

**St Mary the Virgin - Henley
Parochial Church Council
PCC Meeting Tuesday 16th July 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, Jim Hurst, Sally Batty, and Terry Grouk (Dean Rep). Alan Frost (Diocesan Bells Advisor-DBA)

APOLOGIES:

Joan Edwards

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

BELLS PROJECT

A precis of the visits made by the PCC members was sent to all members of the PCC prior to the meeting. Alan Frost was present at the meeting to enable members to ask any questions in relation to the bells replacement and ideas or concerns raised. All those who visited did question whether changing the bells was actually the correct action to be taking. There were various alternatives suggested including recruiting younger members by having a campaign (thought to be considerably less expensive). Or asking if the youth club members would be prepared to help out. The question as to how other churches manage, especially the more rural ones, and how ringers have managed over the last few hundred years were considered and discussed. Alan explained about the different weights of our heavier bells. He stated light bells would be unsuitable for a town like Henley. He advised we change one of the bells and have it tuned and rehung, we could then retain 5 of our bells and purchase 3 new bells. This would make the new set of bells lighter overall but not as light as Joan proposed but would give a very pleasant octave and reduce the costs. The issue of the tower having some sway due to the bells being rung was also mentioned but we were informed by Alan that all towers sway and as our architect has not raised any concerns there is no reason to believe there are any issues here. The proposal to enable this project to move forward is to arrange an extraordinary meeting in the Autumn where the PCC, DAC, Alan, Joan (Tower Captain) and Geoff (Bell ringer) meet together. Without DAC approval we will not be able to change anything, so it is important to get them on board before proceeding with faculty applications.

PARISH GIVING

Julie Jones came to speak to the congregation about the Parish Giving Scheme. She chatted after the service and spoke in more detail about certain aspects and Stephen kindly sent a

brief resume of her discussions to all members of the PCC prior to the meeting. The scheme encourages people to pay by Direct Debit as opposed to Standing Order. There is an option for the DD to be increased annually by inflation. There were opposing views on some aspects of the scheme and divided thoughts as to whether or not St Mary's should introduce it. Fr. Jeremy felt that this could well be a generational thing. A decision was made to invite Julie to a PCC meeting enabling all members to discuss their concerns and issues.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Father Jeremy felt that looking back he was pleased with how things have gone. New groups have started with a wide range of people contributing in various ways. Now we need to work to build these clubs and activities up which will involve hard work as they never seem to have the same 'buzz' as when they actually start. He is aware of the old adage that a vicar can do nothing wrong in his first year but nothing right in his second year!!!! He felt very impressed with the prayer life of those at St Mary's. There are both formal and informal groups. Morning prayer often has three or four people present so he is no longer saying it alone. Growth in prayer is testimony to the health of a parish. He asks that we all take prayer seriously - requesting us to pray regularly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts

We have received our customary payment of £35,000 from Henley Municipal Charities.

2019 Parish Share

We have paid 6 out of 10 instalments of our Parish share with the help of the grant from Henley Municipal Charities.

Parish Giving Scheme

We have acquired a card reader which has been in place since the beginning of the regatta. I am awaiting a username and a password to access the website which will tell us how much it has earned. We have received an amount of £57.48 but it is not clear whether that is on our own box or the box we borrowed from the diocese for the Regatta service.

Regatta Service apart from the above we received £1612 at the Regatta Service £250 more than last year.

Chantry House

The Regatta Café did well and the Chantry House received a donation of £1,000. Chantry House Teas have brought in £2,200 so far this year.

Redundancy

With the installation of the automatic clock winder Norman Topsom's job will disappear at the end of this month. His statutory redundancy will amount to £450 but as instructed by the PCC we will be paying him £1,000.

Balance of Current Account

On 15 July the balance was £108,302. This includes Nancy's legacy of £58,000 which I have not yet moved into a separate account and the payment of £35,000 less £32,400 of the Parish share pending so the balance of normal funds is £17,902. This is before a transfer from the Fabric Fund for the clock.

The Ellen Buckland Fund is worth £103,116.

BUILDINGS REPORT (MW)

The clock has been mechanised as far as is possible. Norman will continue to do a little routine maintenance, free of charge, This includes changing the time twice a year. He knows he has to do this when others are in attendance for health and safety purposes.

The Sanctus bell needs some alterations before it can be mechanised as the builders were not aware the bell actually swung.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Fire Safety awareness training is held for groups of 8 people at the cost of £600. Andrew Adams is to be asked to set some training up for St Mary's.

First Aid training is to be arranged shortly.

SAFEGUARDING (SH)

It is now a requirement for all PCC members to do the CO online training and the C1 training either on-line or there is a Deanery training session on Tuesday 24th September 9.30 - 1pm at Goring.

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

It is now a requirement that members of the PCC undertake a DBS check. Sue will send each member their Identification number with all necessary information to complete the forms on-line.

GDPR UPDATE

Still some members of PCC who have not completed a form.

AOB:

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

Chalice Assistant: Robin Hartley will be made a Chalice bearer to help out at any services where needed but especially at the 8am service on Sunday mornings.

The meeting finished with the Grace

Signed by the Chairman

Dated

Future PCC Meeting dates

Tuesday 24th September 2019 PCC Meeting