

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CHURCH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014
AT S^T MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON

Present David Lloyd (Chairman), Mark Albert, Dennis Bambury, Ann Boutflower, Peter Grimwade, Jill Hall, James Jamieson, David New, Arthur Pont, Richard Rednall, Phil Waite.

1. **Apologies:** Received from Beate Howitt, Dennis Piper, Liz Rose, Ray Smith.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2014** were approved and signed with minor written corrections.

2.1. Matters Arising:

None.

3. Finance

James presented the printed report. These include accruals to give a more accurate picture of income and expenditure. The expectation is that the church will break even this year. There is a small increase in the value of investments. It is intended that the investments sub-committee will meet later this year.

A separate committee will look at fund-raising for the organ appeal. James has written to the Diocese with regard to Gift Aid and is awaiting a reply.

James noted that there are no documents for the Sweetingham Carillon and Chimes legacies and that legal advice may need to be sought. The income from these legacies has been applied to the bells, rather than the Carillon/Chimes specifically, so the intention would be to have this formalised. David Lloyd has not been able to find any documents relating to the giving of the legacies. Certainly it pre-dates his incumbency. James would welcome any information or advice. Primarily, he would like to know when the money was given.

There were no additional questions.

4. Special projects

4.1. Altar Frontal: Jill reported on progress and presented photographs of the work in hand. She made special mention of the cross, which is a replica of the main altar cross. The cost is expected to be in excess of £5,000, but no further detail is available.

4.2. Organ: Phil reported that the decision has been taken to work with Peter Collins Organs. A further meeting with the DAC organ advisers has taken place and a meeting with Peter Collins is upcoming to agree the final specification, the quote from which will be sent to the DAC for approval. Costs are anticipated to be £130-140,000. Fund-raising will aim for £150,000 to allow contingency. The organ will move ~1m forward and will look as it does now, except for the swell box moving down into the body of the organ, which will be permitted by the replacement of the tracker action with electric action. The organ will be largely rebuilt as it is, with a new console, stop action and pedal section. The pipes will be opened slightly and the wind pressure increased, which should give greater power.

Work is expected to start around June 2015 and hopefully finish before Christmas. A full faculty will be applied for. Only once this is granted will contracts be signed and initial payment made.

There will be a fund-raising committee. Richard Wilkins has offered to coordinate fund-raising events in church. There are few funds dedicated to organs from which grants could be sought. Phil is not expecting much help in the regard, but is investigating. It is hopeful that the Friends of St. Mary's will make a donation.

- 4.3. Church Lighting:** Phil reported some frustration in this area. Quotes were being sought, but the architects indicated that a faculty would be required for the work, which alters the detail of the quotes required. The Diocesan Secretary has indicated that a full faculty is probably not required, but DAC approval will be. Four contractors have been asked to provide quotations, the cheapest of which will go to the DAC (early October). This includes interior and exterior lighting, the latter of which will require a complete rewire.

Jill requested that time be spent in directing the spotlights effectively.

- 4.4. Lady Chapel:** Peter reported that he has met with two architects. Purcell (Kidlington) include a contact on the DAC with a special remit for glass partitioning in churches. We have received options, involving glass with divisions in the framing (owing to the size of void to be filled and the size of glass which can physically be brought into the church). Peter showed pictures of available options. Investigations continue, including the involvement of English Heritage.

5. Other fabric issues

- 5.1. Quinquennial inspection:** Phil reported that we asked for this to take place in February (already late). The inspection took place in June and the report has still not be received. We already know about problems with the lead roof and the churchyard wall. Dissatisfaction with the inspecting architect was noted and it is anticipated that this will be opened up to other architects in future.

- 5.2. Wall safe:** Dennis noted a number of issues. The people who lock and unlock also empty the safe, and are generally more advanced in years and Dennis noted that the lighting makes this unsafe. He also noted that a relatively large amount of money is being collected (including foreign coins). As such it is unsuitable. A number of ideas were discussed. It was generally agreed that something bigger is required. Dennis will investigate options.

- 5.3. Churchyard wall:** Phil noted that the wall along the Eastern boundary is in a state of partial collapse with a number of bulges along its length. This will need to be addressed and will likely incur significant expense. Phil believes some form of strengthening will be required, it being a dry-stone wall with a large mass of wet earth behind. Phil will investigate further.

- 5.4. Increase in tourism:** Jill reported that a visitor had used the toilet and complained about it. Lizanne has asked if the piping can be boxed in so it can simply be wiped clean. Jill will investigate. Phil suggested a sign which directs visitors to the public facilities in the Markey Square at times when the church is not in use.

6. Communication and signage

Phil presented some website statistics. Typically we see around 50 visits per day, with around 1/3 being from mobile devices. David's sermons are proving popular. Phil will place a diary on the website for upcoming church events.

Phil also spoke about the production of a new guide to the church, which has gone quiet, so he suggests it is returned to the action plan.

Arthur noted that the Communication and Signage committee is meeting on September 24th.

7. Deanery Synod

Mark and Ann reported on the Deanery Synod meeting, held June 25th at St. Britius, Brize Norton. The meeting included the introduction of four new members of the House of Clergy (Padre John Ellis, Rev. Drew Tweedy, Rev. Joy Hance and Rev. Neil Traynor), an update on the vision for the Deanery and a report from the General Synod, which noted that the general feel of the Synod appears to have changed.

The Deanery Synod will be in St. Mary's, Bampton 19th November.

8. Young Church (Junior Church/Blessed Bees/School/Messy Church)

Blessed Bees has been very busy. Ann noted there were a number of visitors during the session, as there have been during Messy Church. The September Messy Church was quieter, but it was still a good session.

School links are ongoing. The school is looking to join with the Diocesan Academy Group. School services are planned for this and next term. The Easter Experience will be repeated.

9. Christmas arrangements

David circulated a list of dates for upcoming services.

Phil has received a flyer from the printers who produced the Christmas services card and will take this forward for this year.

10. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Monday 24th November at 19.30 in the church.