

Precis of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 17th May 2018

The cleaning of the Church Rooms is now being done by a cleaning service, very much required now that they are more heavily used, especially by the Teddy Bear Club. The service does a very good job and their price is reasonable.

Merle Huskisson of St Edmund's Church, Chingford is coming to meet PCC members to discuss her inspirational talk on stewardship which was seen at Bishop Stephen's 'School for Disciples' event last year.

Membership of PCC Committees and Groups were nominated, namely the Standing Committee, Fabric Committee, Worship Group, Transforming Presence Group and Friends of St Mary's.

A positive report on the February meeting of the Mission and Ministry Unit Council was given – the 'MMU' is the group of 11 churches of which our Benefice is part; the other 9 parishes form the Thurstable and Winstree Team Ministry. The MMU Council is effectively the 'PCC' of the MMU.

Our church school, St Mary's C of E Primary Academy, is holding its own 'Royal Wedding' in St Mary's on Friday 18th May, the day before the royal wedding. It will be complete with bride, groom, bridesmaids, the Queen and Royal Family, celebrity guests and a full church of children. Father Simon will be the Archbishop of Canterbury and will 'marry' the happy couple!

The new noticeboard is now in place and a decision will need to be taken on the best way to dispose of the old board.

The repointing and repairing of the parapet of the north wall of the church will start on 26th June, following the granting of the required faculty.

The water heaters in the toilets have now been replaced with better models – the nozzles no longer spray water everywhere!

A meeting of bell specialists has been held, with Tower Captain John Elliott and Churchwarden Simon Prideaux, to solve the problems of the bell frame. A way forward has been found to complete the detailed investigation needed before the repair work can be undertaken, so that the full peal of eight bells can be rung again. At present only six can be rung without further damage to the interior tower walls.

Hopeful news from our PCC Treasurer Simon Bell: the General Fund for this year is expected at least to break even.

The Priest-in-Charge and Churchwardens attended some very helpful training on the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) at St Peter's Coggeshall.

In the event of a senior member of the Royal Family dying or another serious major national incident, a plan has been put in place which will include an evening service of prayer and reflection.