

ST MARY'S RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Tuesday 11 January 2011 In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

The Reverend Canon Paul Francis – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Barry Sharp, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd,
Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, Jeanette Francis, Doris Gosnold, Yemisi Howitt, Tim Johnston,
Lee Kings, Anne Straight, Sarah Stott, Ursula Warner, Jean Woods, Lynn Wilson

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with worship.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Jane Edwards, Anne Bourne, Miranda Cormack, Andrew & Joanna Tawse and Robin Tonge.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting 10 November 2010

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Vicar as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

- i) 4.i The Jonathan Witchell Memorial Bench – The Vicar reported that the faculty has been granted. The Witchells will arrange for the seat to be installed. The waste bin will need to be moved by about 3 ft. The contractor will be asked to move it when the seat is installed.
- ii) 4.ii Church Repairs – Diane Williams reported that the cherry picker was delivered but unfortunately it couldn't be used, after that came the snow. It has been rearranged for next Tuesday. It is apparently a specialist cherry picker which should be able to do the job.
Diane also reported there had been a leak from the ceiling on Thursday evening in the south aisle near the pulpit. On inspection, a broken tile was noticed, which was probably allowing the water to come in. Robert McLintock has made a preliminary repair.
- iii) 4.iii Organist – The Vicar reported that we have received no more replies, other than the one initially received from a lady in Ashford, in reply to the advert. He is contacting her with a view to an interview with himself and Janet Sharp. The Vicar also reported he had spoken to a man in the 'Cathedral Auxiliary Choir' who would be happy to play the organ as and when required. He will also pursue this avenue.
- iv) 4.vi Sidespersons Meeting – Diane Williams reported that the meeting was well attended and had been successful.
- v) 6. Lay administration of Holy Communion – Andrew Tawse, Martyn Perry, Audrey Francis and Susan Allender are all now authorised.
- vi) 8. 400th Anniversary of KJV Bible – The Vicar told the PCC of a Bibliophon he had heard over the weekend where the whole of the King James Version of the bible was read. He would

like to involve the schools in something artistic to celebrate the 400th anniversary, part of it possibly based on the Bibliophon, but obviously not reading the whole bible!

5. Review of Christmas Services and Events

Due to the snow, the confirmation service sadly had to be postponed, together with the Christmas Party, the Band Concert and the 9 Lessons and Carols. The 9 Lessons and Carols was held after Christmas and had been well attended. The Nativity play was put on by the Sunday School on the 19th December as planned and went very well. The other Christmas services all went as planned.

Barry Sharp commented that the Epiphany service had gone well.

Unfortunately there was no Christmas card sent to the Parish with a note of our services. This was a casualty of the cancellation of the Parish Magazine. The PCC felt it was very sad there was no notification of our services apart from the local paper.

Tim Johnston suggested that it may be an idea in future to put a note of Christmas/special services in the Riverhead shops, i.e the butcher's. It was also suggested that perhaps the Notice Board should be moved from its present position so that it is more accessible to passers by, possibly onto the wall. It was thought we would have to apply for a faculty and also to the local authority for permission. The Churchwardens will investigate.

The Vicar paid tribute to the floral decorations over the Christmas period

6. Events Team – New Members

Sarah Stott reported that a new team was needed and a note has been put in the mini-mag. They have had one volunteer so far. Several people have indicated that they would be happy to help but would not want to be on a committee. The rolling list of events in the mini-mag works very well and will be continued this year.

The Vicar thanked Sarah and her team for all their hard work over the past year.

7. Finance and Related Matters

Elaine Hanham reported on the position so far and distributed a note of the income and costs from 2009 to 2011. Elaine will prepare the full accounts for approval at the next PCC meeting, ready for the APCM.

Elaine informed the PCC that Iain Wells has agreed to examine the accounts for the APCM.

Elaine then told the PCC that she felt it was important to encourage people to claim for any church expenses and she will put a note in the minimag to this effect. She will point out that if the expenses are not needed then perhaps the money could be put in one of the charity envelopes left in the pews. The PCC were all in agreement.

There are several small separate accounts which have built up with small balances and Elaine would like to include these in the general fund with the PCC's agreement.

There are designated funds which Elaine would like to dissolve:

car park surface
book of remembrance

There are also the choir fund and flower fund which are restricted. Elaine would like to use up the balances on these accounts and then include any future payments/receipts into the General Fund. Elaine has discussed the flower fund with Christine Smith who has raised no objections. The Church Repair Fund, Church Hall Repair Fund and Lunch Club fund would all be kept as they are for the time being. The Quinquennial Fund has a zero balance at the moment.

8. 'Directions' Consultation – what next?

The Vicar spoke of the day with Ross Garner and how we move forward from that in our church life.

He gave out a copy of a page from notes he had prepared after the meeting, which showed "General Considerations", i.e. welcoming new residents in Dunton Green from the houses being built on the former 'Cold Store' site; the on-going question of how to provide for our young people when they have left Sunday School; how we re-establish ourselves in the minds of the community we serve as being 'their church'.

The church opening may help if it is able to go ahead. We need to encourage people to come into church. Sadly some see the church as not belonging to them but to the Vicar. This perception needs to be changed.

The Vicar suggested we have a follow up meeting. The PCC were asked to put forward suggestions for discussion at the meeting.

9. Open Church Policy

It was agreed that the Churchwardens would contact our insurers regarding the church being open whilst unattended.

We could start with opening the church just for the weekend and see how it goes.

The above was discussed and it was agreed that perhaps we need to update our website. The Vicar will contact Hattie Hill to discuss this.

Yemisi Howitt suggested the possibility of holding an 'open house' bible study which could be held in church. This was thought to be a good idea.

10. Fund Raising Ideas

Church Urban Fund – This particular fund ran for 25 years and is now exhausted. The Vicar reported that he had spoken to someone connected to the Church Urban Fund who would be helpful in linking us to another church, as happened in Stephen Roberts' time. We then had a link with a church in Camberwell (St George's) and had exchange visits which were very successful. It would be good if we could revive this. The Vicar suggested we could pursue this line and invite the person he had met to a PCC Meeting. The PCC were in agreement.

11. Any Other Business

Deanery Synod – It was reported that the three year period for the current Deanery Synod members is up and we will need to find three new members.

Sevenoaks District Council – Barry Sharp reported that he had contacted them with regard to the yew tree where a bough has fallen off. He also told them that the steps up to the church are in bad repair since the snow. Barry was informed that Sevenoaks Direct Services have been asked to look at them.

Church Car Park - The Churchwardens had received a request to hire a car parking space in the church car park. The PCC discussed the issue and concluded that it could set a precedent. It was decided not to consent to the request.

Amherst School – The subject of the school Christmas play was discussed as this year it was held in the school hall rather than in the church.

Christian Unity Service – Anne Straight informed the PCC that there would be a Christian Unity Service at St Mary's, Kippington, on Sunday at 6.30 pm.

Fairtrade Fortnight – Anne Straight reported that she will be holding a coffee morning during the Fairtrade fortnight which runs from 28 February to 13 March.

The date of the next PCC meeting will be **Monday 14 February 2011**

The meeting ended with prayer.