

# ST MARY RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN MINUTES

Additional Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 27 November 2012  
In the Church Hall

## PRESENT:

Vicar (Martin Booth) – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Barry Sharp, Ronnie Todd

Susan Allender, Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Margaret Curtis, Doris Gosnold, , David Holmes, , Margaret Nicholas, Martin Perry, Anne Straight, Jean Woods

### 1. Opening Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ruth Merson, Elaine Hanham, Stuart Wigley, Chris Ledson

### 3. Sevenoaks Christian School

The meeting had been called to discuss two items, the first of which was how we wish to proceed as a PCC in supporting the setting up of Sevenoaks Christian School.

The Vicar advised the PCC of a recent meeting he had attended. He summarised the main points for discussion as follows:

1. As a supporting church, we will be invited to sign up as a member church.  
How much do we wish to commit ourselves?
2. A Limited Company will be formed of appointed Directors.  
A candidate may be needed from St Mary's. Are we agreeable?
3. Liability will be £10 per member church.  
Vicar to enquire/clarify the subject of liability in relation to the position of individual members.
4. There will usually be one meeting of SCET directors a year. The directors role will be to:  
Appoint Governors from member churches (7 approx)  
Oversee financing of the school  
Oversee the management of critical issues.

The PCC discussed the benefits and disadvantages of a Christian School. A vote was taken on how we wish to proceed and the following was agreed:

“The PCC of St Mary, Riverhead, wish their Vicar to report back to the Christian School Committee that they would like to be a member church of the project to set up a Christian school subject to the position of the Diocese, once their views have been received on the Memorandum and Articles of Association.”

In favour: 13  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1

#### **4. Same Sex Marriage**

Deanery Synod wished to have the views of Parishes on same sex marriage in church.

The Vicar summarised the points from the last Deanery Synod Meeting.

The pros and cons of same sex marriage in church were then discussed. It was generally agreed by the PCC members present that they agreed with the Church of England's position that marriage is understood to be between a man and a woman. However, the majority of PCC members would look kindly on a church blessing of a same sex couple, should that be authorised by the Church of England at some point in the future.

Vicar and Deanery Synod members to report back to Deanery Synod with our views.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

The Vicar had received an email from David Kitley (Vicar of St Mary's, Kippington) asking whether we would be happy to donate towards a photocopier for Bishop Simon Chiwanga, Diocese of Mpwapwa, Tanzania. The PCC agreed to a donation of £100. Vicar to let the Treasurer and David Kitley know.

Diane Williams reported that she has put an advertisement of our Christmas services in the Sevenoaks Chronicle, which is free. There would be a charge for including our weekly services. The PCC agreed not to include our weekly church services as these may be found quite easily on the church website.

The subject of the possibility of St Mary's having an Associate Minister was discussed. The PCC agreed that we do not need one at present. It recognised and appreciated the value of ministers with Permission to Officiate and in particular Peter Flynn's continued and much appreciated contribution to the life of St Mary's.

The meeting ended with prayer