

**The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council**  
**Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall**

**Present:** John Setchfield, Janet Cooper (churchwardens), Rev Simon Tarlton (curate), Christine Cattnach (Intergenerational Missioner), Mark Sanderson, Peter Reynolds, Bryan Jones, Anne Morris, Anne Remmington, Keith Richards.

1. **Opening Prayers.** Simon Tarlton opened with prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Canon Freda Davies (Reader), The Rev Chris Blanchard, The Rev Caroline Pascoe, Derek Glover, Karen Vitale (Secretary), Paul Eward, Peter Raddenbury (Treasurer).

3. **Town Council Report.** None.

4. **Declaration of AOB.** John Setchfield raised the matter of nominating a person to be responsible for data protection.

5. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Peter Reynolds proposed and Simon Tarlton seconded that the minutes of the meeting of 14 November be accepted as an accurate record. Agreed.

6. **Matters Arising.** Although there had been some improvement, dog mess in the church yard remains a problem. Simon Tarlton commented there seemed to be deliberate bagging and tree decorating with dog mess. It was agreed to keep a look out for the perpetrators.

7. **Correspondence.** A leaflet from the organisation Strengthen the Faithful had been received referring to *Wartime miracles and a national scandal*. It was agreed to circulate the document and take any comments at the next meeting.

8. **Ministerial Business.** Simon Tarlton reported that since Sarah had left they had been managing to keep services going well and that there was no need to draw back. It had been a very good Christmas with healthy numbers attending as had been indicated in the newsletter. He said there was an encouraging warmth about the place and we are continuing to work closely with Brampton Abbots School and Ashfield Park School who have adopted us and us them.

Simon confirmed that Caroline Pascoe will be retiring at Easter. There will be an official farewell in April with a service at which she will preach and say goodbye. Her departure will mean we will be down further in clergy numbers as she had been taking around three services a month.

Simon also announced that Bishop Richard is to retire on 30 November. A leaving service will take place on 23 November.

Speaking about Churches Together in Ross Simon said attendance at recent meetings had been higher and there was a positive spirit. The week of prayer for Christian unity takes place between 18 - 25 January. On Sunday 20 January there will be a Bring and Share lunch at 1pm at The Venue.

Between January and March All-age worship will be non Eucharistic, as in October and November. People have said this form of service is one to which they feel they can invite others. On Sunday 13 January Rev Dr Sandra Millar would be coming to preach about life events - baptisms, funerals etc - based on her pattern for All-age worship.

At Easter there will be Walks of Witness when a cross will be carried between Brampton Abbots and Ross and between Ross and Walford.

**9. Finance Report.** The treasurer's report and accompanying budget report for January 2019 had been circulated to members previously (see attached).

It was pointed out that the budget report did not represent the final figures for the year-end as some statements had yet to be received and a calculation made of the final tax repayment claim prior to completing the financial statements. These will be available for approval as usual at the March PCC meeting.

The current deficit was reported as £15,562 which is £4,252 more than budgeted. Although, as the inclusion of the Church Hall Trust accounts' figures had not been anticipated when completing the budget figures, if these figures are excluded then we have not done too badly. There are some significant differences to budget figures (eg for heat and light) and our position has been boosted by a generous donation from Friends towards work in the church.

Our financial statements will show a large surplus for the year as we transferred about £107K from restricted funds after we received Charity Commission permission to use the Jessie Cater funds for our phase one work.

Reference was made to charitable giving, with payments to Church Mission Society and the Night Shelter in Hereford. The report also gave an update on contact with BT regarding a change to a business account and for the move of the master socket.

#### *Comments*

Peter Reynolds stressed the need to get more people to join the Parish Giving Scheme, and suggested a sermon on giving and another campaign targeting regular members of the congregation who had not yet joined. Using the green envelopes would be more difficult without pews to put them in. John Setchfield suggested keeping envelopes at the back of the church and Peter Reynolds added that envelopes could be placed in orders of service at carol services and funerals (having first checked with families). Simon Tarlton asked whether Paul Eward was the nominated person to receive the giving reports. ST will check.

**10. Safeguarding.** Nothing to report.

**11. Health and Safety.** John Setchfield reported that the fire extinguishers had been checked in the church and hall.

**12. Friends of St Mary's.** Peter Reynolds was pleased to report that Friends had agreed to donate £30K to the church for re-flooring as part of phases one and two. They have also committed £5,317 towards lighting enhancements in the church. For floodlighting, estimates ranging from £27K to £40K had been received. A church in Bromsgrove had added floodlighting for £10K and a visit there was planned

**13. St Mary's Hall and St Mary's Church Developments.** Bryan Jones reported that work had finished on the Larder room in the Hall basement. A bill was to go to Peter Raddenbury. There had been lots of donations making the Larder virtually self sufficient. He said heating the upstairs offices was costing a fortune and this needed to be looked into.

Simon Tarlton said the general opinion was that the Larder is working well in its new premises. Talks would take place with Addaction next week about moving their office to the rooms formerly occupied by the Larder, which would give them a separate entrance. They will also be asked if they are turning the heating off when the office is closed.

Mike Donovan, a farming magazine editor currently based in Pembrokeshire, has expressed an interest in taking up a tenancy of the 'apple room' which would provide an additional source of income.

John Setchfield said that phase two of the church re-ordering will start on 4 February and he was having a review meeting with the architects and builders on Friday 11 January. He asked for approval to spend £1K with the architects to specify work for phase three including providing draught protection for the church and chapel and the forming of a welcome area. He asked members to speak up if any modifications were needed. The alter frontals chest has now been modified to make it easier to get the frontals in and out. He also reported that the boilers were now working.

Christine Cattnach asked if there were any plans to cover the radiators as they were boiling hot. John Setchfield said he would look into it.

Peter Reynolds proposed and Bryan Jones seconded the proposal to make the £1K payment.

*Wellingtonia Tree south of the church tower.* A comprehensive brief from Peter Reynolds had been circulated to members prior to the meeting following a survey by arborealist Adrian Hope (see attached).

Some discussion followed and Peter proposed having an informal discussion with Herefordshire Tree Officer and with Cllr Richard Mayo. The results could be reviewed at the March PCC meeting prior to making a decision as to where we go from there. All were happy to proceed with this.

#### **14. Mission Work**

Christine Cattnach spoke about her mission work during November and December. The *All Age Service* in November had been well received and a small planning group are helping plan a way forward. The December Crib Service was a joyous occasion and well attended by 310 people. *Talking Jesus*, one of the Generation Next events, proved popular with around 20 people signing up for the six week course. An Alpha course starting in February is to follow. The December *Greatest Gift* event created by the new *Deanery Youth Strategy* saw 17 young people attending an informal evening of food, activities, music and testimony. Two young people have since come forward to help plan future events along with youngsters from the worship group RAW. *Toast and Toddle* continues to grow steadily with around eight families regularly coming along. Knit and Natter has been suggested to run alongside with

the hope it will enable friendships to form between the generations. An end-of-term Christmas Special rounded the year off with cakes, crafts and drama. Schools work has also been flourishing .

Mark Sanderson commented it was great to see all this happening and it was truly intergenerational. Anne Remington added she was pleased it was going so well (see report attached).

**15. Fundraising.** Simon Tarlton thanked Val Allen for her work over many years, and all those who had come forward to create the new fundraising committee. The Friends are planning another Open Gardens event on June. The new committee were planning a Safari Supper and Christmas Tree Festival. In February 2020 a wedding fair is also planned with the two-fold aim of raising money and selling the church to young people as a place to get married. Other events include a flower festival and promise auction.

**16. Deanery Synod.** The last synod meeting took place on 5 December when Archdeacon Derek attended and spoke about his life and role within the church.

**17. AOB.** Simon Tarlton asked for nominations for Data Controller. Following a discussion it was suggested that Nick Richmond could be asked to volunteer. All were happy with this.

Janet Cooper proposed that Sue Jones should be added to lay assistants at Holy Communion, this was seconded by Peter Reynolds.

Simon Tarlton said he had not finished the table of revised fees for weddings and funerals for 2019. He would circulate them by email for the PCC's agreement.

Simon also raised the issue of our social justice agenda, asking if members felt it was not very joined up. He had spoken to Derek Glover about the matter who suggested forming a group with an interest in such matters to act as a catalyst. Part of their work being to look at homelessness, hunger and other national issues.

Janet Cooper thanked Mark Sanderson for his work on the parish profile to accompany the advertisement for a new rector. The profile had been sent to the diocese on 18 December. A small advertisement was to follow in the Church Times the following Friday (in fact the advertisement did not appear until 18 January). Interviews are planned to take place on 28 February.

Simon Tarlton said the advertisement was not on the Church Times website but expected it would be placed on the Church of England Pathways centralised system. He said the Church Drum also featured a large number of Church of England jobs.

APCM to take place 3 April - reports are needed as soon as possible.

Next regular meeting 13 March, 7.30 pm in the Hall.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9pm.