

**ST. Mary's Lasham**  
**PCC held via ZOOM**  
**on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30 p.m.**

1. The meeting was opened with prayer
2. Apologies: Antonia Goor
3. Minutes of the last meeting held via Zoom on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Matters arising
  - It is hoped that the lapel microphones will be repaired within the next couple of months. It has been difficult to get this sorted during the COVID lockdown.  
**Action: Michael**

5. Reports

**Churchwarden's report**

- John Lofthouse, with the support of Brian Pritchard our Area Dean, is doing a wonderful job in ensuring the online services are available on the BLMS website. Also, thanks to Reverends Ingrid and Peter especially for the Tuesday evening prayer.
- There are a number of church events on hold (memorial services, weddings and christenings) until we have a clearer picture as to when churches can reopen and under what conditions.
- Thanks to the church cleaners during the pandemic. Also to Richard and Michael for sorting out the gutters. The guttering by the porch now needs some attention. Frances to speak to Richard. **Action Frances**
- It is still not clear when churches will be re-opened; we await further advice from the government and the diocese. If services are allowed in March, there are due to be 2 per month in Lasham. It would be good to offer more, particularly to the young, such as lay led Family Services.
- Masks and gloves will continue to be provided in the church once it reopens. These are also to be offered to the cleaners.
- Thanks to Anthea for all her effort on the re-ordering project: this is now on hold until we know more about Winchester's plans for Lasham. Anthea has written an excellent and honest letter to the Chancellor with regard to the pew removal and the future survival of our country churches.

**Treasurer's report**

- Sally Hayes has received a copy of the treasurer's report and accounts electronically for audit.
- The online banking system seems to be working well, with Maurice and/or Cate responding by email on amounts to be cleared.
- The decline of income has been quite modest during the pandemic. People have been very generous. However, we need to continue to try and increase the planned giving.

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- The size of the contribution to the Common Mission Fund, as well as the cost of the insurance is 'grotesque' in comparison to expenditure as a whole.
- It is very difficult to get competitive quote for church insurance as there are only three companies involved.
- Christenings, memorial services and weddings make a dramatic difference to our funds. While the number of services with collections has fallen, the average pound per service is holding up well.
- Housekeeping: it was proposed that we move from EDF to Bulb Energy when our tariff is due for renewal in March. This will give us a small saving. **All agreed.**  
**N.B subsequent to the PCC meeting EDF energy had offered a competitive 3 year fixed deal, which has been accepted.**

6. Re-ordering of the church

- Canon Ed gave a good summary at the last meeting. Planning has been agreed by the Local Authority, but the issues with the pews are maddening, as it will stop the church from being a useable space. It was disappointing that Richard Streatfield did not include Anthea in the discussion with the Victorian Society. Anthea had written to the Chancellor of the Diocese, copied to Bishop Tim and to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The only response had been a telephone call, off the record, from Bishop David of Basingstoke, sympathetic to her views.
- Allyson suggested that we hold an event in the church and invite the Victorian Society along, so they can see how difficult it is to use the space.
- Michael emphasised that it is now over to the PCC, as we need someone to 'champion' the project. Extensions to faculties are not uncommon, but normally only modest changes to plans are allowed. An extension has been talked about for years and we now need to move forward. The PCC should initiate discussions shortly with the village committee as to how to move the project forward to minimize further delays.
- Stuart questioned whether the village committee would support the project, if there are a number of people against the design. It will be hard to progress if we do not appear to be listening to their views.
- Frances and Allyson highlighted that the PCC need to agree our approach as we are not united: it is hard to champion a project if you do not support the design.
- It is felt that more thought needs to be given to the interior of the church and whether the addition of a kitchenette and toilet will be sufficient to make it a community asset
- Allyson felt the statement of need for the project was 'spot on', but the design did not match the statement and that we need alternatives.
- It was agreed that the PCC should have an extraordinary meeting about the building project and how to move forward, once we have a clearer picture as to the Diocese's plans for Lasham. Cate to liaise with dates. **Action: Cate**

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7. AOB

- The local elections are to be held in the church on the 6<sup>th</sup> May and a risk assessment has been completed
- Allyson confirmed that a socially distanced/COVID compliant music festival is being planned and a risk assessment is in place

8. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed

9. Closing prayer – the meeting was closed with prayer