

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CHURCH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2014
AT S^T MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON

Present Peter Grimwade (Chairman), Mark Albert, Dennis Bambury, Jill Hall, Beate Howitt, James Jamieson, David New, Dennis Piper, Richard Rednall, Ray Smith, Phil Waite.

1. **Apologies:** Received from David Lloyd, Ann Boutflower, Arthur Pont and Liz Rose.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2014** were approved and signed.

2.1. Matters Arising:

Phil noted that the Christmas services card has been ordered. Dennis Piper asked that 1,050 be produced.

3. Finance

James presented the printed report. Excluding the deposit paid on the organ refurbishment, the church is on target to break even. James had no particular items to report. The overall cost for the organ is £165,000 inc. VAT. VAT is now recoverable, however, through a Government grant scheme. There is a deal of bureaucracy, in the scheme, so there may be a significant delay between making a claim and receiving the grant.

Regarding the funds (*e.g.*, Sweetenham Carillon legacy), James has sought legal advice (at a cost of around £600 + VAT) concerning the combination of funds or use for other purposes.

3.1. Reserves Committee: The committee has met. There is little to report, but minutes will be issued in due course.

3.2. Mission Giving Committee: This item was to be raised by Arthur concerning the Church's regular mission giving (usually £3,000 per annum). The funds can come from general funds or from a Mission Giving Day, as has been done previously (with a deficit made up from general funds). No such day has been held in the current financial year (which ends in December, matching the calendar year). It was agreed to allocate £3,000 of general funds in the current financial year to be distributed as soon as is practicable once the recipients have been agreed.

4. Special projects

4.1. Altar Frontal: Jill reported no particular news, except that David will be arranging a Bishop's visitation around Easter. It is hoped that the altar frontals will be done by then, but it cannot be guaranteed.

4.2. Organ: Phil reported that the DAC has met and received the plans for the organ specification. A decision is imminent. They can defer the decision or state they have no objection, in which case we would proceed to applying for a faculty. Fund-raising events are planned in for next year and will be published on the website.

4.3. Church Lighting: Phil reported that only one meaningful response has been received regarding the electrical works. Kevin Robey has quoted on the external and internal flood-lighting. The quote is around £10,000 (believed to be excluding VAT), for which Phil believes a faculty will be required. Work cannot commence until the new year. Without a comparative quote, Phil sought approval from the CCC, with the proviso of the faculty application. This was agreed.

4.4. Lady Chapel: Peter asked the DAC about getting English Heritage involved, but has not received any information. The next step would be to commission an architect to work up a proposal (Peter expects this to be ~£1,500-2,000). It was agreed to go ahead.

5. Quinquennial inspection

Phil reported that the inspection has taken place and circulated the list of recommendations. The main issues are:

- A down-pipe is coming away from the wall, which must be fixed.
- Lead roofing: Two roofs need repair/re-leading within 5 years. Quotes are to be sought.
- Churchyard wall: See later item.

There is a question to be answered as to whether we wish to continue with the current inspecting architect, given the poor service we have received from them in the current year. Phil proposed that the CCC approve a re-tendering for the work. This was agreed.

6. Mary Phipps memorial

Peter reported that a letter has been received from Ian Hiram (churchwarden at Aston & Shifford), concerning a plaque to be erected near the organ. As yet, this has not been actioned. James will set funds aside with the matter to be addressed as part of the organ work. Phil and Peter will speak to Ian.

7. Churchyard wall & yew tree

Phil noted that quotes need to be obtained for the wall work.

Regarding the yew tree, Phil noted that a volunteer to manage the acquisition of quotes, *etc.*, for removal of the tree (a faculty is required). Jill believes that Rhyddian would be willing (Phil will ask him). The wood, technically, belongs to David Lloyd (and possibly the churchwardens).

8. Communication & signage – report following meeting 24/09/2014

Arthur has circulated a report, which Peter read out. A number of items were discussed, some of which will need to be brought to a future CCC meeting.

Phil noted that he is yet to obtain a sign for the toilet.

Dennis Bambury raised the issue of the wall safe. He noted that the slot on the safe is now large enough to take a folder envelope, so the issue is addressed.

9. Deanery Synod report

Mark reported on the recent meeting, held 19th November. The Methodist Church covenant was discussed, as it is by the General Synod. There were also reports on the twinned diocese, in Sweden, and on engagement with schools in the area.

The motion to welcome women bishops was endorsed.

In addition, there was a request from the Deanery for parishes which have met their parish share to make an additional contribution to cover those parishes which could not do so. 5% was requested (~£1,500 for this parish). David had circulated his thoughts. He believes it not to be the right thing to do. Phil noted that we do not generate a surplus each year (not counting legacies). It was agreed that the CCC would support David's response and not make an additional contribution.

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

Numbers are down slightly for Blessed Bees, but it is going well, as is Messy Church. The school links are increasing all the time.

11. Christmas arrangements update

Phil reported that the Christingle will be combined with Messy Church on December 7th. Also, the Monday before Christmas is likely to be the village nativity (TBC). Most events are now on the website calendar.

The Advent Vigils will be held on November 29th and December 13th.

12. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Thursday 12th February (subject to agreement with David Lloyd) at 19.30 in the church.