

Dedham PCC Meeting 26 September 2023

1. PY opened the meeting in Prayer
2. Minutes of meeting of 18 July were agreed as correct. There were no matters- arising
3. PY presented a paper on Baptism and how the church would conduct this going forward. It is designed so that parents can decide if they want a child baptised with God Parents who have themselves been baptised and confirmed and are therefore in a position to make and live up to the promises made, or have a service with “guide parents,” or a simple service of thanks for the gift of a child. The proposal was welcomed and accepted by all
4. Finance: JR confirmed that the finances were in a “steady “ state and that we continue to make our monthly payments to meet the asked for parish share: we hope to be in a position at the year end to meet the aspirational target requested. We are grateful to Little Bentley for the gift of £500 received from their Son et Lumiere and a letter of thanks has been sent. We have sent £1000 to Guatemala and have received a letter of thanks. We have paid £800 for various music licences used in the church. We purchased the mower from Andrew Hodson and this has now been repaired and serviced. We have had an indication of a proposed increase in the parish share expected from us next year which shows a substantial uplift but this is still under discussion.
5. Children and Family worker: SS reported that delt had agreed to support with an annual sum of £9000 for 3 years to cover 2 days a week in Dedham. A further donation of £5000 has been promised for an additional day in a wider area. A job description needs to be agreed and the post advertised.
6. Fabric; PW reported that we are working towards awarding a contract to Auravision for the windows and have asked the architect to prepare work packages for the masonry associated with the windows and elsewhere as identified in the Quinquennial and to recommend suitable companies. We have asked the architect to give us an estimate of his costs for this work and to then seek tenders.
7. Organ: Work is progressing to plan and we still expect the new organ to be installed by Easter 2025; we should advise wedding couples that there may be a short over run with the work and there could still be a small amount of scaffolding at the back of the church and we may still be using the loan organ from Nicholson.
8. PC thanked Gabbie for taking on the role of caretaker and reminded her to ask for assistance if the need arises at any time. We have found someone to take care of the cemetery on a trial basis and hope this will be successful.
9. Security: there had been an incident of obscene graffiti left in the church; we need to consider installing CCTV and PB agree to report back on this. We also need to ensure we know if anyone is in the tower and CCTV will assist here as well—we also need a new key safe for the tower key (PB)
10. AOB:
 - PCC approved a new memorial stone for Saumarez Smith
 - PCC approved a proposal for a church Youth Club to meet at the Duchy barn and to cover annual costs of approximately £450 pa
 - LR raised the need for a wheel chair at the church: PW and Joanna will give a chair on permanent loan to the church.
 - Fund Raising events are
 - Big breakfast 18/11
 - Dedham Stakes 12/4
 - Concert by Police choir and Military wives Choir 8/6
11. Next PCC meeting 14 November 2023—Special meeting 3 October

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