

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2016
ST. MARY'S CHURCH RIVERHEAD
AT 11.15.A.M.

Present:

Revd Martin Booth (Vicar of St. Mary's)
Mr John Curtis (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mrs Diane Williams (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mrs Ronnie Todd (Secretary)

And approximately 31 Church members.

VESTRY MEETING

Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar advised the meeting that Diane Williams will continue as Churchwarden for another year as no one else has come forward. John Curtis will continue to serve for the coming year. We would very much like people to think about coming forward in the future.

Nominations were received for the two Churchwardens, John Curtis and Diane Williams, who will serve for the year 2016-2017.

Members in attendance were all content for John Curtis to continue and Diane Williams to serve for another year.

The Vestry meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.

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1. Apologies for Absence

Alan & Jenny Chart, Karen Forster-Pearce, Tom and Chloe Witchell, Robin Tonge, Margaret & Bryan Nicholas, Dick Thomson, Pam Rankin, Iain Smith, Jo Howe, Mark Stott, Charlotte & Ravi Rakhit.

2. To Approve Minutes of APCM held on 19 April 2015

The Minutes were amended to remove the last two sentences of the Mothers' Union report and under Any Other Business, Alan Clark was amended to read Alan Chart. The Minutes were then agreed and signed by the Vicar as a true copy.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive Electoral Roll

In Margaret Nicholas's absence, Ronnie Todd gave the number on the electoral roll. There are 83 resident and 41 non-resident. A total of 124, which is a slight increase on last year.

5. Parish Report

The Parish Report was taken as read. There were no questions from those present.

6. Vicar's Report

The Vicar began by saying how grateful he is to everyone who help to keep the church running. The efforts of all do not go unnoticed.

The future will be to encourage new people as well as regulars to help us in our work. Generally, people do like to be asked and to feel involved.

This year we will not be collecting for nominated charities as we have lots of other things going on. However, we will be raising money for the Royal Society of Church Music by way of a musical event. We will continue to collect for Poverty & Hope as well as continuing our sponsorship to pay for the education of a Kenyan girl through SKET.

We will soon have our new organ in place and Nick, one of our organists, will be taking the old Copeman Hart organ for Walthamstow Hall School to use. Nick is head of music at Walthamstow Hall.

With the new organ in place, it will mean removing the old speakers from the loft space above the choir vestry, which will free it up for use as a possible room for young people to meet once they have left Sunday School. The Fabric Committee will be doing a feasibility study on the possibility.

Another feasibility study will be looking into the possibility of having a coffee point at the back of the church so that people stay in the church for coffee after the service. In this way, we may not lose so many people immediately after the church service. Part of the study will be to look into removing two of the pews in order to make more room at the back of the church.

There will be a confirmation service in the autumn for adults and children.

The Queen's Official Birthday will be on June 12th and St Mary's will be holding a celebration. Ronnie Todd will be writing a letter of invitation to Riverhead and Dunton Green Parish Councillors.

The Church of England Archbishops have invited all churches to participate in a week of prayer during the week up to Pentecost (8th - 15th May). Nicola Joyce and Daphne Harrison advised those present that it would be lovely to keep the church open during that week for anyone in the area to come in to pray. There are many things which we need to pray about. The idea is to have stations around the church relating to the Lord's Prayer and for various church groups (Sunday School, Choir, etc) to have responsibility for each station. Nicola asked anyone interested in helping, to meet after the church service next Sunday to discuss the possibilities.

The Vicar informed the meeting that he will be piloting a service for the deaf and hard of hearing to see what interest there is.

There were no questions relating to the Vicar's Report.

7. Finance

Stuart Wigley advised those present that there were four items to update in the General Fund of the finance/accounts report as printed. Page 9 of the report has been updated on the website.

Last year's income: £20k

This year's target: £10k. We have £6k to date.

The new ramp and the organ costs have been moved from unrestricted funds.

Organ costs: £15,340

Expenditure: £17,250

Income from Tots & Toddlers: £567

Income from Sunday School: £216

Fund Raising: £93

The gift aid benefit is made retrospectively and we will see the benefit next year.

The church running costs have reduced and we now have no bank charges since changing to CAF Bank.

Approximately £17k has been transferred from the deposit account into the general funds.

The Parish Share is the same amount as last year for the first six months. This will help our reserves.

Stuart will check the flexibility of using the funds we have deposited with the Diocese of £84k.

Having more payments using BACS is much more efficient.

A page relating to legacies left to St Mary's has been included on the website.

Geoff Holland asked why the lunch club appears to be running at a loss.

Stuart replied that, due to an outing last year, the income didn't meet the expenditure. This year lunch club will organise events to efficiently use the income of funds.

Stuart finished by saying that the total funds are kept under constant review. We currently have £17,700 in the deposit account and the target is to get to £24k.

The Vicar thanked Stuart for everything he does on behalf of the church and keeping the accounts in good order, as well as all those who help him.

8. Churchwardens' Report

Diane Williams thanked everyone who contributed to the cost of the ramp.

The Tesco carrier bag fund, for which we were nominated, has resulted in our being awarded £8k to use to improve the churchyard and wildlife areas around the church.

There were no questions relating to the report.

9. Deanery Synod Report

Margaret Nicholas and Anne Straight are our representatives for the current year and attend meetings, as well as the Vicar. Any matters of importance which are raised at those meetings are brought back to the PCC for discussion.

10. Parish Reports

Sunday School

Bennet Smith, having read the report, was unaware that we had a policy for older children.

Nicola Joyce explained that she wanted to acknowledge that there is not much going on at St Mary's for our older children after they leave Sunday School. We need to encourage those children to continue with their worship, which may be elsewhere if necessary. We will do what we can to keep them, however, and recognise the fact that we want the children to keep their relationship with Christ.

Jean Woods advised that Faithworks have meetings for older children from Dunton Green and would welcome teenagers from other areas.

Lunch Club

Geoff Holland asked whether we need to increase the current fee of £3.

The Vicar advised Geoff that he will discuss the issue with those involved with lunch club. The money doesn't belong to St Mary's it is only managed by us. Maggie Booth pointed out that lunch club is not there to make a profit.

Tots & Toddlers

Diane Williams reported that Tots & Toddlers continues to have a steady flow of mums and babies/toddlers. We are the only group who open during the school holidays and it is much appreciated.

Church Hall

Ronnie Todd reported in Margaret Nicholas's absence that the church is badly in need of a new and updated kitchen. She asked anyone who knew of a firm of kitchen designers/fitters to let Margaret know.

Bennet Smith asked how paying out for a new kitchen will affect our budget.

Stuart Wigley replied that the funds will come from the church hall income which is put aside specifically for this sort of expenditure.

Music

The Vicar gave a verbal report in the absence of Janet Sharp.

Our two organists, Nick and Dan, are doing an excellent job. When we have the new organ in place the Vicar will invite the Bishop or Archdeacon to come and bless the installation.

Thanks were given to Janet Sharp, Nick and Dan for keeping the music going in St Mary's.

On the 15th May we will be having a service of music which will include an Estonian Choir, Music Students from Walthamstow Hall School as well as our own choir.

A service is also to be arranged on behalf of the Royal Society of Church Music.

Sarah Stott told those present that she loved the Coventry Gloria which was sung on Easter Sunday and asked whether we would be continuing with it. The Vicar answered that he would very much like it to be introduced into future services.

Geoff Holland told the Vicar and those present that he thought the choir were super and they do especially well at times when they are stretched for voices.

Mothers' Union

There were no questions.

Events Committee

The Vicar thanked everyone involved with organising events, especially Margaret Curtis. She is always there to help with last minute requests.

There were no questions.

Child Protection

Bennet Smith asked if we could have a picture of Zoe Bromwich (the safeguarding children's representative) included on the photo board of the PCC members when it is next updated. It would be a good idea for everyone to know who she is.

The Vicar agreed and pointed out that safeguarding is an important part of our responsibility as a church. The Vicar has a legal obligation to conduct these processes in a responsible way.

Outreach

The Vicar thanked Rosemary McLintock for organising the various speakers over the past year. We expect to continue with voting for favourite charities next year as part of our outreach.

11. Election of the PCC

Ronnie Todd advised the meeting that there was one vacancy this year. Dick Thomson had agreed to fill the vacancy and the appropriate form had been completed and signed.

All those present voted in favour.

12. Election to Deanery Synod

Anne Straight and Margaret Nicholas continue as Deanery Synod representatives for the next year.

All those present voted in favour.

13. Election of Sidespersons

The names of Sidespersons was read out.

All those present voted in favour.

14. Election of Examiner of Church Accounts

Stuart Wigley suggested Jim Metcalfe as Examiner of Accounts for this year.

Proposed: Geoff Holland

Seconded: Robert McLintock

All in favour

15. Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

16. To discuss date and time of Vestry and APCM 2017

The date of 23 April 2017 was agreed as the date for the 2017 Vestry Meeting and APCM.

Note – subsequently amended to 30 April 2017

The meeting ended at 12.15.