

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye
Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall

Present: John Setchfield (chair), Canon Freda Davies (reader), Rev Simon Tarlton (curate), Christine Cattanach (intergenerational missionary), Janet Cooper (churchwarden), Peter Raddenbury (treasurer), Mark Sanderson, Peter Reynolds, Paul Eward, Bryan Jones, Keith Richards, Anne Morris.

1. Opening Prayers. Simon Tarlton opened with prayer.

2. Apologies: The Rev Canon Chris Blanchard, The Rev Caroline Pascoe, Karen Vitale (secretary), Anne Remmington.

3. Town Council Report. None.

4. Declaration of AOB. Peter Reynolds would like to discuss making improvements to the church sound system and Peter Raddenbury has an update on the electoral roll.

5. Minutes of the last meeting. John Setchfield proposed and Janet Cooper seconded that the minutes of the meeting of 19 January be accepted as an accurate record. All agreed.

6. Matters Arising. None

7. Correspondence.

Janet Cooper reported that she had received a copy of the Marriage Order for the benefice confirming that parishioners of all three parishes might be married in St Mary's or in St Michael's, Walford. She was unable to find the parish records with which to file the notice. Simon Tarlton said he would look into it.

John Setchfield and Peter Raddenbury had received a request from Paul Mason on behalf of the governors at Brampton Abbots school requesting bibles for 20 children. He said the total spend for the year should be under £200. Freda Davies proposed financing this from the Education Fund and this was seconded by Bryan Jones. *every year*
All agreed.

8. Ministerial Business. Simon Tarlton reported that it had been a busy time since the last meeting with funerals coming thick and fast, including the funeral of Gwyn Williams which saw some 600 people attending. Although it had been a struggle the team had managed well and had not had to ask anyone from outside the parish to help. He thanked all involved.

He asked when St Mary's might return to its usual opening hours. John Setchfield replied that further work was required on the old gratings in the church floor, but it should be possible to open as usual, providing the builders confirmed it was safe to do so.

Simon went on to ask if Evensong could take place at the same time throughout the

year rather than moving between 4pm. and 6.30pm. Following some discussion there was a general consensus that it should remain at 6pm throughout the year. This was proposed by Simon Tarlton and seconded by Freda Davies.

Simon Tarlton reported that the catering team would like to use the money raised by the Lent lunches to erect a bench outside the Hall. No objections were raised, and the proposal will be further investigated.

Simon said that the British Legion will be commemorating the Battle of Britain on 15 September and this would be reflected during services.

Simon went on to give an update on staffing with news that the installation of the new rector Sean Semple, is planned for 30 July and Sean will be moving into the rectory the week before. In addition, he said Ross office administrator Nick Richmond has handed in his resignation and will be leaving on 10 May. Louise Jarvis who previously held the post may return.

Paul Eward thanked Simon Tarlton for his hard work during the vacancy.

9. PCC Membership. Janet Cooper informed members that Karen Vitale has resigned as PCC Secretary but has expressed a wish to stand for membership of the Council. Janet was searching for nomination forms. Anne Morris asked if there were rules on how long members can serve. Freda Davies said she would ask Tim Waters for advice. ~~[It was later confirmed that there is no longer a limit.]~~
to join

10. Finance. PCC Treasurer Peter Raddenbury presented the Budget Report for February 2019 and put forward the 2018 Accounts for approval. He said that income was down but hopefully would pick up. The Finance Group had met recently but nothing significant had come out of the meeting. Paul Eward proposed approval of the 2018 accounts and Anne Morris seconded (see reports attached).

Comments

Peter Reynolds asked if the new church chairs were to be sponsored and Peter Raddenbury confirmed they would be. Mark Sanderson said sponsorship forms were available.

The value of investments and bank withdrawal requirements were discussed. Peter Raddenbury proposed applying for online banking and this was seconded by Mark Sanderson.

There was some discussion about the comparatively low take-up of the Parish Giving Scheme with Paul Eward stressing it should be made clear that no money is being creamed off donations under the Scheme. It was agreed to push on promoting the scheme and encouraging those not yet signed up to do so.

Peter Raddenbury added that funds would soon be required for tuning the organ and drawing up proposals for Wi-fi security.

11. Safeguarding. Simon Tarlton said the church had been found to be failing those being abused or at risk of being abused by not highlighting its policy on safeguarding. In liaison with Safeguarding Adviser Mandy McPhee, steps have since been taken to display prominently on the website *Hereford - Parish Safeguarding*

12. Health and Safety. It was reported that:

- Addaction had requested going through fire procedures;
- lighting outside the church office was inadequate; and
- footpaths around the church have loose stones and potholes and there is a loose grid on the west side of the tower.

John Setchfield said he would contact maintenance about the issues raised. It was agreed that the parish lengths-man could be deployed and that Ross Town Council should also be contacted via Richard Mayo as the PCC town council representative.

13. Friends of St Mary's. Peter Reynolds reported that progress was being made with external floodlighting and that the cost of upgrading to LED lighting in the existing fixtures was around £1,500. He informed members that the date of the 2019 Friends of St Mary's Open Gardens weekend has been moved from 15-16 June to 22-23 June. The Friends also plan booking a Welsh choir for July 2020.

14. St Mary's Hall and St Mary's Church Developments. Simon Tarlton said he was looking with Bryan Jones to refurbish the rooms vacated by the Larder. Once Addaction move into this space, he said, the 'Apple' room could be rented out. The 'Elephant' room' above the main hall would be retained for church use. Peter Reynolds said new U3A groups were being formed and could be possible tenants.

John Setchfield reported that phase 2 of the church re-ordering was going to plan and that rotten floor timbers were being replaced and metal grids filled in. Freda Davies asked if there was a way of making the central Communion rail kneelers less slippery on the uncarpeted floor. It was agreed to cease using those sections of the rail. Other issues raised included chasing lighting work and power cables, looking at ways to minimise scratching floors and improving the appearance of floor tiles.

John Setchfield said that phase 3 was ongoing with the architect. Mark Sanderson asked what was being done to the welcome area and John said this would need to be discussed at a future meeting.

15. Fundraising. Simon Tarlton reported that a broad plan had been drawn up for the next two years. This is being shared with Friends and details will be available at the next meeting. Two major events are a Christmas Tree Festival this year and Flower Festival in 2020.

Peter Reynolds asked about having a male voice choir perform. Janet Cooper had been in touch with the Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir last year; they had had to cancel at short notice and she had heard nothing since. Previous concerts had failed to raise much income and if we were to arrange this more publicity would be required.

16. Intergenerational Missioner's Report. Christine Cattanach had circulated her January/February report to members prior to the meeting. Updates included positive news on All-Age worship, the Prayer Group, Alpha Course, Leaf Club, Young People's Work, Toast & Toddle, Schools Work, etc plus IM team building (see report

attached).

17. Deanery Synod. The last Deanery Synod meeting took place on 19 February when Methodist Minister and Chair of the Ross Food Larder Committee Rev'd Kathleen Baldwin gave a talk about the Community Larder. It was noted that Rev'd Kevin Cecil of Wye Reaches is due to retire and this may provide an opportunity for cost savings.

18. AOB.

Sound System

There was a discussion about how to improve the church sound system. Paul Eward said it was hard to hear speakers. He suggested placing an extra set of loud speakers further back and for those speaking to move more into the body of the church. Christine Cattenach questioned if anyone knew how the microphones worked and Freda Davies suggested getting a firm in to help when required. Training for speakers was also raised. Simon Tarlton said he would speak with the clergy at Ludlow and Leominster for advice on quality and control.

Wi fi proposal

Mark Sanderson said that work was being compromised as we are not able to use ethernet within the church. He said Curtis Burford is looking into running cable from the church hall across into the church kitchen and children's room (see diagram attached). A cost of £1,500 was estimated. Bryan Jones proposed carrying out the work, this was seconded by Peter Reynolds and agreed unanimously.

Electoral Role

Peter Raddenbury gave an update on the electoral role. He said there had been 115 responses to date and that the roll will be closed on 19 March until after the APCM takes place on 3 April.

The next meeting will take place on 8 May, 7.30pm in Ross Church Hall.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9pm.

JA Cecil
7/5/19.