

Meeting of the PCC on 22 November 2011

A major topic of the meeting was the findings of an extensive report on the conservation of the church building made by Sally Strachey of Sally Strachey Historic Conservation. The south door appears to be in good condition but the whole of the west façade will need restoration with lime mortar as it did 30 years ago. The only urgent work to be completed as soon as possible is the restoration of the right hand medallions on the west door. There is a lot more to be done and it may be a longish programme. Andrew will be approaching someone to head up this work together with a small working group.

We then focused on the Emmaus Course which has been rewardingly successful. We have begun really to reach out to people who don't usually come to church. Now that we have gained considerable experience we shall start leafleting particular areas of the parish but widening the intake of the course will not mean neglecting vital follow up work with people who have already completed it.

The PCC members were extremely pleased to hear about the appointments of Sarah Northall as our next curate and also of Carole Smith as the new Methodist deacon for Rose Hill, though of course we shall miss Stephen and Gillian greatly.

The nomination of Ron Cosford to the Charities Committee to replace John Whitaker, who stepped down in September, was approved, as were, too, the four new Missions of the Month. These are the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and the Belize Church Association (both new) and ABCD Palestine and Ark T (renewed for another three years).

David reported that the constituent parts of the altar rail are now made. The rail will be tested and then fitted into the church, hopefully before Christmas. The window's painting is also nearly finished. The next stages are to fire it and then to fit the window in. Roger is well ahead of the planned schedule. A plaque has now been installed in the chancel to say that the lighting was donated by the Friends of St. Mary's.