

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Tuesday 21st May 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, Robin Hartley (Churchwarden), Martin Whittaker, Carol Brook-Partridge (Dean Rep), Stephen Nichols, Richard Fletcher, Julian Elkington Sally Batty, and Terry Grouk (Dean Rep).

APOLOGIES:

Jim Hurst, Joan Edwards

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the PCC meetings were proposed by Mary Wood and seconded by Sally Batty. These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Hymn Boards cost from £180 to £350. PCC felt we should be better prepared as parishioners to notice and help visitors; therefore, we will not purchase these at the moment.

Bells

There seems to have been various messages going around about where we are with this project. For clarification the application for funding form was returned to Joan Bennett, but this was not due to any church persons intervention. It was purely that the fund applied to were not satisfied with the application. It is also to be noted that this particular fund would not give any money to us while we have any quinquennial repairs outstanding. Therefore, as we do have such works outstanding, even if we applied the application would be refused.

To progress this project there needs to be an agreement with the Diocesan Bells Advisor. The DBA has two suggestions, one is to not replace all the bells but use some of them and make some new lighter bells as well. The second is to reduce the weight of the current bells. However, these would not be as light as Joan wishes but the DBA feels that if we use the proposal as is, the sound of the bells will not be a pleasant sound.

Julian gave an overview of how the bells are rung and the difficulties the current bells cause. Sue explained that unless the bells adviser is on board and agrees our proposal, we will not get a faculty.

Stephen feels we need to get this sorted.

NB: An outing has been arranged for June when the PCC are invited to join the bell ringers for a tour of nearby churches where we can listen to the bells of a similar weight as those proposed being rung. This should help us all to understand the ringing problems and the differences of opinion between our DBA and Tower Captain.

The resolution:

It is proposed that all work on the bells project including grant applications and fund raising should now cease until the justification, and nature and scope have been clarified to the satisfaction of the Diocesan Bells Advisor and DAC secretary. In order for the project to start again, the rector

and churchwardens will need to be satisfied that this is the case and also satisfied that an adequate plan is in place to deliver the project.

Votes for: 11

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 2

Present: 13

Total on PCC: 15

Bequests

A request was made at the APCM that bequests should be brought to the PCC. We could then decide whether to dedicate the money to something specific and fitting to the person who bequeathed us the money. We should consult with the family. We would, however, still need to use some of the funds for day to day running of the church.

Carol felt that Nancy would have liked her money spent on outreach/mission.

Also discussed was whether we should in some way acknowledge these bequests e.g. Ellen Buckland

Stephen suggested the PCC should decide as each bequest comes in so we can consider the wishes of the giver/family and the amount. This was agreed as a way forward.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kathryn Turner was elected as PCC Treasurer, proposed by Martin W and seconded by Sue Hockley. Sheila Croton was elected as PCC Secretary, proposed by Carol BP and seconded by Sally B. All were in favour.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have had Holy Week and Easter. People came to many things and hopefully people felt it was worthwhile. This year is much as it will be in future years. Father Jeremy hopes to get visiting preachers in future, so we have a variety of people to listen to over the Easter Season.

He stated how things are moving forward with the children's groups. Stephen continues to lead Junior Church; the Youth Club is attended by between 12 and 15 8-16 year olds. We also have the toddler group thanks to Terry and Gill. Last week there were 15 toddlers. The youth club has not been advertised as yet, but Fr. Jeremy asked us to think and pray about how we can increase our capacity.

He has considered a Pastoral Assistant, but housing would be an issue. He has spoken with the Municipal Charities to see if one of the Alms houses could be made available. They can appoint a warden, a notional person who we could perhaps ask to keep an eye on the older people. It was a suggestion from the bishop.

Regarding bequests and how we use money, Julie Jones has been asked to visit us to discuss the Parish Giving Scheme. She will visit twice to cover both St Mary's and Remenham. She will preach at the 9.30am service on 23rd June then we can meet with her after the service, during coffee, where she will be able to answer questions and concerns.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report to the PCC on 21st May 2019

Legacies

We have received an advance of our inheritance from Nancy Baker's will of £58,376. We are still awaiting the sale of Hewgate Court.

Tax Repayments

We have received a repayment of £1,828 in respect of open plate donations thanks to Richard Fletcher

2019 Parish Share

This is £81,033 for this year. I have paid the first of 10 instalments of £8,100. We have recently received £11,296 from Grimley's (Mobile Phone Mast) so I aim to pay the next instalment by the end of the month.

Parish Giving Scheme

Fr Jeremy has arranged for Julie Jones from the Diocese to visit both St Mary's and Remenham to address the congregation about this and to have a meeting afterwards. She will be visiting Remenham on 9th June and St Mary's on 23rd June. The Rector will not attend Remenham on 23rd and will be present at the meeting afterwards. I will not be here on 23rd but will attend Remenham on 9th. If we decided to adopt the scheme, we may need someone to take over the introduction as a discrete project. We are also planning to purchase a contactless offertory plate for £175 plus VAT. We may not wish to use it during the service, but it will be available at the back of the church for visitors. NB: We agreed at the meeting that we would buy the tablet device (the cost was between £300 and £400), rather than the offertory plate.

Chantry House

The Chantry House has had a new boiler costing £4931 and the painting of the outside has been finished at a cost of £18850. I have transferred £10,000 from the Chantry House Repair Account into the current bank account leaving £5626. The current bank account stands at £5172 when the cheque for the painting clears. We still hold £16,555 in shares.

The teas have got off to a good start and I have already banked £400, but volunteers are always welcome.

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.

Employees Pay We will be giving our employees who have been with us for more than a year, a pay rise back dated back to January.

Balance of Current Account

On 18th May the balance was £80,140. This includes Nancy's legacy, so the balance of normal funds is £21764. This also includes £11296 from the Mobile Phone Mast.

The Ellen Buckland Fund is worth £103,116.

CHURCHWARDEN REPORT

A big thankyou to Carol for all her hard work over many years. Also, a thank you to Robin for stepping into the post and to Sue for continuing her service.

BUILDINGS REPORT (MW)

The faculty for the automation of the clock winding is progressing and should be with us soon. The one for the automation of the Sanctus bell is a little further behind.

HEALTH & SAFETY -

First Aid and Fire Training. We do need to check what cover we have in the congregation. We also need to check that we have people adequately trained to use the fire extinguishers.

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 Still some members of PCC who have not completed a form

AOB: The Archdeacon will be coming to discuss the painting with Richard F and Father Jeremy.

The meeting finished with the Grace

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

Future PCC Meeting dates

Tuesday 16th July 2019 PCC Meeting