



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
held on **Wednesday 10th July 2019** at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall

Present: John Setchfield (Acting Chairman and Churchwarden), Simon Tarlton (Curate), Christine Cattanach (Intergenerational Missioner), Chris Blanchard, Anne Remmington, Bryan Jones, Fiona Barnaby (Deanery Synod), Freda Davies (Licensed Reader), Keith Richards, Mark Sanderson (Deanery Synod), Paul Eward (Deanery Synod), Peter Raddenbury (Treasurer), Rachel Lewis (Secretary), Tim Waters and The Revd Sean Semple

John Setchfield welcomed Sean, the Rector designate, to the meeting.

1. Opening prayers

Simon Tarlton opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayer.

2. Apologies

Anne Morris, Peter Reynolds, Janet Cooper (Churchwarden), Joanna Kelly

3. Town Council report on the Churchyard

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Taylor, the newly chosen representative from the Town Council Amenities Committee, who was recovering from surgery. There was no report. John Setchfield asked for good wishes to be passed on to Cllr Taylor.

4. Declaration of any other business

Two items were declared.

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of a meeting held on 8 May 2019 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- John Setchfield had attended a meeting with the Town Council's Amenities Committee to look at the paths in the churchyard. Once reordering work is complete it is hoped to upgrade the paths. The builder has agreed to quote to do this work.
- John is chasing up the lock on the fridge and hopes to have it sorted soon.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in dark ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Ministerial report

This was Simon's last PCC meeting before he left for his new post. His last Sunday service would be an All Age Eucharist on 18 August and on Thursday 22 August his last service, there would be a Choral Evensong followed by refreshments organised by Margaret Mason.

Simon spoke of his complete joy at being in Ross and expressed his thanks to Sarah and everyone in the benefice who had welcomed him so warmly. He added that it was his greatest privilege and pleasure to work amongst in such an amazing church and people. John thanked Simon for all he had done, especially the way he had led us all through the interregnum. Chris Blanchard added his thanks, pointing out that Simon had taken on much of the work during this time.

Finally, Simon said that one of the highlights of his time here was the way the church has connected to the town especially, for example, with the Royal British Legion.

9. Mission

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Since it had been written, more progress had been made with the forthcoming Alpha Course. Five had already signed up and it was agreed to hold it in the church instead of the hall. There would be a maximum of 24 places and publicity is on the way.

Aspects of the report were highlighted:

- A new Bible Society course had started at Hom Green as a result of the last Alpha Course
- All Age services were being very well received
- Champing
- Work in schools, particularly Walford

Christine Cattanach summed up by saying that we have done far more than she had ever envisaged over the last year and things were bound to slow down. We need to consolidate on all the activities to date.

10. Financial report

The treasurer's report and a budget report up to 30 June 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The finance group had met prior to this meeting and had nothing to add to the report.

Figures show that after Phase 3 of the reordering is complete, there will still be money in the restricted Fabric Fund available for further work. In addition, we have a balance of £166k in unrestricted funds. This presents a problem in that charities should only carry a balance equal to 6 months' running costs (£76k). The PCC needs to decide how it wants to use its surplus money.

Three suggestions were made by the treasurer:

- **Restricted Funds**
Money could be moved to restricted funds. It would then only be available for the purpose intended.
- **Improvements to the hall**
Plans for the hall were drawn up in 2016 (these are now on the website). The basement work has been done and some work upstairs has been done (further information on Church Hall report later in the meeting).
Accessibility is key and the plans include provision of a lift. If members want to carry out this work, match funding grants should be available.
Opinions were expressed regarding the importance of spending large amounts on the hall as opposed to using it for further improvement to the church.
The hall is well used. There are tenants for the upstairs offices. It has its own mission e.g. Addaction is using rooms to help those with specific problems.
- **Donating to the Diocese**
The PCC had already decided to keep its Parish Share at the same level as last year. However, there was an opinion that, as one of the wealthier parishes in the Diocese, we should increase what we give. We were told that the Diocese is currently considering either selling assets or making cuts (this will affect clergy and lay minister numbers).

A further comment was made that additional money was needed to be spent on further improvements to the church building. These included the provision of audio visual equipment and storage facilities.

The Hall Committee should be asked to consider all options at its next meeting on 25th July at 11.30am and come forward with a suggestion to go to the PCC at its next meeting.

11. St Mary's Church building works

Phase 3

John Setchfield reported that the DAC has approved Phase 3 in principle.

English Heritage want a statement on the heritage which has now been written and Stephen Challenger from the DAC will deal with them. It will then probably be another two months for the faculty to be approved.

Costings had been given by the architect – the best quote was from Bayliss who would do the work for £80,000.

Mark Sanderson added that as part of Phase 3, we need to include the welcome area. Plans are taking shape and the generally agreed layout by the reordering group is on the PCC members page. The next step is to get the joiner recommended by Richard Lamb to cost them and agree to take on the work, and hopefully the plans will be added to the current faculty application.

Phase 2

Electrical works are moving ahead slowly. However, we are still waiting for the Italian Lights to be replaced. They continue to be chased. Apparently, a failure rate of 10-15% is to be expected!



12. Report from the Friends of St Mary

- The Open Gardens had been another success with a profit of approx. £5,700. The committee is looking at ways to improve the next Open Gardens in 2021.
- There is a concert in the church on 10th August at 7.30pm – Lowri Evans and Lee Mason.
- An old map of Ross, found in the Rectory Box, is being reproduced for framing and selling to raise funds.
- Tests for the new floodlighting have been put on hold until the darker evenings.

13. St Mary's Hall report

- Bryan Jones had repaired a leak at one end of the roof but there is now a leak at the other end.
- Upstairs has been decorated and carpet is now being fitted.
- The rooms being used by Addaction will be completely self-contained with its own entrance.
- The Elephant room will continue to be available for the parish.
- A new floor in kitchen is going in next week in order to comply with Health & Safety regulations.
- Mike will be moving in one of the offices soon and will also be taking a small storage area in the basement.

14. Fundraising report

The fundraising committee had met. Plans were well underway for a Christmas Tree Festival to take place from 22nd to 25th November with a preview with refreshments on the Friday evening and coinciding with the town's Christmas Fayre and Light Switch on the Sunday.

15. Deanery Synod report

Paul Eward had provided a report with full details of the meeting which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

16. Safeguarding

The CofE Parish Safeguarding Handbook was now published. Safeguarding should be clearly visible on the home page of the website. The safeguarding page we have would be moved there and a link to the CofE website and Parish Handbook would be included on the page.

With the departure of Simon Tarlton, a new Safeguarding Officer is needed. Someone needs to be identified, asked and trained to take on the role, ready to be appointed at the next meeting.

17. Health and Safety

Nothing to report



18. Any other business notified to the secretary or declared at Item 4.

- **Advertising of services in the Ross Gazette**

There have been several mistakes in the service times published in the Ross Gazette.

The Office Administrator passes on the information. Rachel Lewis offered to talk to the editor of the Gazette to find out how they would like the information given to them and will liaise with Lou in the office.

- **Electricity supplier**

The contract with British Gas has ended and the price was set to go up considerably. John Setchfield had looked at the Parish Buying Scheme which suggested that Total Gas would give the best price though still with quite an increase. We have now entered into a three year fixed price contract with Total Gas for the electricity. The gas contract soon finishes and it was suggested, as well as using the Parish Buying Scheme, we approach West Mercia Supplies, who are used by three local county councils, for further price comparisons. John will look into this.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall

