. It is a straightforward system recommended by diocese. SN concerns about being obsolete in two years. FJ said if that was the case we would not upgrade.

It was suggested we may like to invite someone to talk on Pastoral giving on a Sunday morning. It was also suggested that perhaps we have a card reader machine for the Chantry House Teas. This would be a completely different set up to the one the diocese are recommending for church giving.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Preparations for the APCM are underway. We currently have 113 names on the new electoral Roll. Churchwardens are elected annually, and we have 2 to elect. There are 4 PCC vacancies. There is 1 Deanery Synod vacancy as Stuart has indicated his wish to stand down. All forms for the above positions are on the notice board and once completed should be returned to the PCC Secretary.

DEANERY REPORT

The Deanery Synod met on Tuesday 12th February at the Ark, Shiplake. The area Dean welcomed Ben Phillips, the new vicar of Goring and Streatley with South Stoke. It was agreed the quota paid to the Deanery from parishes would be 0.05% of the Parish share this year.

It was announced that the usual Plough Wednesday held in January would be a Rogation Wednesday in May with a visit to the Royal Farms at Windsor.

There was a talk on local school chaplaincies by the Rev'd Charlie Kerr. He has been chaplain at St Edward's Oxford and said he found an appetite for spirituality but a reluctance about going to church. He found he could be a bridge builder. He said that today there are high levels of anxiety and a lack of self-confidence amongst teenagers. Apparently, there is funding available for one-day-a-week chaplains at local schools. (Prepared by Carol Brook Partridge)

BUILDINGS REPORT (MW)

Martin had nothing new other than the latest update on the bells project as mentioned above.

HEALTH & SAFETY - There are concerns over NT winding the clock which is to be automated. Robin has offered to help Norman in the short term.

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.

GDPR UPDATE None

AOB

The Banners advertising Evensong have fallen apart and we need two new banners. PCC agreed that new ones can be purchased.

CCTV

We had a bit of a problem with teenagers in church we also had a hand bag theft from one of the flower ladies. Majority of the PCC are not keen on CCTV cameras in the church. There is some low level nuisance behaviour after school and holidays.

Hymn Boards

A member of the congregation has requested that the church return to having hymn boards so that the numbers are clearly available. People who are not regular member of the congregation

often struggle with the pieces of paper that are handed out. A discussion was had included an electronic display board which was not greeted with enthusiasm. It was agreed the cost of new boards and numbers could be investigated.

Painting FJ met with the bishop who said he needs to speak to archdeacon, FJ has organised a three-way conversation.

Jim Hurst mentioned that the table at back of church appears to have woodworm. Martin W said all furniture like this is treated every year.

The meeting finished with the Grace

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

Dates of future PCC Meeting dates

Sunday 28th April 2019 - APCM

Tuesday 21st May 2019 PCC Meeting

Tuesday 16th July 2019 PCC Meeting