

Precis of the Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting held 27th July 2017

Members were very pleased to note that the new Benefice Administrator is proving to be very skilled and efficient. PCC members who have had contact with her said she is a pleasure to work with.

The Parish Questionnaire will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and is on the website.

A donation of £25 has been sent towards the costs of the diocesan Refresh Conference that Simon attended in July, to assist with the costs of overseas visitors to the conference from Kenya.

It was agreed that a Bible reading followed by a short period of reflection is a good way to start PCC Meetings – all PCC meetings will now start this way.

The Prayer Corner has been moved to the St Nicholas Altar, while redundant – and much more comfortable – chairs from Chelmsford Cathedral have been obtained to place around this altar.

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War next year, a drumhead altar will be organised for Remembrance Sunday – this will form the focal point for the church service.

A major disaster/event plan (e.g. for on the death of a senior member of the royal family) is being drafted.

Family Services on the first Sunday of the month up until Christmas will be held at 10 a.m. instead of 11 a.m. for a trial period. This will then be reviewed early in the new year.

Cherry's Book Club and Simon's monthly midweek evening service of reflection were welcomed.

Messy Church was held during the summer holidays and 48 children had participated.

A quote to repair the north clerestory at £3,210 was agreed and a faculty will be obtained.

The repairs to the woodblock floor in St Mary's Room have been completed at a cost of £1,470.

The design of a new notice board by the gate was agreed and a faculty will be obtained. The cost will be met by a generous member of the congregation.

Kneelers on permanent loan from Chelmsford Cathedral have been obtained to replace the old red ones, many of which are now beginning to wear and split.

£120 had been donated by church members towards the school leavers' Bibles, which were then presented to each Year 6 child at a special final event in church at the end of the summer term.

There is slow movement on Text Giving.

The Parish Giving Scheme was discussed and a stewardship campaign was suggested.

A churchyard maintenance team will be needed along with some professional advice – the Adviser on Churchyards from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) will be invited to visit both the churchyard and burial ground.

It was thought that there is space in the current burial ground for the next ten years and consideration should be given about land that would be required when it is full.