

ST MARY RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 10 January 2012
In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Barry Sharp – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd,
Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Doris Gosnold, David Holmes, Martin Perry, Anne Straight, Joanna Tawse,
Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

Barry Sharp opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Susan Allender, Audrey Bernardi, Ruth Merson, Margaret Nicholas and Andrew Tawse.

3. Approval of Minutes of PCC meeting dated 8 November 2011

The Minutes were amended as follows:

10. Any Other Business – Boswell Charityto give a donation to *worthy* elderly people in Riverhead.

was amended to read:

Boswell Charityto give a donation to *elderly people in need* in Riverhead.

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

4. Matters Arising

Events Team Update – It was reported that as of January 2012 the committee all stood down. However, Hattie Hill and Kathryn Woodward are happy to continue. Further committee members are needed. Diane Williams will ask Hattie to put a note in the mini-mag.

Church Steps – Diane Williams reported that a letter re the Cold Store site had been sent to the Parish Council and we will receive an amount from the sum which has been allocated to the Parish Council. We have been informed that the Parish Council will put their allocation towards enhancing The Heights. As we already have been offered money from Ibstock Corey for repair/renewal of the steps, Diane will write to the Parish Council to inform them that the money will be needed for improving the outside church lighting but not the church steps. Apparently the money will not be received until 2013.

With regard to the steps, a faculty is needed and a resolution to this effect must be passed by the PCC to accompany the faculty and quotations. The Resolution reads:

“The PCC desires the church steps to be re-built and the Churchwardens are authorised to proceed with an application for a faculty.”

Martyn Berry – Proposed
Martin Perry – Seconded
The PCC were all in agreement.

Quinquennial Inspection - Diane Williams reported that the Quinquennial Inspection went well and there is nothing in urgent need of attention, just a few minor repairs. The Vicarage is due for its quinquennial in a couple of weeks and Diane will be contacting Alan Chart to help with this.

Post Sunday School Children – David Holmes advised the meeting that he is in the process of giving names to Margaret Nicholas so that they may be asked if they would like to be involved in helping with Sunday services.

Helping Hands – This has been in abeyance over the Christmas period but Diane Williams reported that she has prepared a hand-out to go with the mini-mag which asks for anyone willing to help to fill in what they would be happy to do and then return the hand-out to Diane.

5. Finance

Elaine Hanham reported that we haven't needed to touch any of our savings as we have enough in our current account at present. Elaine informed the PCC that she will have the accounts ready for the March meeting.

6. Christmas Tree Festival

Elaine Hanham again gave the report. She told the PCC that only 15 trees were displayed but the weekend went very well. 200 + people came through the doors. Around £540 was received and £270 has been sent to Demelza House. Elaine informed the meeting that if we are to repeat the event this year we will need to set up a committee in the near future. She will put a note in the mini-mag to ask if anyone would be interested.

A vote of thanks was given to Elaine for all the hard work she put into the event.

7. Interregnum

i) New Incumbent – Barry Sharp proposed a vote of thanks to John Curtis and Ruth Merson for all their work in selecting a new incumbent. Our new Vicar, Martin Booth, will be inducted on the evening of 12th July. We will almost certainly need a larger hall for the catering after the service. Amherst School hall was suggested. Diane Williams said she will speak to the headmaster Derry Wiltshire. She will also contact the Archdeacon to enquire about the service. Apparently Martin would like to attend a PCC meeting before he starts. This will need to be arranged at some point.

ii) Services for 2012 – A list of services has been drawn up by Diane Williams up to July. Ross Garner will be coming on Easter Sunday. A Deacon will be needed on Palm Sunday. It was suggested that we have a Passover Ceremony on Maundy Thursday rather than having two separate services. We will also need to have the wine blessed for the reserve sacrament to be used on Good Friday. Someone needs to be found to preside on Maundy Thursday. Diane said she will be looking into it.

iii) Vicarage Repairs – A report from Alan Chart was sent to the PCC prior to the meeting. He believed there probably will be nothing too dramatic emanating from the Quinquennial. The works are now mostly finished. Martin Perry asked whether it was possible to make use of the house for the community whilst it is empty. He was told that the Diocese had been approached but were not open to suggestions due to possible difficulties arising. It was agreed that once the incumbent is *in situ* a note will be sent to the Diocese putting forward the shortcomings of the process of an interregnum. Martin Perry offered to prepare a draft.

As a cooker for the vicarage has to be provided by the new incumbent, Elaine asked whether the PCC should contribute towards the cost. The Churchwardens and PCC agreed it would be a nice gesture; the Churchwardens will speak to Martin.

Barry Sharp put forward a proposal that we concur with Alan's suggestions for continued maintenance of the vicarage as set out in his report. The PCC were all agreed. A vote of thanks was given to Alan.

8. Any Other Business

Church Hall Hire Charge – Margaret Nicholas asked if the hall charge should be increased? After some discussion it was agreed to leave it as it is for the regulars but to increase it for parties to £18 per hour. PCC all agreed.

Sevenoaks Christian School – Anne Straight brought to the attention of the PCC that the group organising the proposal for a Christian School in Sevenoaks would like all churches to pass a motion of support. The subject was discussed and as there were differences of opinion a vote was taken on whether we should support “the idea” of a Christian School.

The results were as follows:

For x 7

Against x 3

Abstention x 1

As there was a majority in support, Ronnie Todd was asked to send an email to Bill Latimer to the effect that “the PCC of St Mary's Church, Riverhead, supports the idea of founding a Christian secondary free school in the Sevenoaks area”.

Fairtrade – Anne Straight asked for a notice to be put up in the kitchen area stating that the tea and coffee served there was Fairtrade.

Ann also reported that, unfortunately, she will not be doing anything during the Fairtrade fortnight as she cannot have use of the hall on the days when she isn't at work.

Grant Funding – Diane Williams told the PCC that she had received an email from Ross Garner saying he would like to visit the PCC again regarding a grant which is available for welcoming people moving to the area as a result of new housing. Apparently we would be eligible for the grant due to the new housing development in Dunton Green. Diane agreed that she will reply to the email expressing an interest. It was decided that this will be something for the new vicar to pursue.

Rent-a-Table – David Holmes asked if the PCC would be interested in setting up a table stall sale of goods event in the church hall. He suggested the tables could be rented for a small amount – say £10. It could be advertised in the mini-mag and put to local schools. The PCC all thought this was a very good idea and agreed for David to do some research. The hall is currently free on 11/2 and 25/2.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 6 March 2012** in the church hall

APCM – Sunday 22 April 2012

The meeting ended with prayer