

**St Mary's Barton-upon-Humber**  
**PCC Agenda 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Matters arising
4. Correspondence
5. Committee reports – *Standing (attached), Social, Children and Young People*
6. Roof/Quinquennial
  - i. Paper on developing the building post-roof calamity.
7. Renewal of permission to administer the chalice – Mr. John French
8. Health and Safety
9. AOB

Date of next meeting **26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Minutes of the meeting of St Mary's PCC**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**

**Present:** Fr. D. Rowett (Chair). Dr. P. Large, Messrs. S. Bennett, G. Brown, K. Henson, A. Lord, R. Lord, R. Smith  
Fr. L. Brown (Secretary) Mesdames: S. Brennan, V. Dukes, A. Henson, M. McManus, M. Nutbrown, K. S. Wright

**Apologies:** Mrs A. Trubshaw

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record. Proposed: Mrs. M. Nutbrown, Seconded: Mrs V. Dukes. All in favour.

**Matters arising:** Fr David reported that, having consulted the diocese, he has now been informed that all PCC members require a basic DBS check. These will be dealt with after the summer break.

**Correspondence:** None

**Fabric:** Fr David recorded his thanks to Mr D. Crosskell who has cleared debris from the church roof and gutters and repaired the quiet closure on the inner door of the church.

Mrs K. S. Wright asked if any progress had been made in preventing the very deep puddles which form outside the Hall door in wet weather. Fr David replied that there was very little which could be done. Even if the soakaway could be located, to dig it out would be a major and costly work and require a faculty because it would involve digging in the churchyard. With the current demands on finances this really cannot be a priority. Mrs Wright also reported that at the recent Church Schools Service it had been necessary to seat children in the north aisle, despite the problems with the lifting floor, because of pressure of numbers.

Mr G. Brown also thanked Mr Crosskell for his help. Mr Brown has been in touch with Chris Dunderdale once again regarding the new boilerhouse doors etc. Progress has been slowed by holiday commitments. Steve Leaning has also been contacted about re-lighting the boiler and investigating the rusty pipe on the inner north aisle wall. Kaye Electrics have visited the church with a view to preparing a quote for installing better lighting in St James' Chapel, this being a sensible area to test as it is the area of the church with most evening use.

Mrs V Dukes said that Mr W Cox had noticed three buddleia bushes growing in the church wall and wondered if Mr Crosskell could deal with them. Mrs Wright suggested asking Andrew Robinson for advice as most commercially available weedkiller is too weak to deal with these bushes.

**Friends of St Mary's:** Mr Brown raised the matter of the Friends of St Mary's and the need for greater publicity if this initiative is to produce the funds we hope for. As the Patronal Festival is at the beginning of September this seems an appropriate time to draw attention to the Friends project and Mr Brown suggested that updated copies of the leaflet about the Friends should be distributed along with the service books on that day. Mr Brown read out a first draft of a piece for the magazine which explained why the Friends were needed, pointing out that contributions from the congregation pay for parish share and basic running costs but that the giving levels will not cover the costs of actually maintaining the building. Although relatively few people from the town worship here regularly, the church building does have considerable local significance, both

historically and personally, as generations of people have had baptisms/weddings/funerals in the church. It is hoped that an appeal to the wider community will attract people willing to contribute to the upkeep of the building because it is an asset to the town. There is also a need for members of the congregation to consider carefully whether they can increase their own giving. No money is available from central funds so all necessary work will need to be raised through giving and/or grants.

There was a general discussion about the drafted article and the Friends project. The impact of a recent leaflet drop by a local charity aiming to raise money for treatment for a young person with cancer was mentioned as an example of a project with a clear message. Mr S. Bennett suggested that we needed to think on a larger scale, mentioning crowd-funding, use of social media etc. After some discussion Fr David made the following observations.

- \*The Friends project is designed to deepen links with the wider community. Very big projects will always require exceptional fund-raising efforts but the Friends are designed to produce a regular sum to deal with relatively small repairs.
- \*A leaflet drop in the town asking for money would probably be counter-productive. There is a mistaken belief that the Church of England has vast disposable assets and without careful explanation blanket appeals for money could be resented. The necessary maintenance of an historic building does not have the emotional appeal of a sick person and a similar approach to fund-raising may not be appropriate.
- \*Larger scale efforts are necessary and useful but they also take time to implement. We do not have anybody in our congregation with the necessary skills to raise large amounts of money and the very lack of funds which makes the Friends necessary means we do not have the resources to pay somebody to do it. Looking into large scale funding is a positive suggestion but in the meantime we need to do something which will raise some money fairly quickly, which is what it is hoped the Friends will achieve.

Fr David suggested that Mr Brown's draft be circulated at the next PCC for comments. A short explanation of the project would be included in the notice sheet on the Patronal Festival. Meanwhile, the Friends can be added to our website and Facebook page and the leaflet should be updated. Mrs Dukes said that one leaflet had been completed and posted in the safe. This was from a member of the congregation who already gives via another scheme and the issue of differentiating between the usual giving and the Friends is yet to be clarified. To coincide with our Patronal Festival and raising the profile of the Friends, Mrs M. McManus suggested having another Friends event in the shape of an afternoon tea on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr Bennett left the meeting at 8.20 due to a prior engagement.

**Health and Safety:** No issues were raised.

**A.O.B.** None

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.40pm

**Date of next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### **Standing Committee 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Present:** Val, Rob, Mavis, Peter, Geoff, Liz, David

Fr David said our discussions at the previous PCC had rather been overtaken by events with the recent theft of the roof from the south aisle. We do have a temporary roof in place and it is dry over the organ. The damage to the copper roof on the north aisle has also been repaired. The architect is sending these bills directly to the insurers and despite our making two claims for two separate thefts, the excess is not too bad. The loss adjusters have been. Don Kitchen is preparing the necessary schedule of works and Fr David is very hopeful that we can replace the lead with turn coated steel which is cheaper and not as attractive to thieves. This has also been suggested by the Archdeacon. We may need planning permission but since this has already been used on a visible portion of St Peter's roof we hope this should not be a problem. The DAC will need to see the plans and a faculty will be required. The treasurer thinks the cap on the insurance for the metal may be a little higher than we believed at first.

Fr David said we should look beyond just doing the repair and aim to take stock of what we want to do beyond mend the roof. Local fund raising will be necessary but there are grants available and we need to chase those too. We have already had some donations from our own congregation and there are grants to chase through the council, Tesco/Co-op, Wren, Heritage Lottery Fund, Marshall's Charity etc. Some of those will pay out for things which enhance community use, such as seating, but will not contribute to structural repairs. Any use of social media would need to be carefully worded so as not to hint that there is more lead available for future raids.

There are alarms which can be fitted which beam bright lights and and sound klaxons when intruders get on the roof but as these could also be set off by birds it was felt that we should confine ourselves to lights in the interest of continued good relations with our neighbours.

The programme of improvements Fr David would like to see include;

Repair of the roof

Completing the work raised by the quinquennial

Lighting (a pilot scheme is to be tried in St James' Chapel and similar lights are to be installed in the tower which the ringers are prepared to finance out of their own funds).

Seating.

New cupboard and storage in the choir vestry

New lighting in the Hall.

We have had an offer of help from somebody with expertise in applying for grants etc.

Fr David has already applied to the diocesan Transformation Fund for some decent notice boards to replace our present ones which are prone to collapse at the first sight of a pin.

It was also suggested that we should make clear to those who don't wish to give through their bank or who don't have a bank account that donations can be made directly by putting an envelope marked "Roof Appeal" in the safe.

### **In other news**

Fr David said that the diocese now insists that all PCC members have enhanced (rather than basic) DBS checks, regardless of whether they deal with vulnerable adults or children because they are trustees of a charity and this is required by charity law.

Mavis and Mike Nutbrown met the archæologist in charge of the work at St Peter's, Warwick Rodwell while they were on holiday. He suggested that the lifting floor in the north aisle could be the result of gases escaping from burials under the floor (of which there are several). Fr David will contact Geoff Bryant to see if any further information can be found.

## Building development in the wake of the lead theft.

Inevitably, the likely £40,000 total bill for repairs to the South Aisle roof will have to be met in significant measure by grants. Although the proposal to replace with steel rather than lead has reduced the cost overall by about £4,000 it is still way in excess of any insurance payout.

It seems to Standing Committee that to put in the necessary grant-chasing work but stop short at the roof repair would be a pity. If we can assemble a team of people willing to oversee a refurbishment and grant-seeking group then, given the spur of needing to keep dry, we can make something positive of our problem. The magic words in grant applications are 'people' and 'community', and we can make a good case for many works (of which the list below is neither exhaustive or definitive, suggestions invited) being part and parcel of that, not forgetting the well-being aspect of St Mary's being open as a quiet space for any to use.

The following would seem to be projects well worth planning for implementation over the next five years:

1. **Roof (South Aisle).** We need say no more, save that it may well be worth investigating the installation of solar panels, as has been done at St Denys' Sleaford and a number of other places in the Diocese.
2. **Completing the Quinquennial work,** including items which have been kept on the back burner for too long, for example sorting out tower safety.
3. **Lighting.** A pilot project in St James' Chapel is a proof-of-concept experiment and we would welcome comments about the new light levels, the quality of illumination (ie shadows, areas not covered by the new lights) aesthetics and so on. The colour temperature (that is, the whiteness of the light) is necessary so as to chime in with our existing lighting.

It should be stressed that re-lighting the rest of the Church isn't quite as simple as this swapping of fittings, but we hope to learn valuable lessons about the use of commercially available units rather than endure the expense of bespoke fittings.

The hall could also do with re-lamping with LED fittings, as could the choir vestry and ringing chamber (where guards need to be fitted to the lights).

4. **Heating.** We do have a new (and much more reasonable) quote for the flushing of the system and the addition of anti-corrosion chemicals. We must accept that we cannot possibly aspire to reach living-room temperatures in the building (on grounds practical, economic and environmental). The usual answer in a high building – fans to drive the warm air down – is never going to get past the DAC or Heritage England, but eventual boiler replacement beckons.
5. **Seating.** What may have been the norm 80 years ago, the ubiquitous wooden elm chair (complete with ubiquitous beetle), is starting to show its age, both in terms of beetle holes and levels of comfort. To make better use of the building for performances/concerts, as well as increasing the comfort of our own congregation, new, sympathetic seating in the Nave and inner side aisles (lest anyone think we're talking about removing hallowed pews) seems logical, probably linked with cleaning and sealing the woodblock floor.
6. **Display.** This takes two forms, one of which is, I hope, in hand. First, as noted in Standing Committee's report, I have applied to the Diocesan Transformation Fund for £500 to help us buy some more robust display boards, rather like those which OCC has managed to borrow. St Chad's chapel has potential as a display space, as projected for the forthcoming WWI commemoration. Second, we have a large number of historic artefacts around the place, rather higgledy-piggledy: perhaps these deserve better.
7. **Storage.** At present we are pushed for storage space, and what storage space we have is often inefficient and (occasionally) hazardous. We should consider refurbishing the choir vestry so that we have better provision (eg for Auriol's glasses and teapots, for cleaning materials and items, for music and for the Flower Rota's equipment. We might also consider looking to increase storage in the lobby if this can be done without encroaching too much on lobby space.

Judicious use of display boards on the LH side of the way in to Church would also hide the unsightly 'bits and pieces' area, and perhaps give a storage space for a supply of extra chairs without us having to lump them in and out of the hall all the time.