

PCC meeting of 13 July 2010

The meeting started with Alice and Hilary sharing something of their life's journey as Christians. Following up on the last meeting, Alice reported that a new Emmaus course will be held this autumn. It will start on 13 October with a preliminary meeting to explain to people what it will consist of and give them a chance to decide whether they want to join the course or not. Hilary is leading a group called Next Steps made up of people who wanted to continue to meet after their first Emmaus course.

Sarah McKearney is taking active initiatives to build up St. Mary's work with children. Sarah Beaver has now joined her in the children's team and they are hoping to find both more leaders and more families with children who will join in. The holiday club will be held on 30 August and 1 September and on Sunday 5 September. Leaflets are being distributed to advertise it in several areas of the parish. Penny Tyack is planning a 'noisy morning' in Advent, maybe for people from other parishes as well.

Work on the enhancement of the church building is due to start on 2 August. The work should be completed within four to six weeks. The church will continue to be open on Sundays and, at least in part, for visitors in the week. Part of the plan is to open the north door. Although this will not be used in preference to the west door, it may be more convenient to use it on Sunday mornings when the choir is practising. The design of a new window is for the second phase of the project but, given the huge significance of this aspect of the enhancement plan, consultations with the PCC and congregation will be held about it over the next few months.

The PCC approved several appointments, among which were that of Sally Brodhurst as child protection officer and Matthew Stiff as co-ordinator of the appeal for work on the church.

Matthew was welcomed to the meeting to introduce his plans. It is hoped that the appeal will be launched at the PCC meeting of 28 September, at a meeting of the Friends of St. Mary's on 9 October and on 10 October to the congregation.

The PCC agreed to sign a letter of support for an application by Donnington Doorstep to the Local Food Big Lottery. The project will involve the healthy growing and cooking of food, taking advantage of local expertise.

On the strength of a very positive report from Practical Action about the progress of their 'Greening Dafur' project, it was unanimously agreed to give it further support with this year's Harvest Appeal.

Finally, Elizabeth Harré informed the meeting that she is again coordinating 'Ride and Stride' which will be held on Saturday 11 September.