**PARISH OF CALNE AND BLACKLAND Minutes of PCC meeting held on Thursday March 7th 2019**

Present: Richard Aldhous, Stan Anniss, Jenny Colby, Alex Grenfell, Lucy Hemmings, Revd. Bob Kenway, Revd Teresa Michaux, Mary Pilcher-Clayton, Lucette Rees, Jane Ridgwell, Jack Robinson, Graham Spencer, Kevin Wells

Apologies: Jonathan Billings, Isabella Gage, John Gibson, David Munday, Eddie Sims, Derek Warnett

**Minutes** of meeting held on January 24th were agreed and signed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Graham reported that the budget would be in deficit, with unrestricted funds standing at £38,000 with funds to be allocated; at the end of the year (December) this figure was £23,107. There is £18,000 in designated funds, but this will show a deficit by the end of the year. Graham reiterated that all expenditure must be passed by him and money must be spent with caution, costs and need having been thought through. Charity law does not allow for funds being moved around to ease the pressure in in any one area. Payments on our endowments have dropped due to the state of the market. The PCC must consider the proposal of having a contactless payment scheme in church – further research is being made by Graham and Eddie. The parish giving scheme was brought up. This allows money to be sent direct to the diocese, who then return it with gift aid included. It was decided that we would remain as we are at present, dealing with our own Gift Aid but would keep the situation under review. Graham felt there was a need to make people more aware of the running costs of the church and it was felt that the monthly takings and expenditure could be published in the Newsletter.

**Ashbee Drawing:** Lucette has completed her research into the possibility of selling the drawing as it seems we cannot display it easily. Having taken expert advice it is apparent that now is not a good time to sell Arts and Crafts movement items as the market for them is ‘flat’. It was proposed that the original might go back to the museum in the home of the Arts and Crafts movement in Chipping Camden and a copy displayed in St Mary’s Proposed by Lucette Seconded by Richard All PCC in favour

**Oil painting in St Mary’s:** this must be looked at by an expert in situ and its provenance established before any further action is considered. This was agreed by the PCC.

**Organ**: David Bevan and Hugh Pilcher-Clayton have reported on their discussions re the organ with a specialist; electrification would cost £180,000, to ease the situation by installing a humidifier immediately would be about £5,000. There are numerous problems to be addressed, including a split in the bellows, although certain functions might be useable. The purchase of a one-manual pedal organ would be £15,000 or it might be possible to borrow one. The organ could be decommissioned and an electric organ purchased at the cost of £25,000. To refurbish the organ completely to its original five console splendour would be impossible in our current financial situation and to electrify it might not be allowed without permission from the DAC and an organ adviser. This would be a separate project and would require grant funding. It was agreed that the first step must be to call in an adviser, turn the heating down (as it affects the humidity and therefore the organ) and purchase a humidifier. Proposed by Bob Seconded by Lucette All PCC in favour

**Updates from parish groups**: **Prayer & Discipleship:** There will be twelve hours of prayer in St Mary’s on June 1st involving other churches in the town, Debbie Orriss will be leading a Discipleship course on October 19th

**Communication and Children and Young People**: reports will be presented at the APCM next month.

**Information**: the Lent course starts on Monday; there will be a Bible Study at 2pm after communion on Friday; from 9.30 until 12.30. On April 6th there will be a chance to do clearing and tidying to improve the local environment; a ‘green audit’ of churches is to be carried out,

**St Mary’s**: there will be a balance of £800 to pay for the replacement flagpole, Stan proposed FOSM might be approached for this. Proposed by Stan Seconded by Jenny All PCC in favour

**Calne Partnership**: the Holy Week banners will be out in Calne again; there will be a united service at the Methodist Church. The CP needs more representatives and a Secretary.

**Friends’ groups**: The Ceilidh is now going to take place on June 8th and FOSM are holding a coffee morning on May 4th

**The next PCC meeting will take place on a date arranged after the APCM**