

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 8th February 2016

Those present:

John Rogers (Chairman)	Sally Cairns	Joan Crossman
Jane Masson	Russell Vince	Denise Easteal
Jenny Foakes	Janet Fagg	Pat MacDonald
Liz Fagg	Rosemary Cooper	Caroline Heron
Sue Stevenson		

Welcome and Apologies (1)

John Morris	Fiona Vince	Glenis Kerr Elliott
Patrick Woodlock	Alison Murray	Trevor Greaves

Members gathered in the Morlais Corridor with no power because of severe weather conditions. The Rector's prayer was "Lighten our darkness we beseech you O Lord" and promptly at 7.30 there was light. He welcomed Giles and Jo from the bell ringing team to give the meeting a presentation

Opening Reading (2)

This month the reading was done by JFo from a book by C S Lewis entitled The Screwtape Letters. The letter chosen was from Screwtape to his nephew, Wormwood on a theme of temptation and sin.

Substantive item – Presentation by Bellringers (3)

Jo and Giles spoke to the meeting about the condition of the bells. Since 1972 they have been repaired again and again and are reaching a position in the next few years that they will give out. The current bells are very heavy and awkward and are housed in a wooden frame. Jo and Giles have met with 3 different companies who have given an extensive report and recommendations. There are 2 available options:

1. To refurbish the current bells at a cost of between £50,000 and £60,000
2. To get rid of current 8 bells and put in 10 new much lighter bells and do any improvements necessary at a cost of around £200,000

There are grants available for the work but PCC approval is necessary before any progress can be made. The ringers already have £54000 pledged. They will not be going to the congregation for fund raising but the congregation will need to know of the plans. If the second option is adopted, the old bells could be sold. The ringers would like to keep 2 of the old bells but a sale of 6 bells could raise a further £24000. The DAC may also give 25 – 30% of the cost once the process is approved.

Giles advised that the work for option 2 needs to be tackled in 3 stages

- Stage 1 – agreement from the PCC to move forward
- Stage 2 – appointment of architect
- Stage 3 - fund raising, faculty and certificate

It was agreed that a specialist architect would be needed to do a detailed survey of the tower and that his fees must be included in the costings

It was also noted that the work on the clock and the work in the tower would overlap

The importance of the bells at St Michael's was unanimously agreed. It was felt that they fell within the 5 Marks of Mission and possibly into Action 6 of our "What Next" programme

A proposal was then put to the meeting:

The PCC endorses the programme of investigation of the viability of replacing 8 bells with 10 bells to a cost of £200000, the support given conditionally that the money is fully raised by the bell ringers and nothing spent until a faculty is obtained and the funding in place.

The purpose is to further proclaim the Gospel.

Proposed by DE. Seconded by JFa, All in favour.

Giles will prepare a copy of this presentation which will be forwarded to members asap

Finance (4)

The initial examination of last year's accounts show a considerable excess in income over expenditure, mainly due to increased revenue from funerals and Church Hall income. The accounts will be fully discussed at the meeting on 1st March and it is hoped to have a full set of accounts audited in time for the APCM

Tabled Reports (5)

5.1 MAD 12/01/16 – The Rector commended the work of the MAD team and advised that there were some 1500 people through the church doors in December including many new faces. This was much to do with the publicity undertaken by the MAD team

5.2 Stewardship 26/01/16 – DE advised that Fiona Vince has agreed to take over the Chair of the Stewardship Committee for which she is deeply grateful. DE was thanked for her loyal service over the past few years

Lent groups have been advertised and members were encouraged to sign up to one of the Sessions. St. Michael's will be featuring the life of St. Francis, using a video partly produced by DE

Minutes of the meeting held on 18/01/16 (6)

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Updates from previous meetings – See Action Points (7)

Full details of some points:

Restoration – Clock – Further work has been done on the plans, costings in region of £12000 which will be covered by donations and grants. It was noted that atmospheric conditions need to be taken into account and a back up system in case of power failure.

Rectors' Board – Vellum is now with the Calligrapher. She has asked for a Word Document to confirm details which is proving very challenging. The Rector, Chris Johnson and Rosa are working on this. Funding is in place

Churchyard Closure – Confirmation received from the Ministry of Justice. Will now go before the Privy Council. Cremated remains will still be able to be interred in the area to the West of the Church.

Pram Service – Emily is willing to look at this. JFo in discussions with Sunday School. SC is willing to sponsor Actions 7 and 9 from the "What Next" programme relating to young people.

Trees – the trees are down. Looking at ways to re-build wall. Ecclesiastical insurance is involved. Extra cost of £500 for the falling trees.

David Corbett's Holiday Pay – The Rector has discussed this with David advising him of the pitfalls of the change and he is happy to continue with his present arrangement

What Next update (8)

The Group are meeting on 15th Feb to discuss how to present the findings to the congregation on Sunday, 21st Feb. Under Action 1 JFo advised that Jenny Searle has committed to host house groups and be a possible leader under JFo's guidance.

Pastoral Care – DBS checking (9)

Ongoing

APCM (10)

JC meeting with the Rector to do report on 15th Feb, Can members of PCC who would like to update the Committee remit send ideas to JC or the Rector by email before their meeting. As Jackie Chappell is unavailable to prepare lunch, a Shared lunch will take place

David Corbett's Honorarium – Holiday Pay – update (11)

Already covered

Appointment of Architect – Update (12)

Out of the 6 initial letters sent only 3 have replied. One of these is not interested. The Rector has met with the other two, only one may go forward to the shortlist. He will pursue the three who have not replied

Rector's Board – Update (13)

Already covered

Lent Groups (14)

Already covered

Matters arising not covered on the Agenda (15)

None

Correspondence (16)

Secretary's correspondence – JC has discussed this with the Rector and taken any necessary action. The Rector has asked for PW's advice re Pensions for Employees.

AOB (17)

Rector - Toilets – The Rector has asked for 3 quotes, the only one received so far is from our contractor and this was circulated. There are two options:

1. Replace both toilets with similar – Cost £5000 (inc VAT)
2. Replace both with fully compliant disabled facilities – Cost £7500 (No VAT)

The meeting felt the better option would be to fully replace one toilet as it is now and replace the second toilet with full disabled facilities. The Rector agreed to take this forward

JC – Christian Aid – JC advised meeting of the Christian Aid Soup Lunch on 12th March and asked for support of this Event. Poster on Morlais Board. She also confirmed that Douq Aspinall will be looking for volunteers for street collections again this year

PMacD – Working Party arranged for Saturday 5th March

Rector – The Rector showed the meeting a new format for the Pew Notice which he and Rosa have been working on. It will be introduced on 21st Feb and re-iterated that central to everything we do is Prayer.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm with the Grace

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 1st March – Finance only

(No reading, No Agenda will be circulated)

Tuesday 29th March – Full PCC Meeting

Action Points			
Action Date	Item	Who by	Status
2014	Rector's Board	Architect/Contractor	With calligrapher
2014	Flint work	Architect/Contractor	First phase complete More to be done
2014	Churchyard Closure	Churchyard Committee	5-6 spaces left Now with Privy Council
2014	Churchyard – Removing adornments prescribed by Regulations	Churchyard Committee	Faculty now received Removal of adornments delayed
2014	Churchyard - War Graves Plaque -	Churchyard Committee	Faculty approved chasing installer
2014	Church Hall, Bookings and use, Rm 3	Church Hall Committee	Complete
2015-1	Review remits of certain sub committees for next year's APCM booklet is produced.	Rector and JC	To be agreed 15/02/16
2015-1	Recruiting of sides persons	SC	Ongoing
2015-1	Anyone willing to do a reading at Beginning of PCC meetings to email JC.	All	No reading 01/03/16 29/03/16 - DE
2015-4	Pram Service	Rector	Emily Goom now on board
2015-4	Trees in churchyard	Rector	Trees down Looking at ways to rebuild wall
2015-4	Church Diaries	Rector	Ordered
2015-5	Lent Material	DE/JR	To be signed up by 10/02/16
2015-5	Church Clock	Rector	See 20105-8
2015-5	Lighting	Rector	New architect needed to continue work
2015-6	Church Hall emergency lighting	Church Hall Committee	Not installed
2015-6	Organ Surround	The Masson Team	To look at necessary work
2015-7	Wall Repair	Rector	Faculty needed Ground needs to

			settle
2015-7	David Corbett's Holiday pay	Rector	Done
2015-8	Restoration - Clock	Core Group	Further work on plans
2015-8	Restoration - Tower	Core Group	To work with bell ringers
2015-8	Appointment of Architect	Rector	Ongoing
2015-8	Proposal for new bells	Bellringers	Bellringers to liase with PCC on progress
2015-8	APCM lunch	???	Shared lunch to be organised
2015-8	Toilets	Rector/Fabric	Ongoing - urgent