

ST MARY RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 6 March 2012
In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Barry Sharp – in the Chair

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

1. Opening Prayers

Barry Sharp opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Susan Allender, Martyn Berry, Andrew & Joanna Tawse.

3. Approval of Minutes of PCC Meeting dated 10 January 2012

The Minutes were amended as follows:

8. Any Other Business – Rent-a-Tablerented for a small amount – say 10p.

was amended to read:

.....rented for a small amount – say £10.

The Minutes were then signed as a true copy by Barry Sharp.

4. Matters Arising

Events Team Update – It was reported that Margaret Curtis, Hattie Hill and Kathryn Woodward are happy to continue on the committee. The first event will be the Lent Lunch on 30 March which the Bishop will be attending. Volunteers for making soup will be needed. A list of those wishing to attend and willing to volunteer will be placed at the back of the church.

Church Steps – Diane Williams reported that the faculty request has been sent. We now need to get a date for building the steps.

Post Sunday School Children - David Holmes has given a list of names to Margaret Nicholas and she has written to those on the list to ask whether they would be interested in helping with Sunday services, i.e. giving out hymn books. Margaret reported that, unfortunately, all replies have been negative.

Helping Hands – Diane Williams reported that the only new names for the list are the Wigleys. The response to the request for volunteers has been very poor. However, the notice will be left at the back of the church in the hope that others will come forward.

Rent-a-Table – David Holmes reported that the event had had mixed success. There had been a lot of interest from stall holders and he ended up with a waiting list. However, the turnout was quiet after an initial flurry. It may be that it needed a banner fixed to the outside railings of the

church advertising the event. Elaine Hanham told the meeting that the banner she had bought for the Christmas Tree Festival can be interchangeable and it may be worth purchasing one to use for the various events held over the year.

Sevenoaks Christian School – Diane Williams advised the meeting that as we had supported the project she had been given a letter to sign to that effect. A petition is being sent to the Government.

5. Financial Update

Elaine Hanham had emailed the draft accounts to everyone for the year ending 31 December 2011. She reported that we are in a better position this year, which is mostly due to the 3G's event. We have also had less expense without a permanent vicar but we will have to pay the new vicar a stipend as soon as he starts. The method of payment has been agreed with the new Vicar.

Elaine advised the meeting that the figures will have to be amended before the APCM as not all the payments and receipts have been accounted for.

Not much has been donated to charitable giving this year. David Holmes suggested it would be a good idea to have specific charities to give to on a regular basis. Diane Williams said that we do have regular collections for Poverty and Hope and Catherine Kimochu. We also have to discuss our future involvement with the Church Urban fund which we can do once the new Vicar starts.

Elaine then advised the meeting that she would like to give up her role as Honorary Treasurer at the end of 2012. It will be reported at the APCM.

6. Interregnum

i) Induction Arrangements – The Churchwardens reported that they are having a meeting with the Rural Dean – Mark Griffin – next Wednesday when we will know more. The Rural Dean will superintend the arrangements.

ii) Services for 2012 – All Eucharist services have been arranged except the 8.00 am on 15 April. We will just have the family services to arrange ourselves.

Bennet Smith will be taking over from Tessa Lovelock when she gives up to have her baby.

David Holmes will be arranging for the Easter Garden to be prepared by the Sunday School.

Margaret Holman will be organizing the hot X buns for Good Friday.

Andrew Tawse is arranging the Easter Sunday walk.

It was agreed that the March family service taken by the Sunday School was very good. David Holmes told the meeting that the children really enjoyed it. Gaynor Perry adapts the plays from her research material.

iii) Vicarage – It was reported that the decorating will start next week. The garden works are now finished and it is looking good. All is going well. The next thing will be payment of the bills!

iv) Meeting with New Incumbent – Martin Booth will be visiting Sevenoaks on 20 March to meet several people. Diane Williams suggested it would be helpful to take photos of the new PCC and have them displayed at the back of the church after the APCM.

v) Vicar's Stipend – This item has already been covered under Financial Update.

7. Garden of Remembrance

A letter is being mailed to relatives of interred ashes advising them that shrines are prohibited from the garden of remembrance. This policy has always been in place and it has been cleared with the Archdeacon. The shrines currently there will be removed and kept for collection. Unfortunately we have no up to date details of the worst offender.

8. Any Other Business

Olympic Torch – The Olympic Torch will be passing through Riverhead on 20 July at lunchtime. Diane Williams will be attending a Parish Council meeting to discuss how we will be celebrating it and suggested it would be a good idea for it to be a combined effort. Margaret Nicholas was asked to keep the hall free for that day. Some suggestions from the PCC were to have the church open, have printed guides, man a Traidcraft stall and possibly let people use the car park for a nominal charge. The PCC were asked to let the Churchwardens know of any other ideas for the day.

Vestments – It was agreed by the PCC that the vestments are in need of renewal. Diane Williams reported that to replace the worst one would cost between £300-400. The stole will also need to be replaced. Ruth Merson suggested she ask her mother-in-law whether she could make them as she makes them for her church. The PCC agreed to this suggestion. The vestments needed are: Chasuble, Stoles, Burses and Veils.

Audrey Bernardi said that she will enquire of Raymond's cousin, who has recently retired, whether he still needs his vestments.

Rochester Cathedral – Audrey Bernardi informed the PCC that Rochester Cathedral is the poorest of the 14 cathedrals and they are in the process of applying for a grant from the heritage lottery fund. They would like to open up the crypt to disabled people and put in a lift, amongst other things. Consultation groups and donations are needed. There is no government money or money from the Diocese available for the project. Audrey suggested that we consult with the congregation as to whether it could be part of our charitable outreach. It was agreed to discuss it at the APCM.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 29 May 2012** in the church hall

The meeting ended with prayer