

ST MARY THE VIRGIN – WEST MALLING
Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held in the Church Centre
on held on Tuesday 17 February 2015 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Revd. David Green (Chairman), Becky Clifford (Churchwarden), Lesley Bays (Treasurer), Denise McKeown (Secretary), Margaret Moore, David Day, Isobel Macdonald, Canon Alan Vousden, Gail Crutchfield, Andrew Mills & Christie Ransom.

2. **Apologies** were received from John Musker, Rob Hancock, Colin Bays, Leo Sharp & Anna Tunnick.

8. **Fabric**

8.1. **Capital Project & Church Centre**

8.1.1. The Chairman presented paper 2015/02-WM04 previously circulated. A copy of the paperwork is available on request. In regard to the Church Centre and needing to prepare for potential change of use, the PCC agreed to accept the quote from Derek Hudson & Partners. Lesley advised that the Church Centre Fund as at December 2014 stood at £7,700. Alan proposed that monies from the fund should be used since this work would increase the sale price and therefore be paid back on sale. Proposed by Alan, seconded by the Chairman and agreed unanimously.

8.1.2. In regard to the need to conduct a drainage survey to assess the implications of toilet facilities, the meeting was advised that it would be necessary to spend £400 + VAT. The meter for the stand pipe has been identified. Lesley advised that as far as funding was concerned it would be best to use restricted funds before using designated funds. The Chairman proposed that a survey should be undertaken and this was seconded by Isobel MacDonald. All present agreed.

8.1.3. The Chairman reported he had not yet been able to write to the DAC with our response agreed in January. However, since then he noted Isobel, Alan & Colin have been looking at other churches and been inspired by the possibilities of using the existing footprint of the church to provide what we need through a complete internal re-ordering. Isobel provided the meeting with an article from *Kent News* on the changing face of our churches.

8.1.4. David and Isobel's 'Alternate vision' was discussed and there was a great deal of consensus in the room that it was an avenue we would like to explore further since it could be financially easier than trying to build an extension and would also deal with issues relating to heating and lighting in the church that the project would otherwise not address. There was far more consensus on this potential direction than any of those previously explored in prior meetings.

8.1.5. The meeting felt that there were lots of areas in the church which were not used particularly well and where a re-ordering could give fresh impetus and ideas. Lesley questioned whether the proposed crèche area could double as a meeting room. The chancel is a sizeable space that could become a meeting room if the high altar was converted and retained to be used as a chapel for use at 8 a.m and in small, intimate services.

8.1.6. It was noted that the DAC had not been involved in such a conversation so far and so the Chairman agreed to note this as a possibility when he responded to the DAC, and to invite their comment.