

ST MARY RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 6 September 2011
In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Barry Sharp – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd,
Susan Allender, Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Doris Gosnold, David Holmes,
Ruth Merson, Margaret Nicholas, Martin Perry, Anne Straight, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with worship.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Andrew Tawse & Joanna Tawse,

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2011

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

Events Team Update – Susan Allender reported that the party for Anne Bourne went very well. The team are still seeking volunteers to help with the Riverhead Carnival on 18 September. The date and time of the Harvest Lunch/Supper was discussed. It was agreed that a lunch is more popular with families and the elderly. It will be held on Sunday 2nd October. Susan told the meeting she would advertise it in the mini-mag this coming Sunday.

Dunton Green Development 106 Funding – Diane Williams told the meeting that we have submitted an application for a grant to rebuild the steps. Although the District Council said they had not received an application from us, the Parish Council have told us that one has now been received. Diane told the meeting that she has asked the Diocese for their assistance in ascertaining who has ultimate responsibility for the steps and who actually owns the land. She has also applied for a grant from Ibstock Cory and has obtained three quotes to submit to them.

Church Hall Repairs & Quinquennial - Diane Williams reported that the Quinquennial Inspection on the hall has not yet been carried out. The church Quinquennial Inspection is due in October and Diane has asked Robert McLintock if he will take part in a building committee to liaise with the architect, Chris Rayner, should any work be necessary.

Garden of Remembrance – John Curtis reported that someone else has deposited their garden waste in the compost area of the garden of remembrance and he has moved it to the bottom of the car park.

John said he would like to have a bonfire but is hesitant due to the complaint from one of the nearby householders, although we are always considerate to the householders. Diane Williams said that she will attempt to find out the name of the person who complained.

5. Christmas Tree Festival

Elaine Hanham had sent the PCC her proposed letter to local businesses regarding a Christmas Tree Festival in the church. Various points were discussed. It was suggested that any money donations should be shared with a children's charity or Demelza House. If there were a large number of trees Elaine suggested that these could be put around the outside edge of the pews and in the chancel. Any small ones could be put on window sills. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have trees decorated by the Tots & Toddlers group and the Sunday School, as our contribution. It was also suggested that we have piped music playing in the background. We could perhaps have a group of children playing music and it may also be a nice idea to ask the schools if the children would like to come and sing. Coffee, tea and mince pies would be served in the church hall on Saturday only. We could also have a TraidCraft Stall. Elaine told the PCC that she will put a note in the mini-mag asking for volunteers in good time before the event.

6. Interregnum

- i) The Vicarage— Diane Williams reported that Alan Chart has been doing a very good job looking after the Vicarage and checking on the post. A surveyor has been round to see what jobs need doing. Apparently a new shower is needed inside and there are various small jobs outside. However there are no structural problems. We are responsible for the interior decoration and the Diocese are responsible for the maintenance. Alan is getting quotes for the decoration of the inside and outside. We are also responsible for the upkeep of the garden. Alan has a contact who will quote for maintaining it. John Curtis suggested we could have a work party.
- ii) Section 11 Meeting – Once the letter has been received from the Diocese we will need to have a Section 11 Meeting. Ronnie Todd will chase up the letter. A date was set for 20 September at 8.30 pm in the church hall. The PCC had all had a chance to look at the draft of the Parish Profile and had given their comments to Diane.
- iii) Deacon Cover – This coming year we will need new Chalice Administrators and Deacons; we will then need to send in a form to the Diocese giving the names of all the candidates. Martyn Berry, Audrey Bernardi, John Curtis and Lee Kings are all happy to act as Deacons during the Interregnum.

9. Poverty and Hope

It was reported that there is an insert in The Link regarding the Poverty & Hope Appeal which explains the objects of the charity. Martyn Berry is a committee member of Poverty & Hope. Martyn told the PCC that he would like to see more Parishes involved as the sums given can make a considerable difference. The charity is administered by Christian Aid et al. The Appeal may run for longer than the usual one week. Martyn suggested that we ask a Director of the Appeal to come and speak to the congregation. This may encourage a better response than in the past. The PCC agreed it would be a good idea.

Diane Williams raised the point that we need to discuss our possible involvement with the Church Urban Fund and also our collection for the Kenyan girl, Catherine Kimochu, who we support. She will arrange for a note to be put in the mini-mag informing the congregation that these are two future charities we will be supporting. The 1st Sunday in November was given as a possible date for Catherine Kimochu's collection. It was also suggested that perhaps the Sunday School could organise something to bring Catherine's collection to the attention of the congregation. Diane mentioned that she knows of a couple involved in the Sevenoaks Kenyan Education Trust who live nearby and she will ask them if they would come into church and give a talk on the charity.

10. Financial Update

Elaine Hanham gave the financial update. She reported that the bank balance has dropped. Quite a lot of money was paid out last month and we still have to pay two months of Paul's costs. However, this will also be the case when the new incumbent starts, i.e. his/her parish will have to pay his/her costs for two months after starting with us. Other than that, everything is ticking along OK.

11. Ross Garner

Diane Williams asked the PCC if it was wise to pursue our meeting with Ross Garner given our current situation. The PCC agreed that it would be better to wait. Diane and Barry will prepare a letter to Ross Garner explaining that we would like to wait until we have a new incumbent before pursuing this matter.

12. AOB

House Group – Martyn Berry told the PCC that he and Betty Gilbert are keen to re-start the House Group.

Bible Readings – The possibility of reinstating the 3rd bible reading was discussed. The PCC were in agreement that it should be reinstated.

Bereavement Lunch Meeting – Audrey Bernardi said that she had been approached by some recently bereaved people and wondered whether it would be a good idea to have a group who met over lunch. The PCC thought this was a good idea. Audrey will put a note in the next Parish Magazine so that it will go out to the wider community.

October Family Service – Dawn Hallam, a reader from Otford, will be taking the family service in October.

TraidCraft – Anne Straight reported that she will be having a Christmas Card sale in the church hall on Saturday 29 October between 10.00 and 12.00. There will be refreshments and any money raised will be given to charity.

Deanery Synod – Doris Gosnold asked the PCC for their prayers regarding the next DS meeting on 28 September where they will be having a discussion and vote on Women Bishops.

Church Organ – Barry Sharp reported that Janet had received a letter from Copeman Hart who maintain the church organ. Apparently they have been taken over and gave quotes for future maintenance as follows:

Annual Maintenance Cover - parts extra - £245 pa + VAT

Preventative Maintenance Visit - every two years including full parts and labour - £390 + VAT

The PCC all agreed acceptance of the Annual Maintenance Cover.

Sevenoaks Advertiser – Barry Sharp had received an email from the Sevenoaks Advertiser asking if we would be prepared for them to put an article about St Mary's in their publication. The September 2011 edition contained an article on St Botolphs Church in Chevening. The PCC were happy for an article to be placed in the publication. Barry and Diane will prepare something suitable and send it off.

Sunday School – David Holmes reported that the Sunday School are having a trial change of format. They will be focussing on parables. Gaynor Perry has sourced some new material. He will also be giving the children folders to keep their weekly material together for reference.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 8 November 2011** in the church hall

Ongoing PCC dates:

Tuesday 3 January 2012

Tuesday 6 March

AGM – Sunday 22 April 2012

The meeting ended with prayer