

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 5 July 2011
In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

The Reverend Canon Paul Francis – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Barry Sharp, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd,
Susan Allender, Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Doris Gosnold, David Holmes, Ruth Merson,
Margaret Nicholas, Anne Straight, Andrew Tawse

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with worship.

2. Kerry McMenamin from the Church Urban Fund to talk about Parish Links

The Vicar welcomed Kerry to the meeting.

Kerry started her presentation on the work being done by the Church Urban Fund and gave out notes on a new project called Mission Partners. She then went through the notes with us and drew our attention to the poor on our own doorstep who come from broken families and have no support. This was followed by a CD presentation highlighting the work of the project in Hull through the Mission Partnership. The aim is to help young people believe in themselves and help them into a career. Apparently the majority of children from poor backgrounds believe they will end up on benefits.

Kerry finished her presentation by asking if St Mary's would be prepared to join the Mission Partnership. This entails giving a three year commitment of £250 per year. There would also be opportunities for anyone with relevant skills to volunteer practical help to the project. There are currently six Mission Partner projects. Churches willing to join may choose which one they would like updates about .

It was pointed out by a PCC member that 20 years ago St Mary's had held a concert in support of the CUF.

Next year the CUF will be celebrating their 25th anniversary.

The PCC agreed that the project should be discussed at a separate meeting.

The Vicar thanked Kerry for her presentation.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Bernardi, Martin Perry, Joanna Tawse, Jean Woods,

4. To approve the Minutes of the meetings of 3 May and 9 June 2011

Both sets of Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.

5. Matters Arising

5.4.i The Jonathan Witchell Memorial Bench –The Vicar reported that the bench was dedicated on 27 May with Tom & Chloe Witchell and a few close friends.

- 5.4.iii Events Team Update – Susan Allender told the meeting that the Dunton Green Fun Day will take place on Sunday. They were hoping to have lots of volunteers to help on the day as well as donations of cakes.
They will also be seeking volunteers to help with the Riverhead Carnival on 18 September.
- 5.8 Dunton Green Development 106 Funding – Diane & Barry are having a meeting with Alison Tilbury of the Parish Council tomorrow and will ask her if she has any more information on who will be receiving funding.
- 5.9 Garden of Remembrance Repairs – It was reported that the wooden posts are being replaced free of charge.
- 6. Dunton Green Fun Day 10th July – See above.
- 7. Child Protection Policy – The CPP Form has been signed and sent off and a copy put on the notice board in church. A copy was also given to the Secretary to keep on file.

6. Church and Hall Repairs

Diane Williams reported that emergency repairs have been undertaken to the hall roof as it had developed severe leaks during the recent heavy thunderstorms. We were extremely worried about possible internal water damage, especially to the electrics. Diane spoke to our architect Chris Rayner, who then arranged for the repairs to be made.”

Diane went on to report that the fire alarm in the Hall was serviced recently and the engineer noticed we had no smoke detectors or sprinklers. He gave us a quote of £1952 for the work. Diane decided to phone the fire safety people in Tonbridge who told her that the installation as quoted was unnecessary. We have already had a fire risk assessment. As a result we will have one smoke detector installed in the office.

7. Christmas Tree Festival

Elaine Hanham gave the PCC more information on her proposal for a Christmas Tree Festival. We would have an open day before the festival to allow for businesses to put up their trees. The church would be open over the weekend and there would be publicity on the event beforehand. We could have a bucket for donations. We could also provide refreshments and have a carol concert at the end. On Monday the trees would be taken away by the various businesses and they could then be put up in their own premises. Elaine suggested the 10/11 December as possible dates. The church would be open on Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday. We would, of course, need volunteers to man the church on the Saturday and Sunday. The idea would be to ask local organisations to provide the trees. Elaine will be happy to make contact with them. She would suggest that they decorate their trees in the manner of their business. Elaine said she will prepare a letter to send out to the local businesses and will then inform the congregation of the proposal. Any profit made could be split between the church and a charity.

The PCC thought this was a very good idea. The Vicar thanked Elaine for her efforts.

8. Interregnum

- i) Service Cover – The Vicar told the meeting that he had booked stand-in clergy to take the Eucharist services almost up to Christmas, apart from August 7th at present.

Anne Bourne will take the family services in August and September and the PCC will arrange other family services internally.

The Vicar said that he will try and arrange clergy for the couple of empty spaces in his schedule. A copy of his schedule will be given to the Church Wardens.

The question was raised of how we manage the 9.30 services when Anne leaves as we will then only have Martyn Berry who is not always here. The Vicar replied that anyone is able to do the Gospel reading. However, it was agreed that it needs careful thought in advance.

- ii) North West Fellowship at St Mary's during August - It was then mentioned that the NWF of Churches will be using St Mary's during August. Audrey Bernardi will be coordinating these and each church will take their own service. We will only need to make sure the church is opened and shut up once the service is over.

9. Poverty and Hope

The Vicar has received a letter on the Poverty & Hope Appeal asking if we will participate this year. It was agreed by the PCC that we should continue to support the Poverty & Hope Appeal. Ronnie Todd was asked to send off for brochures and envelopes in time for Harvest Festival in October. The possibility of a collection for the Kenyon girl Catherine Kimochu was then raised. We need to think about when we would have the collection. The beginning of September was thought to be a possible date.

10. Financial Update

Elaine Hanham gave the financial update. Elaine explained that it is around now that we need to report back to Alan Strachan on the amount we raised from the 3 G's project. However, we have lost a substantial sum from our regular giving income due to members of the congregation moving away or decreasing their giving due to the loss of their job. In these circumstances, Elaine would like to put on hold paying the percentage due from the amount raised from the 3 G's campaign until we have a better idea of the actual amount once the loss of regular giving members has been accounted for. She will explain to Alan Strachan that we have actually lost money since the campaign.

Elaine also reported that we have had to pay for the recent roof repairs. However, this will hopefully be paid for out of the building fund.

11. Ross Garner

The Vicar reported that a small number attended the follow up meeting with Ross Garner on 13 June. Ross told that meeting that he would be happy to come along to a PCC meeting to help draw up a Mission Action Plan. It was agreed that we will ask him to attend a future PCC meeting.

12. AOB

Ministry Team – The Ministry Team are in need of another communion set for home visiting communion and for the Dunton Green Services. There is one for sale at a cost of £519 which is silver plate. The PCC were all agreed that the set should be purchased.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 6 September 2011** in the church hall

Ongoing PCC dates:

Tuesday 8 November
Tuesday 3 January 2012
Tuesday 6 March

AGM – Sunday 22 April 2012

The meeting ended with prayer.