

ST MARY RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 8 November 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, Margaret Nicholas,
Anne Straight, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The Rector of St Nicholas Church was present and opened the meeting with prayers and a Psalm.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: David Holmes, Ruth Merson, Martin Perry, Andrew Tawse & Joanna Tawse,

3. Appointment of New Incumbent – Rector of St Nicholas in attendance

The Rector of St Nicholas began by informing the meeting that the reason for his presence was to answer any questions and concerns the PCC may have regarding the appointment of a new incumbent.

The Rector went on to advise the PCC that there had been a number of enquiries sent to the Archdeacon regarding the vacancy and three applications had been received in response to the advertisement on the Diocesan website. All the applicants had received a copy of the Parish Profile.

The PCC pointed out that they were keen to keep St Mary's as a traditional middle of the road church, although they acknowledged that we must be open to change and moving forward with a new vicar.

Certain members explained that they were keen to have someone who would lead from the front, had an outward vision and someone who would be able to provide facilities for the 11+ group as well as the under 11s, which is currently quite strong. It was also requested that the new incumbent was not given too many Diocesan responsibilities initially.

An explanation of Faithworks was given to the Rector. Unfortunately we are now unable to help due to a clash of service times. However, Paul Francis had always been involved in helping to construct meetings and we would be keen to get involved again, if possible.

The Rector explained that we have no more deadlines to meet and it should be straightforward from now on. If needed, we could re-advertise the vacancy but there may well be more than three applicants at the end of the week. Part of the interview pattern is to find a fit. If no one suitable is found it was agreed that the vacancy would be advertised in advance of the January meeting. A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously by the PCC as follows:

In the event of a suitable candidate not emerging from the current selection process, it is resolved that the patrons be requested to advertise the vacancy in the appropriate publications at the expense of the Parish.

The Rector finished by telling the PCC that there will be an opportunity for all PCC members to meet the candidates at a social gathering, some by playing host, inviting them into their homes and others showing them around the Parish.

As there were no more questions, the rector left the meeting. He was thanked for his attendance at the meeting and his support at this challenging time.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meetings of 6th September and 20th September 2011

The Minutes of the 6th September meeting were amended under AOB as follows:

Sunday School – ~~David Holmes~~ Gaynor Perry has sourced some new material.....

Both sets of Minutes were then approved and signed as true copies.

4. Matters Arising

Events Team Update – The Harvest Lunch went quite well. There were 30 people approximately. All the costs were covered by the contributions.

There will be no Christmas party but something may well be arranged in January.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be provided after the 9 lessons and carols service.

The choir will be singing carols in the Bullfinch one weekday evening before Christmas. Anyone else will be welcome to join them.

The Parish Council will be having carols around the Christmas tree outside the Parish Hall, as will Dunton Green.

Dunton Green Development 106 Funding – Diane Williams told the meeting that nothing much has happened to date. Even if we are allocated some money it won't be until November next year.

Church Steps – The grant from Ibstock Corey is being discussed tomorrow. Diane pointed out that the Olympic Torch will be coming through Riverhead in 2012 and it would be a good point to put forward in favour of having the steps repaired in good time before then.

Church Hall Repairs & Quinquennial - Diane Williams reported that the Quinquennial Inspection on the hall and church has now been carried out. It was pointed out that the hall will be in need of a new kitchen in 5 years. There may be a few internal repairs needed in church. The damp patch outside the vestry can be decorated once it is dry. The report has yet to be received.

6. Finance

Elaine Hanham reported that the current position is an improvement on this time last year. We haven't had to move any money from the repair fund. The last payment towards Paul's move is due in November then nothing else until the new incumbent arrives, just travelling expenses for the visiting priests and expenses for the maintenance of the vicarage and garden.

Elaine informed the PCC that she will prepare a budget nearer to the APCM.

7. Christmas Tree Festival

Elaine Hanham told the PCC that she has only received notification of five trees at present. Hopefully more will come forward in the next couple of weeks. Elaine will contact everyone again.

A banner will be put up on the outside railings and flyers will be printed for distribution. Elaine has a friend who is a printer and will be happy to prepare them.

8. Interregnum

i) The Vicarage– A report from Alan Chart was handed out listing the various jobs to be done. He will be obtaining a quote for the front garden from Mostly Mowing. The person living in the old vicarage wants the leylandii taken down at the north side of the vicarage. However, Alan has said no as it would mean there would be no privacy on that side of the drive/garden. The decorating is being done professionally. Barry Sharp put forward a proposal that we concur with Alan's suggestions. The PCC were all agreed. A vote of thanks was given to Alan.

ii) Christmas Services – A list of services will be put out in church on the first Sunday in December. They will also be sent to the Chronicle.

Sevenoaks 2nd Wind Band will be giving a concert on Friday 16th December. They would like to put up a banner on the outside railings and it was agreed that they could attach one to the railings but not on separate posts.

iii) Deacon Cover – Martyn Berry is in the process of training John Curtis.

iv) Chalice – The Chalice Administrators have all been notified to the Bishop.

9. Poverty and Hope & Charitable Giving

There has not been a large response to date for the Poverty & Hope Appeal.

The collection for Catherine Kimochu raised £214, not including the circle of pennies. We may need to subsidise it depending on the final amount.

A request for donations has been received from the Church Army. It was agreed that requests need to be spaced out and as we have had two very close together this request will be left for the time being.

10. Any Other Business

Post Sunday School children – Margaret Nicholas asked if the children too old for Sunday School could be given a job in church. For instance, include them in the rota as sidesmen to help give out books and take the collection. We could also target the older boys to help with the sound system. The PCC thought this was a good idea. Margaret will start making enquiries.

Traidcraft Coffee Morning – Anne Straight reported that a donation has been sent to the Bridge Trust from the proceeds of the coffee morning.

Deanery Synod – Anne Straight read out the voting results from the Vote for Women Bishops.

KCC – Diane Williams reported that she had received a communication from the KCC regarding the footpath which runs from Maidstone Road through to the top of the churchyard. This has been adopted by the KCC.

Outside Light – Jean Woods pointed out that the light on the south west corner of the church takes a long to come on. Barry Sharp will mention it to Robert McLintock.

Yew Trees – The yew trees opposite the south door and near the memorial bench which were damaged in the snow are being lopped by 1/3rd so that they will grow upwards. The ash tree is being removed. David Borman from SDC will be contributing toward the cost of £300.

Boswell Charity – Doris Gosnold reported that she had received a call from a Mr Piper on behalf of the Boswell Charity saying that the charity would like to give a donation to elderly people in need in Riverhead. Doris suggested the lunch club and gave him Gill's phone number. Gill has written a letter of thanks and invited Mr Piper and his wife to the Christmas lunch. She has also invited the Rural Dean, Mark Griffin, and Derry Wiltshire. Ronnie Todd was asked to write a letter of thanks from the PCC.

Helping Hands – This was started a while ago but seems to have fallen by the wayside. Audrey Bernardi has a list of people willing to help which needs to be drawn to people's attention. It was agreed that a notice should be put in the minimag and on the notice board at the back of the church. Audrey will give the list to Diane Williams who will draw up a poster and prepare a few handouts.

Church Hall Lead Roofs – Diane Williams reported that Smart Water has been painted on the lead roofs. We will need to put up a notice in the window of the church hall giving details.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 10 January 2012** in the church hall

Ongoing PCC dates:

Tuesday 6 March
APCM – Sunday 22 April 2012

The meeting ended with prayer