Present: Canon Ed Pruen Chairman

Deirdre Toogood Churchwarden

Cate Baynton

Charlie Shaylor

Gillian Gardiner

Frances Parris

Stuart McCandlish

Michael Del Mar

1. The meeting was opened with prayer
2. **Apologies**: Maurice and Antonia Goor
3. **Minutes**: The minutes of the PCC held on 05.07.18, which have been circulated, were signed and approved.
4. **Matters Arising**: There were no matters arising.
5. **Canon Ed’s Report**:
6. Canon Ed continues to be busy with weddings, baptisms and funerals across the benefice. It was noted that funerals are often three part services, with the funeral itself – sometimes at the Crematorium, followed by a memorial service, and later a service to bury the ashes. We charge the normal church funeral fees for memorial services.
7. Sara Bankhead is training for the Bishop’s Commission for Mission with a special focus on pastoral care.
8. Training for servers is being held in the benefice.
9. Canon Ed asked the PCC to approve his study leave plans for September and October 2019. The programme is still being devised, but will include a pilgrimage walk between Melrose Abbey and Lindisfarne. He also hopes to visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem and possibly Hebron deep in the West Bank. With a working title of “Drawing Attention” Ed plans to paint scenes on his visit and create an online book. It is intended that there will be no change to service patterns in the benefice. Ed will organise the cover rota with the help of the area dean, Brian Pritchard. Frances Parris proposed a vote in favour of the sabbatical, and Deidre Toogood seconded it. It was unanimously agreed.
10. Canon Ed advised that Deidre has decided to step down as churchwarden as from December 2018. Deidre is to remain on the PCC and continue to offer her support and guidance. Ed proposed a vote of thanks to Deidre. It was agreed that the PCC need to revisit the list of responsibilities of a churchwarden, to ease the burden on the remaining churchwarden. **To be reviewed at next meeting**.
11. Canon Ed is planning to form a Benefice Committee with representatives from the four parishes. This would draw the four parishes together in planning and decisions that affect us all. This has been well received across the other PCCs. He has been advised by the Bishop of Basingstoke to encourage the four parishes to work towards becoming one single Parish. It is net yet known how the limited distribution of clergy across the Deanery will be allocated. However, becoming a single parish strengthens our position to ensure we have a priest. A single parish could, for example, mean that Lasham, Bentworth and Shalden become Chapels of Ease, while Medstead, being the largest parish, would be the Parish Church. A Chapel of ease would ensure regular Sunday services and continued Occasional Offices. They would not, however, have their own churchwardens. There will be a number of options for the Deanery and Diocesan Pastoral Committees to consider, but becoming a single parish, looked after by a Rector, rather than a Priest-in-charge, would be a more attractive post to fill.

**5. Churchwardens**

1. Thank you drinks – venue and date to be confirmed. It was felt that the pub may be busy on a Friday; there was also some concern over the cost of hosting such an event.
2. The boiler has been repaired and is working well.
3. **Treasurer**
4. Common Mission Fund: a suggested 9% increase in Lasham’s contributions was recommended by the Treasurer; Gillian seconded the proposal and it was unanimously approved.
5. Fewer services specific to Lasham has meant there has been a drop in Lasham Church collections. (*A small note from Ed: There were 24 Sunday services at Lasham in 2017 and 33 by the end of 2018*).We need to be mindful that the church costs around £412 per week (based on 2017 costings) to maintain. Deidre suggested we may want to think about another fund raising event. Charlie Shaylor emphasised the importance of personal contact to encourage giving. Cate to approach Caroline Egleston, the secretary of the Village Committee, to see if some consensus can be reached as to how to secure the church’s future as a community resource. **Action: Cate Baynton**
6. Ed advised that the PCC’s charitable giving should go to Christian Charities: e.g. food bank, Karamoja and Children’s Society, and this support can be local, national and international. The Food Bank will be benefitting from our harvest contributions.
7. Charlie confirmed that he has tickets for the ‘Name that Hit’ Karamoja fund raising evening on 9th November – Bentworth Village Hall. Please try and support this event.
8. **Deanery Synod –** meeting next week (16th October).
9. **Fabric, Health and Safety**
10. DBS checks are now needed for every church role undertaken.
11. Deirdre has organised for a member of the diocesan advisory committee to visit Lasham Church to give some thoughts on proposed changes. It was agreed that the 20th of November would be the most suitable date: Ed, Michael and Charlie will be able to attend. **Action: Canon Ed, Michael and Charlie**
12. **AOB**
13. A number of people are requesting to be sent copies of The Villager, as they no longer live in the village. It was agreed that Jill Hurley should be approached to discuss the idea of a subscription to cover the cost of postage. **Action: Cate**
14. The Christmas Bazaar is to be held at the Eglestons on 25th November after the 11.00 a.m. service.
15. December 23rd will be a benefice service, to help Canon Ed manage his workload. Rev. Robert Toogood is to take the Christmas Service in Lasham.
16. Winchester is to provide training for Open the Book for anyone who is interested.
17. Anthea Del Mar (our Villager correspondent) has asked that the PCC make her aware of upcoming events, so they can be included in the magazine. **Action: Churchwardens**

The next meeting is to be held on **January 22ndat 7.30 p.m.** Michael Del Mar has offered his barn!

**The meeting was closed with prayer.**