

Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye
Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's
Hall

Present: The Rector, J Setchfield and J Cooper (Churchwardens), P Eward (vice-Chairman), K Vitale (Secretary), P Raddenbury (Treasurer), V Allen, K Richards, T Harding, A Morris, the Rev L Mathew, M Sanderson, S Edwards, and the Rev S Tarlton.

1. Opening Prayers

The Rev L Mathew opened with prayers.

2. Apologies

D Glover and F Davies, A Purvis and P Reynolds.

3. Town Council Report

No report. In July's PCC Cllr R Mayo had been asked if his contractor could look at the tree, however the contractor cut down the tree without a faculty. A faculty application has been submitted, but has been returned requesting further information.

4. Declaration of any other business

Choir, and Organ tuning - M Sanderson
War Memorial - J Setchfield

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the July 2016 meeting having been previously circulated were read and accepted with a few minor changes.

Proposed: S Edwards

Seconded: P Raddenbury

Unanimous

6. Matters Arising

The Rector thanked V Allen and the rest of the team for the remarkable organisation of the Flower Festival, which raised £4605. The team have since had a successful review meeting.

In Summer 2017 the Friends are organising a fundraiser and the PCC needs to think of a fund raising event for Winter 2017.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Finance

The Finance group has met to review the budget report, and they would like to thank M Mason and Preb J Talbot-Ponsonby for all the refreshments which are organised, and the funds this raises.

The Organist and Choir overspend was due to the advertisements placed for an Organist.

The Churchwardens of Walford and Ross have reviewed how much Walford contributes to administration and the Rectory. A contribution of 12.9% was proposed this year, against 12.72% last year.

This PCC proposes Ross Benefice pay 87.1% of the Clergy and Administration cost of the benefice, and that Walford pay 12.9%.

Proposed: P Raddenbury

Seconded: J Cooper

Unanimous

At the Harvest Festival service on the 25th September, the Rector will ask parishioners to consider if they would contribute £10 per month each, this would wipe out the deficit. This has been previously mentioned and will be put in the newsletter the week before the Harvest Service.

J Setchfield has spoken with the Council about having a stall on 5th November to raise both funds and awareness.

The current budget shows a deficit of £7470, P Raddenbury is confident that it will not increase above £10k.

9. Rector's Business

The diocese has now checked the figures for C Wheatley and they have been sent to her. Her notice period ends in November.

An After School Club will start at the end of September. It will be for children in Key Stage 2 (7-11) and will run on Fridays 3.30 - 4.30.

House for Duty Priests for both Brampton Abbots and Walford are required. The Rev L Mathew has written the advertisement for Walford and the Rector has written the advertisement for Brampton Abbots, and both are with the Archdeacon for approval. It is hoped to place the advertisements in October with interviewing in November. M Sanderson asked if we were aiming the positions at persons with youth work experience, The Rector replied that she did not wish to narrow the specification too much.

Addaction will now be hiring the upstairs room in the hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Andrew Morris is drawing up a contract. T Harding asked if Addaction have their own Public Liability Insurance and would we need to advise our insurance company. K Richards will investigate.

The PCC need to discuss where our Christian Giving is donated next year. The Rector suggested that members nominate a charity or organisation with an accompanying paragraph which could be displayed in church and bring the congregations feed back to the next PCC for discussion.

The Rev L Mathew had visited Uganda. There should now be a plaque recognising our past contribution. The Secretary will bring to the November PCC information of where the funds were sent last year and get some information as to what the money was spent on.

The PA System does not need a faculty; the Archdeacon can sign it off when the existing system is replaced. The options are:

Option 1. In the Nave Archway there be a large mounted speaker. M Sanderson felt that it would look unsightly and DAC would probably not give approval.

Option 2. Mount the speakers on the front 2 columns and halfway the church down a smaller repeater speaker. This is the preferred choice but the Rector was concerned about vandalism.

Option 3. Speakers could be put in the same place as the existing ones, but as the technology is much more advanced the sound would be far superior to the current system.

The cost will be approx. £7k more than the original approved budget.

M Sanderson and S Edwards both preferred option 3, as this is a long term investment and would work better when we re-configure the church.

P Eward asked if they would project the sound to the back of the church, The Rector confirmed they would be set so the whole church is covered. J Cooper preferred option 3, stating that the DAC would not be able to object if we are putting them in the same place as the originals, J Setchfield agreed.

P Eward asked if we could get a specific grant for this, The Rector will get the paperwork in order to bring to the November PCC.

The office computer is now 8 years old.. A consultant has spent an hour, free of charge, looking at it, but it no longer automatically backs up. The consultant recommended a new PC with Windows 10 at a cost of approx. £400. The Rector to get approval from the Standing Committee.

This PCC gives the Standing Committee the authority to approve a new PC and associated software.

Proposed: Rev L Mathew

Seconded: M Sanderson

Carried

The choice of new chairs for the Church continues to be an ongoing issue, and the faculty application has been going back and forth. The padded chairs are approx. £65 and the unpadded chair approx. £160. The DAC said if we really wanted the padded chairs they would back us. However, the problem is that the colour can fade over time and the padding can become worn. The Victorian Society regrets the loss of the pews, but will support the use of chairs but not with padded seats as they do not fit with a historic listed building. M Sanderson found another unpadded chair which costs less, and an example has been ordered. Most of the PCC members agreed on the wooden chair option, The Rev, L Mathew will supply a chair from Walford to compare with the sample M Sanderson is getting.

The PCC has to make a decision on the chairs. M Sanderson will email the prices to the Secretary for onward circulation to the PCC and members are asked to give their feedback to K Vitale no later than 25th September.

10. Benefice Away Day

Some key points raised were putting noticeboards in the churchyard, and outdoor lighting. J Setchfield has written to the council to ask them to maintain the outside lighting, which they will do but they will not be supply any further lighting due to lack of funds.

The Rector has had feedback that we are not always very welcoming at coffee after services.

Sometimes new people have been left to sit alone, and we need to consider if we are as good as we think we are. T Harding suggested we have a welcome pack and brought a sample of one he had been given from another church he had visited.

A suggestion was made that a member of the congregation could speak on something they are involved

with, e.g. Bereavement group, during a service, but this would not always be suitable, and should be done only when relevant to the sermon. A further suggestion was that the talk could take place in the hall at coffee.

The website urgently needs updating. The Secretary will add this to the next agenda.

11. Friends of St. Mary's

No report.

12. St. Mary's Hall and St. Mary's Church Developments

Church Hall

The Church Hall Committee has been restarted with the following members:

P Waters, J Cooper, Preb J Talbot-Ponsonby, T Davies, G Altree, and K Richards as Chairman.

The committee has met once to have a complete tour of the premises and made notes of all the potential work needed. A meeting on 27th September has been arranged between K Richards and Wendy Coombey (the Diocesan Funding Officer) to discuss funding opportunities.

The Rector informed the PCC that Addaction will occasionally need the downstairs hall for anybody who cannot manage the stairs, but that they are happy to speak with L Jarvis to see if the main hall is booked.

P Eward does not think the hall is listed, but K Richards confirmed it is listed grade 2.

A faculty for the ramp will replace the need for planning permission. The pathway will need to be widened to accommodate a new ramp, and we need to check that we can dig near the plague pit. The Rector felt this would not be a problem, but suggested K Richards checks with Public Health first.

S Edwards said D Ravenscroft may be able to help with raising funds.

13. Deanery Synod

A Morris and the Rev. S Tarlton had attended the meeting. There was a talk by the Diocesan Safeguarding officer, Amanda McPhee. She is happy to do training within the benefice and suggests we check our insurance with regard to safeguarding arrangements. A Morris will send the information to D Glover.

14. AOB

M Sanderson notified the meeting that the organ had never been on a proper tuning contract and it really should be as it is more economical. The contract should be for 4 visits per year. He will bring quotes to the November PCC.

M Sanderson would like to put a group together to help apply for funds and grants to help with Choir development. He is happy to finance the choral scholarship in the short term. He has previously given 'pocket money' to children who don't have a choral scholarship. He asked if the choir might receive £50 per month as done in previous years, which only stopped as the choir fund did not require additional funds at the time. P Raddenbury suggested we put it in the budget for 2017.

T Harding asked if funds from the Christian Education Fund could be used until 2017.

M Sanderson proposes a payment of £50 per month for the choir fund be reintroduced starting in January 2017, and that Oct - Dec 2016 funds be taken from Christian Education Fund.

Proposed: M Sanderson

Seconded: T Harding

Unanimous

Historic England has contacted J Setchfield concerning its proposal to list the War Memorial in the Prospect. The PCC was in favour of this but the Rector asked J Setchfield to check with the Town Council before agreeing.

Rev L Mathew notified the meeting that the Job Club has started on Tuesdays and more volunteers are needed.

The Rector closed the meeting at 21.35 with prayers from the Rev S Tarlton.