

# ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
25 November 2014 – 8.00 pm  
In the Church Hall

### PRESENT:

Barry Sharp – in the Chair

Vicar (Martin Booth), John Curtis, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd  
Martyn Berry, Margaret Curtis, Karen Forster-Pearce, Doris Gosnold, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith,  
Anne Straight, Jean Woods

### 1. Opening Prayers & Bible Passage

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Baker, Audrey Bernardi, Nicola Joyce, Chris Ledson,  
Diane Williams

### 3. Minutes Of PCC Meeting 23 September 2014

The Minutes were approved by those present and signed as a true copy by Barry Sharp.

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Finance

Stuart Wigley informed the PCC that the Stewardship Committee met on 16/10. They will be holding a second meeting in two weeks time and Stuart will update the PCC of their discussions after that meeting.

Stuart has had an exchange of correspondence regarding a £5k legacy from Ruth Ballisat. It was thought that the money could possibly be used for re-laying turf in the Garden of Remembrance. The suggestion has been put to Robin Tonge who is in agreement. We could also put up a plaque. The subject will be put on the Agenda for discussion at the next PCC meeting, once the money has been received.

The PCC had been sent a copy of an email, in advance of the meeting, from the Diocese regarding a new way of dividing the Parish Share. It will be given a trial run during 2015. £59,880 has been suggested as our contribution for 2015. Our payment for 2014 was £56,400. Stuart pointed out that our current income is not covering our outgoings, our numbers had fallen over the three years that the Diocese used to assess attendance figures, and we would struggle to pay the suggested amount. A discussion followed and it was proposed that we pay an amount of £5k per month for the first quarter.

Proposed: Stuart Wigley

Seconded: Barry Sharp

The PCC were all in agreement.

The option of using an "Easy Fundraising" site when ordering goods online was proposed by Stuart. A percentage of the money spent would be given to St Mary's. The PCC agreed it would be a good idea and Stuart was asked to provide a flier for the congregation.

### 6. Church Fabric Committee

The PCC had been provided with a copy of the Fabric Committee report in advance of the meeting.

*Church Opening* – The suggestion by Diane Williams for church opening days was agreed by the PCC. A notice will be included on the website giving the days when the church is open. A note will also be put in the Chronicle and the Parish Council will be informed.

*Notice Boards* - Ronnie Todd volunteered to monitor the Notice Boards in church and outside to keep them up to date and tidy.

*Welcome Table* – As suggested in the report, the erection of a moveable shelf over part of the left hand pew was agreed by the PCC and will be clearly labelled “Welcome”. It was agreed that it should only be used for a Visitors Book, leaflets, envelopes and documents which relate to welcoming visitors to the church.

*Car Park Lighting* – It was proposed that the existing lights need some form of protection. The Committee will continue to look into the matter. Any ideas/suggestions should be put to the Fabric Committee.

*Christmas Lights* - The PCC agreed that battery powered lights would be safer and should be put either side of the church steps rather than mains power lights to match the village Christmas lights.

*Lightning Conductor* - We await the report.

*Window Repair* - The PCC were all agreed that Margaret Nicholas should arrange for the repair of the window in the church hall.

*Church Hall Blinds* - The current blinds are in need of replacing. Two quotes had been received. It was proposed that we accept the quote from Blinds and Window Films. Chosen colour: Claret.

Proposed: Barry Sharp

Seconded: Margaret Nicholas

Abstentions: John & Margaret Curtis declared an interest and abstained.

The rest of the PCC were all in agreement.

*Church Hall Fire Alarm* - The alarm was inspected and serviced and then, for no reason, the alarm went off one week later. A bill of £158.40 was received for rectifying and re-setting the alarm. The bill has been paid. The PCC agreed that Margaret Nicholas should send a letter of complaint pointing out the anomaly of a problem immediately following a comprehensive inspection. It was pointed out that we do have the option of speaking to the Trading Standards Institute.

## **7. Events**

The following dates were noted:

20/12 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wind Concert in church

21/12 - Nine Lessons and Carols to conclude with mince pies and mulled wine

22/12 - Carol singing in the Bullfinch

10/1 - The date was agreed for the Christmas/New Year Party. It will be a bring and share arrangement with party games and will start at 6.30 pm. Margaret Nicholas was asked to check the Church Hall diary for any prior booking.

## **8. Outreach**

*Lollipops* - Rosemary McLintock has received no response to her attempts to contact the Lollipops charity. It was therefore agreed that the Royal Society of Church Music should be contacted. Barry will ask Janet whether she has a contact name and let Rosemary know. It was agreed that if Lollipops should respond, they would be accommodated.

## **9. Church Services**

21/12 - 9.30am Nativity and 7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

24/12 - Two Christingle services in the afternoon and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

4/1 - Family Eucharist - Peter Flynn will be taking the service

## **10. Sunday School**

There are several more younger children at present with no extra help available. It was generally felt that the parents should be encouraged to offer help.

## **11. Teenagers**

The Vicar reported that he heard the bowling evening was very good. St Lukes St Mary's Kippington and ourselves would look into future youth-focused events.

The Perry family have been asked to lead a service at St Mary's on one Sunday in the New Year.

## **12. Trinity School**

The Vicar informed the PCC that he visits the school regularly and once a month provides holy communion for a few of the staff.

### **13. Any Other Business**

*Sample Church Magazine* - Anne Straight circulated a copy of a church magazine as a possible template for St Mary's. Margaret Nicholas pointed out that it was becoming increasingly difficult for her to produce the Link. She will be asking for a volunteer to take over production. If no-one comes forward, we will simply produce a services card for Easter and Christmas.

*Leaf Clearing* – An honorarium of £100 was proposed to give to David who regularly clears the leaves from the car park, in recognition of all his hard work. The PCC were all in agreement.

*New APCM Date* - The Vicar informed the PCC that he is unable to make the date agreed at the 2014 APCM and will be moving it to Sunday 19 April. He will inform the congregation nearer the time.

*Photographic Exhibition* - A date has been set for 16 May.

The Vicar advised the PCC that there is a debate on Thursday, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, at St Nicholas Church on Gender and Sexuality. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The meeting ended with Prayer

Date of next Meeting: Standing Committee – Tuesday 13 January  
PCC Meeting Tuesday 27 January