

**Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parochial Church Council**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church**  
**Hall**

Present: The Rector, J Setchfield and G Francis (Churchwardens), the Rev N Adley, P Eward (vice-Chairman), K Vitale (Secretary), P Raddenbury (Treasurer), V Allen, C Beddows, K Richards and A Purvis, T Harding, A Morris, the Rev L Mathew and P Reynolds.

**1. Opening Prayers**

The Rector opened with prayers.

**2. Apologies**

D Glover, F Davies, A Farrington and S Edwards.

**3. Town Council Report**

None

**4. Declaration of any other business**

The Rev L Mathew – Neighbours' ministry in the church congregation.  
J Setchfield – Letter from Cllr.Mayo

**5. Minutes of last meeting**

Acceptance of the January 2016 minutes with only a few minor amendments was proposed by A Morris, seconded by K Vitale.  
Unanimously agreed.

**6. Matters Arising**

None.

**7. Correspondence**

The Secretary had received a letter from P Mason requesting the PCC to consider purchasing bibles for the children of Brampton Abbots School as they go from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. This was done last year and was very well received by the children. The total cost would be no more than £200.00.

Proposed by Rev N Adley

Seconded by A Morris

Unanimously agreed

**8. Finance**

The Treasurer had distributed the finance report to the PCC ahead of the meeting. The main area of business for the meeting will be to approve this.

G Francis asked if British Gas had issued an up to date bill; the Treasurer responded that a new meter is being fitted so an accurate bill should be received then.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for a clear and concise report, but stressed that we do need a plan for the proposed deficit for 2017.

The Rector has preached on the subject of giving, P Eward said that there had been some increase in regular giving, The Rector asked that we all consider our giving and be ambassadors to other members of the congregation.

Rev N Adley asked if funds were being put aside for the next quinquennial report. The Treasurer said it was not in the report but it will be added in 2017. The Rector asked that in the 2017 budget the money is put aside so we can see the true deficit.

This PCC approves the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

Proposed by P Reynolds and seconded by P Eward - Unanimously agreed

Small Lotteries registration with Herefordshire Council: A return needs to be made and needs to be signed by two PCC members.

This PCC authorises P Raddenbury and G Francis to sign the return.

Proposed by P Raddenbury

Seconded by G Francis  
Unanimously agreed

The finance group will meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, when they will review the financial position for 2016. The Treasurer informed the PCC that the amount of £3067 for the repair of the window will be covered by the insurance and the amount of £2378 is for the additional window security, making the total deficit £12,000.

P Eward asked if the window security could come from the fabric fund. The Rector thought this was a good idea as this fund has a positive balance.

The Treasurer has visited HSBC in order to discuss two accounts that we have not yet got under our control, The Ross Clergy Fund and Ross Christian Education. The latter has gone into their dormant funds account and so we need to get it re-activated before they will issue new mandate forms for completion. The Treasurer has the mandate forms for the Ross Clergy Account. For both accounts HSBC require us to authorise signatories. The Rector and two Churchwardens could act as signatories on the accounts.

This PCC proposes that the Rector and J Setchfield and G Francis as Churchwardens be authorised to act as signatories on the following accounts:

1. HSBC account number 31032445 Ross Clergy Fund
2. HSBC account number 51377167 Ross Christian Education

and to arrange for the Ross Christian Education Account to be reinstated from the dormant accounts of HSBC.

Proposed by P Reynolds  
Seconded by the Rev N Adley  
Unanimously agreed

C Beddows asked how much is in the second account: the amount is £2486. G Francis asked what was the purpose of the Clergy account. It is a gift to be used for the upkeep of the Mission Room and for Clerical Lay Assistants. G Francis asked if we have any Clerical Lay Assistants, the Treasurer replied if we do not have the need for the money for its written intention it can be used for other purposes upon authorisation.

## **9. Rector's Business**

The team of Lay people who assist in administering communion both in church and in people's homes needs to be approved by the Bishop. The list of names was read out to the PCC for their agreement.

Proposed by V Allen  
Seconded by J Setchfield  
Unanimously agreed

The Rector reminded members of the PCC to complete their electoral roll forms. Deanery Synod members have another year of their term to serve.

The Rector asked that everybody who needs to submit a report for the APCM should please get it in to the office.

The diocese has typically had a formula for the Parish Share, from which the amount per parish is worked out. From 2017 parishes will no longer be issued with an "invoice", but asked to give what they can. The Rector suggests we take our current share, ask the diocese what the increase would have been and pay that amount. The Rector expressed her concern over this new method of charging, as it could have damaging consequences if parishes do not pay their share in full.

Herefordshire Churches Tourist Group informed the PCC of their forthcoming AGM. The Rector asked if anybody was interested in attending or just interested in gaining more information. P Reynolds thought it may be useful for The Friends, he will make contact as he is unable to attend the meeting.

## **10. Friends of St. Mary's**

No meeting has been held since the last PCC.

Hereford Police Choir could not come this year, but a date has been set for 2017.

## **11. St. Mary's Hall and St. Mary's Church Developments**

## **Hall**

K Richards is still awaiting information from the Architect. He is also sorting out the lighting and the heating. The Rector asked about the soil pipe; this is also awaiting further information from the Architect, for which K Richards is chasing him.

T Harding asked about the leaking roof. K Richards replied that it has been looked at but they are having difficulty in identifying the leak, but it could be a gutter problem. Further investigation is ongoing.

## **Church**

J Setchfield has had the drawings back from the Architect, and has a meeting on Monday to approve them, select chairs and send details back to Hereford and then on to London. The Rector has done a presentation to the congregation on the developments but did not discuss the chairs.

The Church Wardens have received a letter from Cllr. R Mayo on behalf of Ross Town Council regarding the lighting in the churchyard.

*"The Committee has recently discussed the lights and concerns have been expressed regarding a number of issues including the effectiveness, the locations and the running costs. A number of bulbs need replacing and I understand that the current ones in use are very expensive to replace in addition to being costly to run.*

*"The Committee would like to ask the PCC if it would be prepared to discuss other options for lighting and one suggestion would be to remove the existing lamps and purchase new fixings that are LED compatible and to relocate them to the parapet at the base of the Church Spire. It was felt this would provide more effective lighting of the Spire, giving greater visibility whilst enabling the reinstatement of the grassed areas where the existing ground level lights are located.*

*"The Council only has a small budget for the Closed Churchyard and the electricity cost last year for the floodlights was in excess of £1200.00. There is a small budget of £300.00 for floodlight maintenance so it might therefore be necessary to ask if there is any possibility of a financial contribution being made to any improvements."*

G Francis asked if we would need a faculty to move the lights and whether we should have poor lighting for the length of time that this will take. The Town Council will pay but have requested a donation. P Reynolds suggested it may be something that the Friends of St.Mary's may be interested in.

P Eward questioned safety on the footpaths, The Rector said she had spoken with Cllr. R Mayo on this. We need more than lights which light only the spire as the whole of the Churchyard needs to be lit for safety as well as aesthetics. J Setchfield will go back to Cllr. R Mayo for further discussion, as the PCC cannot approve anything without further information and costings.

P Reynolds said he was aware of another church where the floodlighting was funded by members of the community for a week in memory of somebody or a celebration. A Purvis expressed a concern about the amount of things we were asking the community for. The Rector replied that the floodlighting would be something the council would do, but agreed that we will be asking the community for several things, including chairs, flower festival, churchyard and general funds.

## **12. Local Ministry and Development Group**

The next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

## **13. Deanery Synod**

No meeting has been held since the last PCC.

## **14. AOB**

Neighbourhood Ministry in the church congregation – The Rev L Mathew. When people are missing from the congregation, it may be due to illness or bereavement, and this is not always picked up. C Beddows will be the co-ordinator to whom the congregation can report if anybody is unexpectedly not in church for a few weeks. If C Beddows, the Rev L Mathew or the office are informed they can then ensure that person is safe and well.

Charitable Giving – T Harding proposed a charity called 'Under the Same Sun' which cares for albinos in Africa, who are often ostracised by their community and treated very badly by Witch Doctors. The charity is run from Canada and needs money for sunglasses, sun cream and other

protective items.

P Raddenbury proposed a charity he has been involved with, CADDI - Cinderford & District Development Initiative, which also operates in Drybrook. It is a charity for young people to be kept safe and off the streets. Activities are provided including dance and learning an instrument. They have previously had funding from Children in Need but will not be receiving any funding from them this year.

P Eward proposed The Bishops Advent appeal for Train A Priest.

P Eward suggested we split the amount, £1505, equally between the three charities.

Proposed by P Eward

Seconded by J Setchfield

Unanimously agreed

The meeting finished at 8.55 with prayers from the Rev L Mathew.