

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD w DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Of meeting of the Parochial Church Council

On the 17th February 2009.

In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

The Reverend Paul Francis – in the Chair.

Norma Bridgland, Diane Williams, Ursula Warner, Jeannette Francis, Martyn Berry, Beryl Ellinor, Ruth Johnson, Lynn Wilson, Jean Woods, Miranda Cormack, Robin Tonge, Doris Gosnold, Lee Kings, Jane Edwards, Audrey Bernardi, Mark Merson and Sheila Mace. Tim Johnston and Barry Sharp

1. The meeting started with worship

2. Apologies received from Anne Straight, Yemisi Howitt and Sarah Stott

3. Mr. Bill Latimer was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Latimer is Chair of the organising committee on the Sevenoaks Mission, which will be called “Hopefest” They have a steering committee and there will be a lot of work involved to get the Mission going. They have 3 themes – Unity, Friendship and Lecture. The presentations will all be held at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks on the 21st and 28th November and the 5th December. There will be two sessions each evening. One at 6.30.p.m. and one at 9.00.p.m. Nick Cuthbert from Birmingham who is an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral, who is very experienced will lead. He has behind him a performing arts school whose theme is creative and challenging and very dynamic. Mr. Latimer stated that he hoped that all churches in Sevenoaks would sponsor this event and bring a friend along with them to build on our Christian community. There is to be a Taster Evening on the 3rd October where people can come along and hear what is going to be shown so that they can say “I now know what it is about”. Mr. Latimer stated that as we had fellowship with Faithworks in Dunton Green, perhaps that could be a leading point for us. He is hoping that costs can be met by asking for £15 per Sunday adult worshiper from each Church. Mr. Latimer was thanked for his talk and efforts and various questions were asked. He then left the meeting and further discussion took place. Miranda Cormack stated that she felt at the present time that it was a bit “wishy washy” and a lot of work will have to be put in very soon to get the Mission underway. Jean Woods asked whether we could perhaps advertise the Mission at the Carnival. Paul Francis also spoke of a representative from the Church, but mainly do we agree in principle to sponsor? It was agreed that we would sponsor – everyone was in agreement with one abstention.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the 13th January 2009 were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising:-

i) Quinquennial – Diane Williams stated that nothing further had happened and it will be reported later.

ii) Repairs: Diane Williams reported that the fence at the top of the car park is now in a dangerous state. Diane had obtained an estimate from Mr. Cornish whose account would be £399 inc VAT for the replacement of the fence. It was felt that this was a very good estimate and that we should go ahead. However it was suggested that Diane gets assurance that the fence is strong enough to prevent vandalism. Diane to report later. Diane also reported on the outside tap that had broken in the bad weather and emergency repairs had to be done by Mr. Harvey who charged £57.50. Diane Williams also reported that she had heard from the Council that they have admitted liability for the forecourt and Mr. Boorman has asked the Maintenance

Department of the Council to look at the same after the bad weather has receded. It will be done eventually.

Paul Francis stated that the keys had now been changed on the Hall door lock and Sheila Mace stated that we had asked Daniel Barrett to return as some of the paintwork in the kitchen was peeling off. To be reported later.

(iii) Mark Merson was asked by Paul Francis about the Trusteeship Declaration for the Charity Commission and Sheila Mace stated that everything has now been done and Mark will have the form at the end of the meeting signed. Mark explained the position regarding the Trustees liability. We as a PCC whether we are registered with the Charity Commission or not all have a responsibility to the trust and registration with the Charity Commission makes no difference to our corporate responsibility.

(iv) Mark Merson also stated that the accounts will be ready well in time for the APCM.

(v) Paul Francis stated that there had been no meeting regarding the vestments yet.

6. Bognor Conference:

Paul Francis stated that everyone had enjoyed Bognor once again and the Conference was very well presented. He had received from the Diocese today a complete set of CDs talks and studies, and it was suggested that a presentation be made to the Parish on 15th March. To be dealt with by Paul and the delegates.

7. Events Committee:

Doris Gosnold handed a print out of suggested dates for events within the Parish and stated that lots of help will be needed. It was suggested and accepted that the Harvest Lunch would be at ~~lunchtime~~ and not in the evening. Also the Barn Dance it was suggested that we invite Faithworks to attend. This was felt to be a good idea.

8. Mission Statement/Aims and Objectives:

As we are looking at ways and means of improving our sense of church family membership Paul suggested that we have the family service on 7th June based around this theme. He suggests that we have a very large map of the Parish with boundaries marked on it, and people mark where they live. Beryl Ellinor felt that we should take into account people who live on their own and Paul made it clear that the word 'family' was not confined to mum/dad/children but the family of God inclusive of all. Lee Kings also asked whether this could be looked at on a Parish Away Day.

9. Deanery Synod:

On the 28th November Martyn Burt gave a very interesting presentation on Diocesan budget setting. The point was made by Graham King that Parish share is not a tax upon Churches finance (although the way it is worked out it appears that it is) but it is voluntary giving from the Parishes to support the mission of the church in other parts of the Diocese and for supporting work like training of clergy etc. Paul stated that we must remember we are all part of the Diocese. There was to have been a major discussion at Diocesan synod about the budget but the Synod was cancelled because of the ice and snow.

10. APCM 26th April at 11 o'clock:

The Electoral Roll will be revised as from the 1st March and Margaret Nicholas will be arranging this. Paul to liaise with Sheila Mace regarding the various Notices needed (they are in draft at present). Mark Merson stated that the Accounts will be well ready.

11. Conduct of meetings after APCM

Paul then spoke about the conduct of meetings after the APCM. As everyone knows these meetings take place 6 times a year on a Tuesday evening. Paul has suggested that we have 4 meetings a year (with Eucharist) on a Saturday morning. There was much discussion about this and the opinions of the PCC were very different. To be dealt with and reported later.

12. AOB:

(i) Diane Williams stated that the Sevenoaks Kenya Education Trust which we were considering sponsoring - the gentleman dealing with this had been away. She will get in touch with him now that he has returned and arrange for him to speak at one of our services. To be reported.

(ii) Sarah Stott gave a resume of the Womens' World Day of Prayer to the meeting

(iii) Bennet Smith had e mailed the Secretary to say that he was stepping down from Traidcraft and that Anne Straight would be taking over the stall. However it would be only once a month not every fortnight and orders would be taken if that is what people wanted. Anne Straight suggested that the sum of £100 from Traidcraft was donated to the Tear Fund to purchase a toilet for the poor people. Sheila Mace will liaise with Mark Merson and Anne Straight regarding this as the figures had not yet been rectified. Many thanks were expressed to Bennet for his hard work on this stall.

(iv) Anne Straight also asked whether we would support the Eco project with our Lent giving and Paul Francis stated that he would look at this.

Finally, Paul Francis thanked Beryl Ellinor and Ruth Johnson for being on the PCC and stated that they would be retiring at the APCM.

13. Confidentiality.

There being no matters of confidentiality the meeting closed at 9.40 with the Grace.