

**St Mary's Lasham**  
**PCC Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

Present: Canon Ed Pruen Chairman  
Maurice Goor Churchwarden  
Deirdre Toogood  
Cate Baynton  
Charlie Shaylor  
Gillian Gardiner  
Frances Parris  
Stuart McCandlish  
Antonia Goor

1. The meeting was opened with prayer
2. **Apologies:** Michael Del Mar
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the PCC held on 09.10.18, which have been circulated, were signed and approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - i) Sara Bankhead has nearly completed her Bishop's Commission for Mission training (pastoral) and will be available to assist in pastoral work across the Benefice – with a particular focus on bereavement care.
  - ii) Canon Ed continues to plan his study leave for September and October 2019. He has now received formal permission from the Bishop of Winchester (who is currently on three months Study Leave himself). Permission came too late to apply for grants.
  - iii) Robert Toogood has kindly been choosing the hymns for Lasham's services but would appreciate relinquishing this responsibility. Allyson Hall to be asked if she would be interested in taking on this task. **Action: Stuart**
  - iv) Jill Hurley has advised that subscriptions can be requested where The Villager is being posted to people outside of the benefice, but has asked that each village sorts this out for themselves. Cate to request that a digital copy of The Villager be sent to Frances so this can be circulated to people who do not live in the village. **Action: Cate**
  - v) Cate to meet with Caroline Egleston (secretary of Village Committee) at end of January to consider how the church's future can be secured as a community resource. **Action: Cate**
  - vi) The PCC to consider which Christian charities they wish to support (one local, one national and one international) and come with suggestions to the next meeting. **Action: PCC Members**
5. **Canon Ed's Report:**
  - i) Since our last PCC meeting there have been 7 funerals across the benefice and two weddings. All the Remembrance Services across the benefice were well attended. In Medstead it was held in the Village Hall with over 300 people. The benefice Advent reflections also went well. The Christmas services were well supported with a footfall of 1826 over the 22 services, which is an increase on previous years.
  - ii) The Archdeacon has recently had a questionnaire for clergy across multi benefice parishes on systems of governance. Clearly there are many different arrangements in place, each with their merits and challenges. It is recognised that in the future, a

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single parish will be considered a more attractive post for future applicants. The next step is to meet with the Archdeacon and Canon Ed is keen for representation from all four PCCs. **Action: Canon Ed**

- iii) Lasham needs to apply for a Diocesan Faculty for a designated area for the burial of ashes in the churchyard. This is the normal arrangement in all churchyards across the country. Canon Ed advised that he is not keen for comparatively random plots to be continued around the east end of the church. **Action: PCC members**

## **6. Churchwardens**

- i) Thank you drinks for those who support the church in a variety of ways to be held at the Goors in June. Day to be confirmed. **Action: Maurice**
- ii) The Christmas Bazaar raised £900. Thanks to Hugo and Caroline Egleston for hosting. Also, thanks to Hugo for refurbishing the church and village noticeboards.
- iii) Thanks to Ed for the Christingle Service. It was well attended and raised a good sum (£925.60 across the benefice) for The Children's Society. If people would like to donate to the Children's Society all year around, collection boxes are available from Maggie Shaylor. Margaret Pruen is considering becoming 'a champion' of the Children's Society.
- iv) Thanks to Robert Toogood for the Christmas Day service. Also to Jean and Peter Osgood for supplying the Christmas tree. Charlie Shaylor advised that a large artificial tree has been offered to Lasham Church and this was accepted with thanks.
- v) The Lasham coffee mornings continue to be successful. It was agreed that they should not be advertised in "The Welcome" pew sheets as the event is mainly for people who live, or have lived, in the village. It is held in homes, which vary in size. Canon Ed mentioned that a number of people who worship in Lasham Church from across the benefice have been told that they are not supposed to attend. However, it is hoped that everyone should be made welcome should they appear – including Canon Ed.
- vi) Thanks were given to Deirdre as she steps down from her post as churchwarden. She will, however, remain on the PCC.
- vii) Richard Murray has kindly offered to monitor the boiler oil levels, as well as clear the guttering. Ed requested that it is checked that he has a 'heights certificate' as it is important that all works delegated by the PCC are fully insured. **Action: Frances**
- viii) The rota for cutting the churchyard grass is working well. It was questioned whether a springtime clearance session is needed. While this was not thought necessary, it was agreed that the autumn clearance date and the way it is advertised should be reviewed, as it has been poorly attended for the last two years. **Action: Maurice**
- ix) It was agreed that the boiler should be switched on 3 hours before a service for a trial period. Canon Ed emphasised the importance of the church being warm so it is comfortable for everyone.

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**7. Treasurer**

- i) Canon Ed asked why the Donations to Charities showed a significant decline from 2017 to 2018. It was suggested that this may be due to changes to the way donations to charities are now collected and recorded at funerals.
- ii) In general, income in 2018 has remained stable but expenses have increased by 11%.
- iii) The charitable box at the back of the church needs to be checked regularly, as it cannot be locked. **Action: PCC Members**
- iv) Canon Ed confirmed that gift aid can be applied to collections in services if there are more than 10 people in the congregation. It was felt that a statement may be needed in church to remind people of the importance of providing gift aided support for the church. **Action: PCC Members**
- v) More volunteers are needed to take the collection money to the bank. Maurice, Stuart, Frances and Cate all agreed they would be happy to help. **Action: Michael**

**8. Deanery Synod – meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October**

- i) The Deanery Synod focused on the Diocesan Missionary Action Plan (DMAP). Links with dioceses overseas are being reviewed.
- ii) A Benefice missionary action plan is now needed (BMAP). **Action: All PCCs**

**9. Fabric, Health and Safety**

- i) DBS checks are now needed for every church role undertaken. Ed asked that people speak to Jean Osgood if they need help sorting out their checks. **Action: Deirdre and Maurice**
- ii) Deirdre advised that the meeting with Richard Streatfield and his colleague Sarah from the Diocesan Advisory Committee went well. Richard and Sarah were encouraging by the proposed changes to the church, such as incorporating a kitchenette at the back. It was suggested that the church try and obtain samples chairs and investigate moveable pews to help with the decision on types of seating. It was agreed that it would be difficult to have a toilet at the back of the church so it would be better to consider a separate building outside, or an extension. The heating system may need to be looked at, but making any changes to the flooring of the church would be expensive. Deirdre to contact Nick Carey-Thomas (a diocesan architect) to assist further with the ideas discussed. **Action: Deirdre.** It was agreed that a small committee should be set up to try and move the project forward, and that other members of the village be asked to join to ensure that it is a community project. Maurice and Frances agreed to be part of the committee and Michael Del Mar will also be asked if he wishes to join. Gina Toth may be happy to support this initiative as she has expertise in this area and was instrumental in drawing up the original plans. Cate to speak to Caroline Egleston to see if she can offer suggestions as to who else may want to join from the village. **Action: Cate**

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**10. AOB**

- i) Charlie Shaylor kindly agreed to conduct the Mothering Sunday Service (31<sup>st</sup> March). This is in addition to the Benefice Service at Medstead that day (being a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). In addition he will conduct the Harvest Festival Family Service on 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- ii) **The ACPM is on 9<sup>th</sup> April.** The revision of the Electoral Roll needs to be undertaken before this date. Canon Ed went through all the deadline dates for ensuring this is done correctly. Maurice and Antonia have agreed to undertake this review. **Action: Maurice and Antonia**

The meeting was closed with prayer.