

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye
Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7.30pm 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, M Sanderson, T Harding, the Rev S Tarlton, B Jones, and Prebendary C Pascoe.

1. Opening Prayers

The Rev S Tarlton opened with prayer.

2. Apologies

D Glover, P Reynolds, K Richards, Canon F Davies, the Rev Canon C Blanchard, the Rev Canon M Bamforth, A Morris and Cllr.R Mayo.

3. Town Council Report

No report from Cllr R Mayo. The Rector had received an email from R Lewis informing her that The Amenities Committee had met and had nominated two members (Caroline Bennett and Caroline Utting) to join a working group, to include resolving the issue of the floodlights outside the church. R Lewis requested that the Rector get feedback from the congregation and if possible names of anyone interested in assisting the committee.

The Rector asked J Setchfield when he would next be meeting with Cllr R Mayo to discuss the path repairs, and expressed her concern that somebody may trip on the uneven surface.

4. Declaration of AOB

None

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were read and agreed.

Proposed: J Cooper

Seconded: P Raddenbury

Carried Unanimously

6. Matters Arising

J Cooper has ordered a headstone in memory of Mrs Margaret Jones at a cost of £558.

P Eward wrote to the Charity Commission on 24th May but has not yet had a response.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Finance

The budget report was circulated; some expenses are still to be paid. If expenditure does increase the budget deficit will also increase. Voluntary income is anticipated to be down £5k + £1250 tax on budget. The parish giving advisers are offering support and advice to each benefice.

9. Rector's Business

The Rev Canon M Bamforth was licensed on the 3rd July.

We currently do not have a Deanery synod representative, and we do need to have at least one, The Rector outlined what being a member would entail, and M Sanderson and P Eward kindly volunteered.

When the previous Parish Share formula was in place we always paid above the calculated amount, but several years ago we started to reduce the overpayment. However, we are still paying over £67k per annum even though the system has changed to be more flexible. S Herbert, Diocesan Director of Finance, met with the Rector and the Treasurer to discuss our need to reduce our contribution. The plan is to reduce our overpayments over the next 4-5 years. The Rector distributed a document detailing the proposed offer.

Prebendary C Pascoe left the meeting whilst the proposal was discussed. The plan will be submitted using an inflation figure of 3%, but this may change should inflation change.

Proposed: M Sanderson

Seconded: P Eward

Unanimous

Mission Action Plan – Ross has been selected to receive a Mission Action person. The main responsibility of the person will be to reach out to the younger generation. This is a full time appointment and will probably be filled by a lay person.

We need to decide on the areas we need to build on and seek growth. Areas which have already been identified are baptisms, weddings and funerals. Church growth will most likely come from people meeting at times other than the Sunday 9.30 service, so the current congregation may not see an increase at that service. The process now is that some of the above will be agreed on and the position advertised in September for the person to start at the beginning of 2018. A briefing meeting with the Diocese is planned for 4th September.

The Rector informed the meeting that the new administrator is settling in well.

The Rev S Tarlton will now be with us for 4 days a week and will be leading the Pastoral Ministry team.

The Job Club had stopped when Prebendary J Talbot-Ponsonby left the Parish, but the Rev S Tarlton will re-start it, probably in the Autumn, and will also take on responsibility for Safeguarding from D Glover.

J Cooper has received 2 estimates for CCTV in the Church. Security Alarm Services are the preferred supplier, and the system will be installed when the reordering starts. B Jones proposed a budget of up to £800 for a security camera to be installed by Security Alarm Services.

Seconded: P Eward

Unanimous

P Eward asked if installation of CCTV might give us a reduction on our insurance premium. J Setchfield will look at the the policy details.

10. Safeguarding

The Rev. S Tarlton now has responsibility for safeguarding.

11. Health and Safety

J Setchfield and J Cooper are looking at drawing up a Health and Safety policy, which will be presented to the PCC when the first draft is ready.

12. Nave altar

Positive feedback has been received from the congregation and a faculty application has been sent to London.

13. Friends of St.Mary's

Over £7k was raised by the Open Gardens event which was a great success.

14. St.Mary's Hall and St.Mary's Church developments

Hall

Addaction have contacted J Setchfield and said they would be leaving and are going to the Ryefield Centre. The Rector contacted them asking for feedback on this decision, and the new manager felt that there were Health and Safety issues. The Rector offered that the new manager contact her to discuss the issues, as previous feedback had been that Addaction clients preferred St.Mary's Hall as it offers more privacy.

K Richards reported that he had not had any success in obtaining a quote for a new heating system.

Church

J Setchfield has met with the Architect and builder. A progress chart has been received, and there are still a few issues to be addressed but generally the timescales seem achievable. The re-ordering will start on 4th September and completion is scheduled for 4th December. The Christmas Tree Festival has been accounted for as has a wedding and a Choral Society Event.

The kitchen layout drawing is being revised and areas for a dishwasher and fridge are being identified. Chairs will be needed early on in the process; the Markye Chapel may need to be closed for a period of time to store the new chairs. Donations for chairs and a fridge will be invited. The Rector will share this with the congregation during a sermon, and M Sanderson will create a flyer encouraging the sponsoring of a chair.

Some radiators will need to be moved, and J Setchfield will see if this can be done early on in the project. P Eward asked that GiftAiding of chair sponsorship be encouraged where possible. M Sanderson and P Eward will liaise.

J Cooper asked if we could offer the pews for sale. J Setchfield is speaking with Envirobility who dealt with the pews at Walford.

M Sanderson felt that we should be gearing up for phase 2 as the church will look unkempt with only part of the new floor and part existing pews. The Rector agreed, and the re-

ordering committee will be asked to deal with this as soon as we hear from the Charity Commission, whose decision will affect the plan.

P Eward felt that the chairs should be branded to stop them from being stolen, and the Rector asked that the re-ordering committee look at this along with possible name plates ("In memory of etc").

J Setchfield informed the meeting that a faculty to repair the tomb and replace the plaque has been applied for.

15. Fundraising

Preparations for the Christmas Tree Festival were instigated at the May meeting of the committee as follows:

Material from the festival of 2015 was discussed and updated for use. April Shipton, who designed the very colourful posters & fliers in 2015, is happy for us to use them in this year's festival & will co-operate with any necessary changes.

Schools will be contacted this month. This year we plan to widen the invitations to schools outside the immediate Ross area suggesting they bring groups of children to visit the festival.

Catering will be done in the church depending on the state of the refurbishment programme. Margaret Mason & her team will cater for the Preview on Friday 17th November. The draw for the Flower Festival proved very successful & will be repeated in November, with tickets sold in advance & during the festival.

A Musical Event is planned for the Saturday Evening with a Community Choir.

The Rector thanked the Fundraising Committee for all their good work.

The PCC have to organise the next event for May/June 2018, so therefore need to start thinking of ideas.

Prebendary C Pascoe said the Deanery had an event "Come and Sing" planned for the same date as the Christmas Tree Festival.

16. Deanery Synod

The Rector had attended the last meeting which was very informative.

17. AOB

None

The meeting closed at 9.10 with prayers from the Rev S Tarlton.