

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

PCC STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 17 JUNE 2018

at 8pm at the Vicarage

1. Opening prayer

2. Members present

Rev. Paul White (PW), Rev. Nicky Harvey (NH), Michael Payne (MP), Barbara Smith (BS),
Martin Massy (MM, Secretary)

Apologies for absence: Nicola Canham (NC), Kelly Parsons (KP)

3. APCM

Comments were received on the draft APCM minutes.

4. Sunday Funday

Services on 14 July would be re-arranged to enable people to participate in the Sunday Funday.
There would be a 9am communion service, no 8 o'clock or 10 o'clock services.

5. Stairlift

The existing stairlift has a tendency to stall on the way up, especially round the bends, and there is a risk of it failing with someone on it. The replacement recommended by Higher Elevation (who service the stairlift) is a Siena model, made by Stannah, at a cost of £4890. BS and PW to get alternative quotes. It was agreed that we would not replace the stairlift with a lift as that would take up valuable space and cost three times as much. In the meantime, try to bring Sunday coffee downstairs.

Tonbridge parish church had managed to secure some funding from KCC towards their new stairlift. Friends of Kent Churches might also be prepared to provide some funding; their next funding round is in November. Replacement stairlift to be discussed at July PCC.

6. Church opening

The church has been left open during the day since the end of May, which has been a positive experience. It was recommended that people working in church, e.g. flower arrangers, should note the activity, initials and in-out times in a desk diary to be kept for that purpose. In the event of a problem this would enable an approximate time to be established. Future opening will generally be 9am to 6pm.

7. Golden Green

It is agreed that 12 noon on Sundays is not a good time for a service. June and July services have been cancelled already. PW and NH to speak to interested parties about different approach. It was suggested that services could include celebration of Christmas, Easter and Harvest festivals.

NH to lead on providing information to Golden Green community by putting up posters and leaving copies of weekly pewsheets in the hall. PW/NH to request a key to the hall.

The parish council expects to receive community minibuses in September. These could be used to bring people from Tonbridge and Golden Green to St.Mary's on a regular basis. Drivers have to be trained, which costs £70. Need volunteers under the age of 70.

8. Food Bank

Food store to be transferred in two big plastic boxes to the vestry. Action BS/PW.

9. Safeguarding

The July PCC to include substantive discussion of safeguarding – presentation by BS – and launch the next stage of training, C1.

10. Mobile 'phone

It was agreed to obtain a cheap, pay-as-you-go mobile phone to use as contact point for clergy person on duty when PW goes on sabbatical next year. PW to recommend a good value phone; MM to obtain phone and contract.

11. Finance

In cash terms, as at 11 June we have a cumulative deficit since the beginning of the year of £1513. The accounts for May have not been updated yet as the book-keeper, Duncan Murray, has been on holiday. Fund-raising in May and early June was successful, raising £2662 from Boot Fair, Bacchus wind band concert and the Auction of Promises. The Lent Appeal raised over £1600 to be distributed equally between the Delhi Brotherhood Society and Kibakwe link, and proceeds from the Lent lunches raised a further £166 for the Paddock Wood Food Bank.

Gas supply contract has been switched from Total Gas and Power to Parish Buying, with effect from 1 July. Although not a like for like comparison as the Parish Buying tariff runs only to end September and we do not know what the tariff will be from 1 October, we expect savings on our gas bill.

We have received a copy of the lease agreement with BNP Paribas for the office printer, which runs for five years to 27 March 2022. The contract requires us to have comprehensive insurance for the printer, for which we are paying an additional £45.72 per quarter. MM to check with our insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance, and transfer coverage to them (assuming lower cost).

12. Fabric

MM had received a quote from John Knowles to repaint the barge boards on the chancel at a cost of £1380. MM noted that we have funds designated for building maintenance. PW requested that repainting round North porch be considered as well. The meeting approved the work to be done. MM to progress.

The electrical inspection carried out in January had identified several items needing attention to comply with current electrical standards, including new distribution board, several of the emergency lights and surge protection. Our electrician, Geoff Baker, has quoted £2007 in total. The meeting agreed the work to be done by Geoff Baker. We should ensure we receive a certificate of compliance with current standards on completion. MM to progress.

Spending of these sums prompted discussion of whether these works should go to tender. The meeting recommended that works requiring spending over £2500 should go to tender; for lesser amounts and where the contractors are known and trusted we would be able to proceed directly with them. Spending policy to be discussed by PCC in July.

MP suggested creating a small sub-committee to discuss the way forward for establishing a "Friends of St.Mary's" organisation, which had been raised at the May PCC. The meeting agreed that the sub-committee should comprise Treasurer and Churchwardens (i.e., MM, MP, BS). MM to arrange a meeting for the sub-committee with Mike Harvey, who has experience of setting up a similar group for Seal church.

MM would be attending a Stewardship course run by the diocese on Thursday 20 June.

13. Agenda for July PCC

- a. PW/NH proposed that a review of our worship be included as a standing item for discussion at PCC meetings, which was agreed.
- b. As mentioned at the May PCC, the July PCC will discuss this year's Holiday At Home.
- c. We should also discuss our copyright licensing position and
- d. Spending policy.

14. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with the Grace.