

A summary of the PCC meeting held on 17th November 2021

Correspondence The Museum Service and the DAC needed our approval to renovate the grave of Capt. Jesse Jones (1788-1868) and members of his family, which is located in the cemetery part of the upper Priory. They wish to place a plaque giving more information about Jesse's history.

The PCC unanimously agreed that the work as scheduled within the Faculty application for repairs to the memorial to Jesse Jones, under the name of Philip Wise of the Museum service, may be carried out.

This was passed unanimously

Reports

Finance: The Treasurer had circulated a balance sheet showing that we would have a surplus at the end of the year. The work on the chancel arch did not look like being as expensive as first thought. The Chairman said that the work would begin on the fourth of January and should be completed by the end of that month. During January Sunday services would take place as usual but the chancel area would be screened off and the piano would be played instead of the organ. Our insurers would be informed but no extra cost would be incurred.

Fabric: The toilet in the Welcome Area had now been repainted where the mould had been on the wall after the leak. The work to be done on the chancel arch had been given the go ahead from the Archdeacon, giving a certificate rather than needing a faculty. Both north and south porch doors now had a security chain fitted to allow the doors to be ajar during concerts to allow more air to flow in as a Covid precaution. Notices had also been fitted so instruct what to do in the case of an emergency exit.

Worship Team: There was nothing to report.

Bookings: These were as anticipated at this time of the year, although January had been kept clear of bookings to enable the chancel arch work.

Mission Group: It was reported that a new member had joined the group of readers. We had had three monthly newsletters. Information was being sought to publish the charity 'Essex Information', our Christmas Red Bucket Collection.

Stewarding Changes: Training sessions had been held but it was felt that the organisers of concerts were often the people taking part which meant that they were not always available to oversee security. At least twice it had been found that the hall door had not been locked and once the porch doors were not unlocked. People setting out the church for a concert were not always the people returning it to church use, it therefore needs a church person to oversee at the end of a concert.

Covering services over Christmas: There would be a Christmas Eve Communion Service at 6.00 p.m. There would be no service on Christmas Day. Also, as Boxing Day was a Sunday, with several regular worshippers away, it was felt that few people would be wanting a service, and it was decided not to hold one at St. Botolph's, but we had invitations to attend Christchurch on both Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Ongoing Covid policy: There was much discussion on this subject with varying views. It was decided that we should carry on with our precautions although it was pointed out that it was a person's choice and responsibility to keep everyone safe. People should be encouraged to wear a face covering at services.

Parish Magazine – the way ahead: The December, January and February magazine was ready to print and with help, there would be regular three-monthly editions.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday, 12th January, 2022 at 2.30p.m. in church.