

ST MARY'S RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
22 September 2009
In the Church Hall**

PRESENT:

The Reverend Paul Francis – in the Chair

Jane Edwards, Norma Bridgland, Diane Williams, Mark Merson, Ronnie Todd
Audrey Bernardi, Miranda Cormack, Jean Woods, Martyn Berry, Doris Gosnold,
Sarah Stott, Robin Tonge, Jeannette Francis, Ursula Warner, Lynn Wilson,
Tim Johnston, Anne Straight, Barry Sharp

1. The meeting began with worship.
2. Apologies were received from Lee Kings, Andrew & Joanna Tawse
3. The Minutes of 14 July 2009 were approved and signed by the Vicar.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) PCC Secretary – Ronnie Todd was welcomed as PCC Secretary and co-opted onto the PCC.
 - b) HopeFest – It was reported that several of the slips have been returned with offers of help. She has a number of tickets for sale for each of the sessions.
The Vicar reported that Nick Cuthbert will be talking about HopeFest at the 9.30 service on Sunday 27 September.
Leaflets and fliers are being delivered to the parish.
 - c) Churchyard Faculty Application – Norma Bridgland reported that we need to have a resolution passed by the PCC for the two bollards before the form can be submitted for the Faculty. The PCC were asked to vote on a resolution to install two bollards on the front/west side of the church. The bollards will be movable and lockable. Two sets of keys will be held, one in the church and one with someone nearby i.e. the Vicar or Doris Gosnold. The resolution was passed unanimously.
 - d) Church Office Space – Diane Williams reported on the possibility of using the organ loft in church for extra office space. She has spoken to Copeland Hart regarding moving the speakers and they don't believe it will be a problem but they were not enthusiastic. Diane believes we need to go to the Diocese for advice. It is hoped a Faculty won't be needed. Robert McLintock is happy to do any electrical work.
It was agreed that a committee is needed to take the project forward. Tim Johnston, Robin Tonge, Norma Bridgland and Diane Williams will form the committee.
 - e) Diocesan Stewardship Adviser – The Vicar reported that Alan Strachan will be addressing the PCC for the first part of the meeting on 24

November. He will talk about his role and what it involves. He would be available to address the church congregation at a later stage.

- f) SKET – Diane Williams has spoken to the contact at SKET and they are keen to keep up the link with St. Mary's. A report will be given in the Christmas edition of the magazine.
- g) Swine Flu – The Vicar was pleased to report that we will be reverting to use of the chalice. The situation will be kept under review.

5. Finance – Mark Merson reported on the Accounts to the end of August, distributing them to those PCC members who wished to receive them (attached). There was a deficit of £6,500 to the end of June and £12,000 to the end of August. The forecast to the end of the year remains the same – a deficit of £9,000. There is a balance of £33,000 in the current and deposit accounts.

Mark pointed out that the PCC might distinguish between spending reserves for capital projects, which could be viewed as investment; and spending reserves for revenue items, which is unsustainable.

There followed a discussion on covenanted giving and the possibility of sending a letter reminding people of giving in this way.

A question was raised regarding the church heating bills: have they been reviewed recently? Mark told the meeting that the cost was approximately £3,500 per year which was felt to be reasonable.

Mark was thanked for all his work in preparation of the Accounts.

- 6. PCC Away-Day – The Vicar agreed to contact Jean Kerr for possible dates.
- 7. Church Hall Report

Diana Williams gave a report on the following:

- a) Finances – Bookings to date are £500 down on 2008, although they are picking up. Money will be needed for a few areas which are in need of repair.
 - b) Bookings – Margaret Nicholas is looking after the bookings. The key is collected and returned from and to Margaret. She will be asked for a report for the next PCC Meeting.
 - c) Caretaker – We now have a caretaker who works 4 hours per week at £10 per hour, paid monthly. The system is working well.
- 8) Forthcoming events
- a) Harvest Festival – There will be a Harvest lunch and plans are well in hand. There is a list at the back of the church for people to sign up. Cost: £5 per person. The Bridge Trust will again receive our donations.
 - b) Christian Aid Quiz and Supper – The church hall has been booked for 14 November. There will be a fish & chip supper. All churches in the district will be invited.

c) Barn Dance – The hall at Dunton Green has been booked for 5 December. Volunteers will be needed to help with the food.

d) All Age Worship Nov/Dec – the 9.30am service will be an All-Age All Saints Eucharist then The Faure Requiem is being sung as part of the evening liturgy for All Souls day at 6.30pm on 1 November. The service will held at St. Mary's; combined choirs with Aylesford parish.
The first Sunday in December (6th) will be a normal Parish Eucharist service together with the Sunday School as usual;
there will be an all age worship and nativity play on Sunday 20 December;
Janet Sharp has suggested the possibility of changing the 9 lessons and carols service in the evening of 20 December. She is checking with the choir and will report back.

9) Any Other Business

Riverhead Carnival – Sarah Stott reported that the Carnival was a great success. They had received lots of contributions. The takings were £418.65, the profit being £398.65. Sarah will make a note of the most popular goods for next year. Left overs will be put at the back of the church for sale and the tombola gifts will go into the Barn Dance raffle.

Sarah and her team were thanked for their excellent efforts.

Tots and Toddlers – Doris Gosnold reported that £200 was paid back to the Treasurer. They usually have about 20 people per week at a charge of £1 per family, which more than covers expenses. The sessions have proved very successful and a couple of baptisms have resulted through attendance. Doris proposed that any future profit be given twice a year to a children's charity. The PCC were in agreement with this proposal.

TraidCraft Card Sale – Anne Straight reported that donations received for tea and coffee from the Trade Craft Card Sale will be going to the MacMillan Nurses charity.

HopeFest – Miranda Cormack asked whether Riverhead had a plan for HopeFest. The Vicar responded that cards promoting the event had been given to everyone in the Parish. He was not sure how many people will be attracted to attend from outside the church family. Initially, it will be helpful for church members to increase their faith.

Church PA System –It was reported that people sitting at the back of the church have difficulty hearing. It was generally felt that the sound levels need to be checked and perhaps extra speakers may help. The delay between the organ and the choir was also mentioned. Robert McLintock will be asked to look into it.

Church Website - Diane Williams reported that the website has had to be changed. A note will be put in the Parish Magazine. It was suggested that the website address be added to the notice board at the bottom of the church steps.

It was noted that the grave locator is working well.

The meeting ended with prayer at 9.10 pm.