

# Extraordinary Joint Meeting of PCC members of Holy Cross Church Binsted and the Re-ordering Committee

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2.00pm at Malms House the home of Cathie and Mark Weldon

Attendances': PCC members - Matt Boyes [Chairman] Stella Croom-Johnson, Cathie Weldon, Andrew Croom-Johnson, Andrew Hunter Johnston, Kay Hunter Johnston, Nick Cater, Jonathan Bourne, Angela Dunne. Re-ordering committee members – all the above except Jonathan Bourne, plus Ron Neil, Ben MacDonald, Helen MacDonald, Piers Wilson.

Steve Fice [Operations Manager]

Apologies: Kathy and Christopher Ogilvie Thompson, Pam Smith

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next steps to enable plans for the toilet project to proceed. In addition, there was a need to discuss urgent fundraising required to fund the repairs needed to the tower and the spire.

- SCJ had produced a leaflet titled "Holy Cross Church Spire Appeal".
- ACJ had produced a financial sheet detailing work that was urgently needed to be done on the tower, spire, front plinth and lady chapel. This included the costings involved and the monies available which showed a shortfall of £35,000. [see attached] This set out the need for urgent fundraising in the short term. There is an additional long term need for fundraising for the toilet project. ACJ advised the meeting that a number of donations had already been made, including one of £5,000, totally around £6,500.

**There was an opportunity for lots of discussion, opinions and ideas and the following conclusions points were reached.**

1. The Binsted Church Spire Appeal would continue to be progressed. A total of £35,000 is the target, based on known costs for some of the repairs and estimates for those repairs still awaiting a formal quote. This amount includes a contingency sum of £5,000 This money is needed to repay a loan of £35,000 which has generously been given interest free. This appeal will be advertised in the April issue of the parish magazine. The Spire Appeal leaflets will be distributed in and around the local community and beyond.
2. It was agreed to expand the current appeal calling it the "Holy Cross Church Appeal later in the spring. The funds raised would first go to pay off the current loan and then the remainder of the funds raised, would go towards the toilet and refreshments project and other church repairs. On the basis of high-level costs for the toilet project of around £85,000, as provided by Ron and Ben, this appeal would need to target the larger sum of £150,000, subject to formal quotes being received for the toilet project.

3. A fundraising committee to be formed to include Matt, Angela, Andrew and Kay Hunter Johnston and others from the church congregation and local community.
4. Ron and Ben to meet and prepare their own drawings and plans for the new toilet block with costings. These plans will then be presented at the next PCC meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The PCC will then make a decision whether to adopt these plans which they have offered to do free of charge or to continue with AFK's plans, or to submit both plans to a pre-planning meeting with the HCC planning committee for advice and to see if either or both would be acceptable and to ensure that the plans are on the right lines. The planning committee may well advise alterations. Any extra alterations to AFK's plans will be extra cost but continuing with Ben and Ron's plans will be free of charge. It was agreed that a decision is urgently required so that plans can be submitted to the Diocese and HCC Planning Department so that the project can move forward.
5. It was agreed that a formal contract needs to be put in place with Conal Kennedy for the spire repair work, which it was proposed should be end-date driven for the end of June 2023 and to include a cap or penalties as appropriate. It was agreed that Stella would approach AFK for help on this matter.
6. Sincere and grateful thanks were given to Stella who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the PCC [and to her own personal cost] dealing with the church's fabric improvements that have been required, initially due to the storm damage but more recently sorting new repair problems to the spire and the tower. Matt said, "that we must now protect Stella". Stella is happy to continue applying to grant making trusts for the ongoing work with the spire. Kay has offered to apply to trusts for the toilet project.
7. Andrew Croom-Johnson was also thanked for his hard work producing the financial figures [as described in the above bullet point] and Matt reassured him that he was definitely a very important member of our Church family.
8. It had been agreed that Binsted PCC temporarily suspend payment of the parish share but to reinstate it asap and subject to fund-raising, repay the shortfall.

Meeting closed with a prayer led by Matt at 4.15pm