

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Tuesday 25 March 2014 – 8.00 pm In the Church

PRESENT:

Vicar (Martin Booth) – in the Chair

Barry Sharp, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd
Susan Allender, Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, Margaret Curtis, David Holmes, Chris Ledson,
Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Anne Straight, Diane Williams,

1. Opening Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Baker, Doris Gosnold, Ruth Merson,
Jean Woods

3. Approval of Minutes of PCC Meeting dated 4 February 2014

The Minutes were agreed by those present and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

Sunday School - The Vicar informed the meeting that David Holmes is standing down as Sunday School Leader. Ruth Merson is also standing down.

David gave a brief review of what is required to keep the Sunday School running:

Church Families – Parents come along with the younger children and then become involved, which works well.

Minimum Age – The Sunday School accommodates most ages.

Groups - There are three groups:

Green Group – Beginners (Leaders needed)

Blue Group – Years 3 and 4

Red Group – Years 5 and 6.

There have been some children coming to Sunday School through Tots & Toddlers, which is great.

David stressed that more helpers are needed to spread the load as well as replacements for David and Ruth. They have been asking but no response as yet.

Diane Williams, David Holmes and Ronnie Todd were asked to look into family services where children are invited to create drawings and/or pieces of craft relevant to the talk whilst the service continues. They show what they have done to the Vicar and congregation at the end of the talk. Use of musical instruments at the end of the service will also be investigated.

Hall Telephone – Margaret Nicholas explained to the meeting that we could have TalkTalk line rental, plus calls and including broadband for £17.90 per month. If we consider paying a year in advance we would receive discount. The PCC members were asked if they were content for Margaret Nicholas to go ahead and arrange the rental. The members were all in agreement.

5. APCM

The Secretary advised the meeting that we will be in need of new PCC members as six current members will be standing down.

The Vestry Meeting will precede the main meeting to elect the Churchwardens.

The Vicar reported that due to our numbers on the electoral roll we now only need two representatives on Deanery Synod. Doris Gosnold has very kindly volunteered to stand down.

The Vicar also encouraged people to consider at some point exploring the process for standing for General Synod.

6. Financial Update

Stuart Wigley gave the report.

The transfer from our Lloyds bank account to The Charities Aid Foundation Bank ('CAF') is imminent.

The end of year financial report is in the process of being produced.

The regular giving scheme is in need of review. Stuart Wigley will include this in his presentation at the APCM.

CAF provides a service to assist fund raising enabling people to donate online. This facility could be embedded in our church website as a fund raising page or a page for one-off donations. Stuart will speak to the Diocese to enquire if it would be possible and whether any other churches use the service.

7. Church Organist

Edwin Davis has completed his three month probationary period. The PCC was delighted that Edwin will continue as church organist/choir leader and for Janet Sharp to continue in her role as Edwin's deputy.

The subject of payments to children singing in the choir was discussed. The PCC was happy for Edwin/Janet/Stuart to review the current payments and report back to the Standing Committee for approval.

8. Church Fabric

The Church Fabric Committee reported on progress for an open church policy. Leaving the front doors open and securing the inner glass doors would be difficult; the church needs to have welcomers. This could be possible on Wednesdays and Fridays. Coffee mornings could be held in the church hall on Fridays during March to October and the church could be left open.

The items on the previous list are all work in progress.

The addition of two speakers have improved the sound system. Thanks to Robert McLintock for his research and work in setting them up.

Additional mats have been added outside the church hall to alleviate the slippery surfaces. Some re-pointing however is needed.

We are waiting for the new window sills to be installed.

One of the new car park lights has been damaged by a car. We have received payment for the repair from the person involved. It was agreed that some additional protection is needed as the lights are difficult to see when reversing. A possible post with a reflector at the appropriate height was suggested.

Ray Ebdy is to come up with some suitable lighting replacements for the Nave.

Robert McLintock has logged the heating system temperature which should be borne in mind for people using the church other than for church services.

The church roof is hopefully finished now.

Two estimates have been received for a new external notice board: £2875 + VAT and £2145 no VAT. They would both be made of oak and the same size as the current one. Diane Williams advised that we may need to apply for a faculty if we move the notice board to a different position.

It was suggested that cushions for pews could be donated and left in a basket for people to pick up on their way in to church.

The rubber seals on the glass doors need replacing. The original makers no longer exist but Diane has been told of another firm who could help.

Margaret Nicholas reported that new closers are needed for the church hall entrance door. The PCC agreed for Margaret to source a new closer and go ahead with the purchase.

9. Events Update

Easter Walk/Breakfast – Diane Williams and Ronnie Todd to lead the walk. The Events Committee will arrange the breakfast as usual.

Recital – Susan Allender reported that Wendy Chown is organising some publicity fliers. It is hoped that there will be wine and nibbles at the end of the recital.

Diocesan Link Service – The date of 5 October 2014 is in the diary.

Photograph Competition – The Vicar has emailed the Diocese regarding any possible pitfalls. The Vicar and a.n. other will look at the legalities and report back to the PCC. At the moment the competition is on hold until further investigation has been carried out. Thanks were given to Bennet Smith and Daphne Harrison.

10. Outreach

DAVSS were overjoyed with the amount of £255.75 collected for them.

It was agreed to keep SKET as a separate charity from the three charities to be voted on.

11. Church Services

28 September – The Rural Dean will be setting up Bishop Brian's visitation to St Mary's and will be taking the 9.30 service. We will have a bring and share lunch.

12. Teenagers

St Lukes, St Mary's Kippington and St Mary's Riverhead had a meeting regarding teenagers. St Lukes will be holding a youth service on the 15th June. Time to be confirmed. St Mary's Kippington have an active youth group and some upcoming events are:

27/4 Bowling Tunbridge Wells
11/5 Picnic at Hollybush
22/6 Youth Barbeque

It would be good to make our teenagers aware of these events and encourage them to attend.

13. Trinity School

Trinity School holds a regular prayer meeting. Anne to email the dates to the Secretary. They will be holding their Easter service at St Mary's, Riverhead on 2nd April at 11.30 am.

14. Any Other Business

Fire Inspection in Church Hall – Margaret Nicholas advised the meeting that the hall has been inspected by the company responsible for installing the emergency fire lights and the following has been recommended: A new light at the fire exit outside the church hall, three emergency lights and three bulk head emergency lights. It was suggested that the fire alarm is tested once a week. Margaret has been given a quote of £860 + VAT for the new lights. It was agreed that Margaret will ask the fire service to come along to confirm that what has been suggested is essential before agreeing to the quote.

Caring Concerns Course – St Luke's, St Mary's Kippington and ourselves are running a five week course on pastoral care, starting the 7th May.

Audrey Bernardi – The Vicar advised the PCC that, after supporting Audrey for lay ministry, the application was made and she has been accepted. Unfortunately Audrey's circumstances have changed and she is unable to take the course.

The Secretary read out the various charities proposed by members of the congregation. The PCC selected five to be voted on and the three with the most votes will be announced at the APCM. The five selected were:

Autism Centre, Tonbridge
Lollypops
BLESMA
Commonwork
Royal School of Church Music

The meeting ended with prayer