

Parish of Shiplake with Dunsden

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting held in The Ark, Shiplake
on Monday 28 January 2019 at 7.30pm

1.	Present Robert Thewsey (RT; Rector and Chair); John Bodman (JB); Philip Chaimbault (PC); Judy Coulson (JC); Cyril Crouch (CC); Hugo Gamble (HG); Linda Glithro (LG); Jane Gordon (JG); Pippa Hughes (PH); John Penrose (JP); Wendy Robinson (WR); Yvonne Watson (YW)	Action
	RT opened the meeting by lighting a candle and reading 'Dwelling in the Word' Colossians 1:15-20 and 3:12-17. The passage was re-read and in turn, we shared a thought. This is an initiative from Bishop Stephen, who has asked that all church meetings begin in this way.	All
2.	Apologies for absence: Rosemary Jones (RJ); Sarah Nesbit - Curate) (SN); Alistair Washbourn (AB) Absent: Neill Cotton (NC)	
3.	Signing of the minutes Minutes of the meetings held on 29 November 2018 and agreed by email were signed by RT.	RT
4.	Matters arising HG asked to whom 'they' referred in the final sentence of Item 13. It was the Parish Council.	
5.	Safeguarding and GDPR JC repeated last meeting's report that there are still some members of the PCC who have not completed C0 and C1 safeguarding modules. JC and LG offered to help. RT stressed how important it was to complete them and that he would like everyone to have done them by the APCM this year. Heather Llewellyn from the Diocese is holding a session for C1 at Bix Manor (later confirmed as Monday 18 March, arrive from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start). GDPR moving on. RT will send this with the Parish Giving Scheme and YW will include it with the Electoral Roll.	JC/Some PCC RT/YW
6.	Rector's Report RT reported that Topples Testing will take place at Dunsden and Harpsden on 28 February, weather permitting. There was a full-page article on the graves that have been laid flat Shiplake Churchyard by RT in the Henley Standard on 25 January 2019, appealing for support. No response yet.	
7.	Secretary's Report PCC minutes now available on the website. Reports for the APCM are requested by 10 February. 7 completed nominations for the PCC were returned during the meeting (JB; JC; HG; LG; PH; JP and YW). LG raised the fundraising website on the Christmas Card, www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sdh . She had difficulty accessing it over the Christmas period but can do so now and made a donation – the first! RT reported there had been a generous donation to Harpsden as a result of but not via the website. The link will be included again on the Easter Card. Discussion on acquiring an accurate list of streets/ houses followed. LG will ask Gavin in the Village Shop.	All LG
8.	Finance JP distributed updated accounts. The actual income is slightly improved over the November estimate. The Palmer/Rampton funds have been off-set against the deficit to reduce the overall deficit, although the funds themselves will be retained due to the very favourable interest rate. Discussion followed on the need to raise more income. RT reported that the Church Rooms have given £3K from their funds towards the Shiplake Lighting costs. Our income is greater than £100K which means Barclays are making significant bank charges. JP has therefore been looking for free banking and it appears HBSC may offer this. PCC proposed that JP and RT are authorised to negotiate a new free banking facility (probably HBSC). Proposed JG. Seconded WR and agreed unanimously. The majority of the PCC replied to RT's email re the Parish Share agreeing that it be paid in full. Payment has been made so the early payment discount will apply. In subsequent years, the Parish	

	<p>Share should be an item on the November PCC Agenda in order that a decision is made in good time.</p> <p>Parish Giving Scheme RT gave out forms to the PCC and asked them to be the first to complete them. This is an excellent scheme: the cost is borne by the Diocese; we will get the Gift Aid back straight away and the amount of giving is likely to increase. He stressed that it is up to the individual to cancel any standing orders. RT showed us small cards that will be placed at the back of the church to use to put in the collection plate. Research has shown that having touch screen facility greatly increases the amount given at weddings and funerals.</p> <p>As all the current Gift Aid forms are missing, RT asked us to complete them for retrospective use. He will need to collect these from all parishioners who regularly give to the church.</p>	All RT
	<p>Children's Services LG attended Shiplake Primary with RT and spoke to the children about Snowdrop Sunday, inviting them to attend and even to participate. Sadly, no uptake yet. SN is going to do an activity on Saturday 30 March prior to the all-age worship at Shiplake on Mother's Day. HG pleased with the start. Christmas Day service went very well.</p>	
9.	<p>Shiplake Matters The faculty for the pews has been submitted but no response yet. The faculty for the cremated remains has been agreed and the required 30-day consultation notice has been posted in the porch. CC has carried out considerable research on the lighting project. Various quotes are coming in. Sonning Church is currently closed to have new lighting installed. Reading Minster report that their electricity bills are a fifth of the previous bills. RT, CC and anyone else interested would like to visit several churches as part of our planning. Concern expressed by HG about the cost. RT said that we need a version fit for purpose.</p> <p>With permission from the Church Room, 6 parking places have been marked for College use at £10 per week (to reduce parking on Church Lane which causes damage and can block residents' exits). There has been no uptake so far. HG asked about how the church could end the arrangement. RT said it was a casual arrangement and did not require, nor did he want anything, formal. HG will look into this and report back at the next meeting.</p>	All HG
10.	<p>Dunsden Matters SN is preparing a new Snowdrop Sunday service. JB reported that wide advertising has taken place and that lots of entertainment has been planned, plus snowdrops for sale and refreshments. JB distributed A5 flyers to PCC members. YW and PH said that £500 had been raised from teas and the fundraising table at the back of church. Permission has been given for redecoration but sadly Maurice's quote of £14K has been withdrawn. The best quote now is £23 from Darren. Discussion followed. PH will ask him how long this quote will stand. PC suggested that we should set up a working party to decorate the porch while we do some more fundraising. This was agreed. RT felt that there were grants that could be applied for but he did not have time to action this. Is there someone who could do this ...? JB reported that the Green Gym have completed the hedge laying and cleared some drains –all for £30.</p>	All
11.	<p>Deanery Synod – next meeting, 12 February in Shiplake Ark, with guest speaker the Rev'd Charlie Kerr, talking on local schools' chaplaincies. Open meeting – all welcome.</p>	All
12.	<p>Health & Safety. CC asked us to bear in mind the state of the path to the church from the college. RT added that a proper path is needed to the Ark.</p>	
13.	<p>Shiplake School RT reported that the total money (£400) for the AV1 telepresence robot for a special needs child may not be required as the child is currently able to attend school. School suffered a break-in last week, with IT equipment stolen.</p>	

	<p>Good news!</p> <p>Christmas Nativity was very successful. A debrief meeting has taken place with some new ideas for next year. The date has been set as the 'second Saturday in December'. Posters will be made with this. Rebecca and RT's gift tags have raised £135 for the Dunsden decorating fund.</p> <p>The Pastoral Team is doing really well – more people would be welcomed.</p> <p>The new monthly events headed up by SN and the Pastoral Team in the Ark are going very well. There were about 20 at Boys' Brunch, almost 30 at the first lunch and 75 at the Cup & Cake.</p>	
	<p>AOB</p> <p>A memorial service for Ellen Newberry is planned. A new date will be announced.</p>	All
	<p>RT closed the meeting at 9.15pm with the Grace and thanked the PCC for their contributions.</p> <p>Dates of next meetings – Thursday 07 March, 7.30pm, Shiplake Ark and Sunday 10 March, Shiplake Church, after morning service for the adoption of annual accounts for the APCM.</p>	