

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Tuesday 5 March 2013 – 8.00 pm In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar (Martin Booth) – in the Chair

Diane Williams, Barry Sharp, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd
Susan Allender, Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Margaret Curtis, Doris Gosnold,
David Holmes, Chris Ledson, Ruth Merson, Margaret Nicholas, Martin Perry, Anne Straight,
Stuart Wigley, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Approval of Minutes of PCC Meeting dated 15 January 2013

The Minutes of 15 January 2013 were approved by those present and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

Children's Officer – The Vicar reported that he will be holding a meeting on 18 March with team leaders and others to discuss the vulnerability of children and the elderly.

Littlecourt Lunch Club – Pam and Deirdre are continuing to run the club and all is working well. The Vicar will hold a meeting at a later stage to update himself on the situation.

Accident Claim – There is no further news.

5. Financial Update

The draft Report and Accounts were distributed in advance of the meeting by Elaine Hanham. Elaine reported that we are currently in funds to the tune of £80k. Last year there was a surplus of £13k but Elaine felt there are underlying concerns for the future, i.e. the planned giving is down. She suggested it would be much better if we could persuade people to contribute by direct debit. The Parish Share is higher and we are now paying the Vicar's salary. If things stay as they are we will not meet our outgoings for 2013. Elaine told the meeting that she is happy to take PCC member's queries by email. The Accounts will be given to the Independent Examiner this week. The Vicar thanked Elaine very much for all her hard work.

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams distributed the church fabric report to those present.

Slippery Surfaces - A quote for a hand rail is in hand. Once it has been received a faculty will be applied for.

Downpipe – This has been fixed.

Car park lighting - A faculty has been obtained for lighting to be installed. Unfortunately we are unable to proceed at the moment as we are dependent on the Parish Council for the provision of funding and there is currently a delay. Hopefully it will be settled soon.

7. Events

Easter Walk – A notice will be put in the mini-mag. The route will be the same as last year, starting from the church car park and will finish with breakfast in the church hall.

Peter Flynn 16/2 – The Vicar felt the talk was generally very successful and believed it was an interesting way to proceed during Lent.

There were a couple of comments regarding the Lent talk by Sam Berry from St Nicholas church. In particular, was it appropriate to have the talk at the same time as a baptism service. The Vicar told the meeting that he had spoken to the Baptism family and they were happy for the talk to take place during the service. He also reported that a Committee will be discussing future family services.

Hermitage Ensemble – The concert is planned for 10 May. The group will consist of five or six singers & manager. They will be collected by car and brought to the church hall for lunch. They do not need to rehearse. The host families will take them home before the concert and give them a meal. There will be an interval where drinks & nibbles will be served. A charge will be made for the wine. It was noted that if we are to make a charge for wine we will need to obtain a drinks licence. The group members will be taken home with the host families after the concert, where a meal will be offered. The following day they will be taken to either a drop-off point or a station for the onward journey to their next concert venue. The ticket price will be £10 for adults and £5 for students. It will be limited to 300.

The tickets will be sold via church and also in Sevenoaks Book Shop.

The intention is to publicise the concert in the Parish and Diocese.

The Vicar emphasised that the idea of the event is to help people not used to church to feel welcome and for St Mary's to be at the heart of the community as well as it being a concert given by a quality professional group,

Dunton Green Fun Day – Margaret Curtis and Diane Williams were unable to attend the recent Faithworks meeting. The organisers have asked for confirmation that St Mary's will bear the cost of the insurance cover. It was noted that we have always paid this in the past and are quite happy to continue.

8. Outreach

Poverty & Hope - The Poverty & Hope 2012 Appeal resulted in a total of £105 which was very disappointing. It was agreed that in future we need to have a designated Sunday for the collection, i.e. Harvest Festival and base the service around the charity. 6 October was suggested as the date for this year's Harvest Festival where there will be a bring and share lunch.

Charity Shortlist for APCM – The congregation had submitted their suggestions for their favoured charities. The PCC shortlisted five and they will be voted on at the APCM. The congregation will be asked to vote for three and those with the most votes will be our chosen charities for the year. Current charities such as Poverty & Hope and Diocesan appeals will be kept separate. (Note: the shortlist was not presented at the APCM, instead voting forms are being distributed in church for the whole congregation. Final decision by 12 May)

SCET – Diane Williams reported that she had contacted David Debenham and he has two girls who are in need of our support. The cost will be £345 pa for education and board. The PCC agreed to support a new girl as Catherine Kimochu has finished her secondary education.

9. Church Services

There will be a Maundy Thursday service with vigil but no supper.

10. Teenagers

Confirmation - The Vicar advised the meeting that there will be a confirmation service on 17 March at St Peter's Church, Pembury. There are three adults and eight children being confirmed from St Mary's.

Youth Service Report – The PCC agreed that the service went very well. All the participants were excellent. The Vicar emphasised that it was quite a challenge for the teenagers, to which they rose very successfully. The Vicar is in the process of talking to those involved in youth ministry in the church about other projects and events.

Youth Worker – Nothing new to report.

11. Trinity School

Anne Straight and Maggie Booth put themselves forward to be the representative and delegate from St Mary's. Form A was approved by the PCC and signed by the PCC Secretary. The Secretary will send the form to the registered office of SCET, attention of the Company Secretary.

12. APCM

Everything is in order for the APCM on 14 April 2013. The Vicar asked for any offers/names for the position of Churchwarden to be sent to him.

13. Any Other Business

- i) The Vicar will look at possibly starting a bible study group after Easter.
- ii) It was suggested that we start a new kitchen fund over the next couple of years. Another suggestion was that we use money we already have saved for a new kitchen. It was noted that we will not be putting in a new kitchen for at least three years and we will be looking to spend approximately £10-£17k.
- iii) Bennet Smith is preparing the Easter Card.
- iv) It was suggested that we could use the legacy from Olive Kitchingman (previously suggested to be used for the sound system) to be used over the next two years principally where young people & church music is concerned. This would also include a trophy 'The Olive Kitchingman Prize' for example. This was thought to be an appropriate use of the legacy and that Olive would have approved.

The next meeting will be the APCM on 14 April 2013.

The meeting ended with prayer