

Ottery St Mary Parish Church
Minutes of PCC Meeting 23rd March, 2016

Present: Rev Steve Weston (Chair), Graham Snell, Rev Leisa McGovern, Diane Passey, John Maybery (Hon Treasurer), Arthur Passey, Sue Jeacock (PCC Secretary, Minutes), Frances Snell, David Rose, Jill Rose, Bruce Odlin, Anitra Lockwood, John Green, Juliet Squire, Sandra Chapman, Grenville Gilbert, Mark Rix.

1 Grenville Gilbert opened the meeting at 7.30pm with prayer.

2 **Apologies** received from Brian Cammack, Anne Maher, Colin Tindal, Shirley-Ann Williams

3 **Correspondence**

3.1 John Maybery had received a letter from the Bishop thanking us for our Common Fund payment of £100,000.

4 **Reports**

Diocesan Synod: Report received, with thanks. Bishop has stressed that Mission Action Plans should be simple, not too complicated.

Ottery Deanery Synod: Report received, with thanks.

5 **Matters Arising from the Minutes of Standing Committee held on 22nd February 2016**

The Institute is unable to offer any alternative dates for Christmas Bazaar, so it will remain on the last Saturday of November (this year 26th November).

6 **Minutes of the PCC Meeting 27th January 2016**

i) The Minutes were signed as a correct record of proceedings.

ii) Matters Arising not covered on the agenda

Groundworks outside the Toilet Block have now been completed. Turfing has been done particularly well. There will be a six month follow up, including an inspection of the plastering in the storeroom. Thanks to Brian Cammack, for overseeing the work and to David Roberts for all the work that went into the application. An additional security camera will be installed for this area.

Alterations to the Altar rails have been completed and the Choral Society made use of the newly adjusted chairs for their March Concert.

We have secured a grant of £5,000 towards the Toilet Block shortfall from Garfield Weston. Thanks to Jill Rose for pursuing this.

Item 12: We will continue to use Old Testament readings at 9.30am after trial during Lent.

7 **Treasurer's Report**

John Maybery presented the annual accounts.

Next year, under Charity Commission rules, we will be able to present more simple receipts and payments accounts (Toilet Block took us over the threshold this year).

The balance sheet reveals there is an alarmingly small amount - £107 - left in the current account, once all payments have been met.

Steve thanked John for all his hard work on our behalf. It was proposed by Mark Rix, seconded by Grenville Gilbert, that the PCC accept the accounts, subject to the independent examiner's report. **Agreed.** John will provide a brief synopsis of the annual accounts for APCM, with full figures available on request. **Agreed.**

Other matters:

Possible brass plaque to acknowledge contribution of Allen legacy and Gilbert Heale in the financing of the Toilet Block. Grenville Gilbert to remind the PCC to address this at a future PCC meeting. GG

South West Water has not yet charged us for sewerage rates, which we should pay now the Toilet Block is connected. We may get a discount because the run-off drains elsewhere. John Maybery will investigate how much the rates are likely to be. JM

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) – £100 donation has been made to Escot church in return for John Masters conducting the tests on church and Loft appliances.

Diocesan Synod: Moretonhampstead Deanery has requested the Diocese look again at the way Common Fund payments are calculated.

Team Expenses – we currently pay 40% of these (each parish contributes a proportion in relation to its Common Fund). This is not necessarily the fairest way to divide the payments.

8 John will raise this the team treasurer in advance of the next churchwardens meeting.

Coffee

9 Mission Audit

First meeting has taken place. Steve prepared a paper, listing all the things we do in relation to the two aims of our mission statement: knowing God better and making God better known. We already do a huge amount, but it would be good to pick one thing from each side and look for ways we can improve. Next meeting has been booked in for the 9th April.

10 Pentecost Week of Prayer

A nationwide initiative to create a wave of prayer from 8th May to 15th May, in the week leading up to Pentecost. This could involve church groups meeting that week, Messy Church, Mothers' Union, Choir. Other ideas: Poetry and Prayer Evening, Prayer Walk, Prayer Evening based around Lord's Prayer, choir could do the sung version of the Lord's Prayer at services on 8th and 15th. Fiona Rimmer will coordinate. Steve, Leisa, Grenville, Anitra and Sandra would all like to be involved. CTIO could also be invited to take part.

11 APCM

Steve asked all PCC members to pray for people to come forward to fill the vacancies, in particular that a new church warden will be found.

12 AOB

12.1 Holiday Club

Building on the success of last year's Polar Explorers Club, Claire Martin and Juliet Squire would like to run another holiday club this August, using Scripture Union resource "Guardians of Ancora". This is subject to sufficient helpers being available. **Agreed.**

12.2 Electoral Roll

The roll has been revised. Ottery now has 191 (net loss of 4) and Wiggaton 29 (net increase of 2) making a total of 220 for the two parishes.

12.3 Parish Rooms

A Heads of Terms document had been prepared by the Diocese for the use of the Loft/Church Office and circulated in advance of the meeting. It was confirmed that the PCC is responsible for contents insurance (item B 2.3) and that the PCC would continue to arrange for the service of the gas heaters (item B 4.2). Steve will query whether the electricity should be checked more frequently than every 10 years (item B 3.1). The agreement was proposed by Graham Snell, seconded by Grenville Gilbert. **Agreed.**

SWe

Longer Term Considerations (item C): it was agreed that a small feasibility group, made up of Jill Rose, Grenville Gilbert and Graham Snell, would look at alternatives for the rectory and office space.

12.4 Refugee Response in Ottery

Grenville Gilbert had attended a meeting of the Ottery Refugee Response Group. East Devon will take just six refugees and excessive bureaucracy is making even this small response difficult to achieve in practice. There is a petition for MP Hugo Swire at the back of church, calling for a more generous and compassionate response. Grenville suggested we could contribute to a charity in Exeter which assists refugees and asylum seekers. Retiring collection to be organised once Grenville has confirmed the name of the charity.

GG

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace at 9.30 pm

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd April in Church after APCM

Signed: Date: