

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CHURCH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 19TH MAY 2014
AT S^T MARY THE VIRGIN, BAMPTON

Present David Lloyd (Chairman), Mark Albert, Dennis Bambury, Ann Boutflower, Peter Grimwade, Jill Hall, Beate Howitt, James Jamieson, David New, Dennis Piper, Arthur Pont, Richard Rednall, Ray Smith, Phil Waite.

1. **Apologies:** Received from Liz Rose.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2013** were approved and signed.

2.1. Matters Arising:

David Lloyd noted that the ecumenical Lent course was very successful.

David also noted that he had a number of Confirmation candidates.

The school welcomed the Easter experience and wish to repeat it next year.

3. Finance

James presented the printed report.

The Parish external accountant has reviewed the accounts. Two small amendments have been made in that the computer has been depreciated by 25% (£118) and that some funds given in the past (*e.g.*, legacies) have been shown separately; the assets were already kept separately, where appropriate.

James requested that the revised accounts be approved. This was done.

Arthur suggested that some of the endowment funds could be combined (with approval from the Charity Commissioners). James will look into this at a future point.

In response to a suggestion at the AGM that a summarised version of the accounts be made available to the church, James presented a possible format. Phil suggested that the Income and Expenditure sections should be published, but that the balance sheet should not. The decision was taken not to publish any of the accounts, on grounds that they are presented at the AGM.

The accounts for the first four months of 2014 were presented. James made note that several items are not evenly spread throughout the year, leading to the accounts showing a loss (£7,411) in a manner that is slightly misleading. Overall, the figures are largely in accordance with the same period 2013.

It was agreed that a note would be made in the accounts against an expenditure entry where it has been offset by a particular gift.

The mandates have now been transferred, although this was not straightforward. Two of five signatories are required to sign cheques, although Online payments can only be made by either James or Ray (*i.e.*, two people are not required to authorise the payment). James is not comfortable with this, and will look into it in the future.

Some of the investments are held with CCLA. James requested that a mandate approved to allow him and David Lloyd to manage these investments. This was approved and signed by David Lloyd and Richard Rednall.

James also noted a communication regarding encouraging the review of regular giving.

4. Communication

No update.

5. Vestments Replacement

As well as the replacement of the Altar frontals, David and Jill have looked into the possibility of new vestments, since the existing ones are deteriorating. It is not known when the green set was made, but the maker died in 1947!

David passed round pictures of example vestments made by Luzar in Bicester. £595 (inc. VAT) would buy chasuble and stole. The ordinary white set will also need to be replaced soon. It was agreed that a full set (green, purple, white and red) could be purchased. David will take this forward. Jill requested that Bible ribbons also be purchased (agreed).

6. Special projects

6.1. Altar Frontal: Jill reported that they are currently being made (in Wantage). No money has been requested yet. It is hoped that a visit to see them in production can be arranged.

6.2. Organ: Phil has spoken to the Diocesan organ advisers. The plan had been to repair, relocate slightly and augment with a (mostly) digital solution. One of the advisers (Barry) is more demonstrative than the other (Roy) and was less keen on this solution. The proposed solution is now to rebuild, allowing the pipework to operate at higher pressure. Only the pedal organ would receive a digital enhancement. The tracker action would be replaced by electric action. The organ builders have quoted £130k and £137k. At the moment, VAT can be reclaimed. Phil believes that a more extensive hybrid solution would not now be supported. A few additional stops would probably be supported. Technically, their support is not needed, but is certainly desirable. They will support either organ builder and suggest a target figure of £150k for fund-raising purposes. Either builder would require 30-40% of the cost to be paid at the time the agreement is made.

The next step would be for Phil and David New to put a proposal forward regarding a chosen builder and talk to them in detail. The CCC agreed to support this. The acquisition of a replacement instrument for use during the works must also be considered.

6.3. Church Lighting: Phil to chase up on this.

6.4. Lady Chapel: Peter reported that Natalie Merry from the DAC has visited and is supportive of the creation of a glass partition. Burford are doing something similar. Peter is considering using their architect. Our own architect is also being approached about the quinquennial, so both could be approached. The next step is to get an outline plan from an architect. Phil reported that Andrew Townsend will be sending a colleague to do our quinquennial (which will be £950 +VAT), and who could also be asked to provide a quote for the Lady Chapel.

6.5. Additional: Peter Hawkins has noted some lead-work which needs to be done. It is likely that the quinquennial will highlight this.

Peter noted a number of graves which become covered in grass. A complaint has been received, so the gardeners will be contacted to ask them to take particular care in this regard.

7. Commemoration of the Start of WW I (August 4th)

David Lloyd noted that the Royal British Legion will hold a small service at the War Memorial. Suggestions on how various events should be commemorated would be welcomed.

8. A Grand Day Out Diocesan Day in Oxford & Concert in St. Mary's (20th September)

There will be a large event in Oxford, tying with the departure of Bishop John. This will include a picnic at Christ Church Meadows, followed by an open-air Eucharist. More details will be circulated when they are received.

The Methodist Church has organised a concert (Ulster Male Voice Choir) in St. Mary's on the same day. Proceeds to be split three ways between the Methodist Church, St. Mary's and Helen & Douglas House.

9. Deanery Synod

No update.

10. Junior Church/Blessed Bees/School Links

It was noted that Messy Church is proving successful and is bringing families into the church. School links continue. There will be an Ascension service and the annual leavers' service at the end of the year (both in church).

The children in the choir are still coming and making a contribution and there is the possibility of numbers growing. It was noted that David New works very well with them.

Blessed Bees is also keeping up and doing well.

11. Future Events

David circulated a list of future planned events in the church. The Patronal Festival is 13th July. Drinks and nibbles will be held in church following the service. A BBQ is planned for Messy Church the previous week.

12. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Monday 15th September at 19.30 in the church.