

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Tuesday 21 July 2015

8.00pm in the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the Chair

John Curtis, Diane Williams, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Martyn Berry, Margaret Curtis, Beryl Ellinor, Karen Forster-Pearce, Daphne Harrison, Margaret Nicholas, Anne Straight; Denis Williams, Lynne Wilson, Doris Gosnold

1. Opening Prayers & Bible Passage

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Bernardi, Jill Dickenson, Nicola Joyce, Bennet Smith

3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting 20th May 2015

The Minutes of the meeting 20th May 2015 were agreed and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

i) The Secretary asked if the date for the next PCC meeting could be changed from 22nd September to 29th September. It was agreed.

ii) The Vicar gave an update on progress of the new church organ. The faculty request was submitted in time and we are waiting to hear from the Diocese. The providers, Allen's, will wait to hear from us before proceeding with our order. In the meantime, on the 5 August, they will provide us with a loan organ, free of charge, until the new one is ready.

The question of why we need a faculty was raised. The Vicar explained that it is because the church organ is considered a fixture/fitting of the church.

iii) The PCC were told that, at the last meeting, Doris Gosnold had proposed Stuart Wigley as Treasurer. Unfortunately the proposal was invalid as Doris attends as an observer, not as a PCC member. The proposal for Stuart Wigley to continue as treasurer was re-taken as follows:

Proposed: John Curtis

Seconded: Denis Williams

PCC: All in favour

It was then suggested and agreed by the PCC that Doris be co-opted on to the PCC.

Proposed: Beryl Ellinor

Seconded: Martyn Berry

PCC: All in favour

The Vicar will check the Rules for voting rights of co-opted members and report back at the next meeting.

5. Finance

The Treasurer handed round various graphs and figures to the PCC.

He reported that we have had an increase in funds since the talk he gave in church, after the APCM. Quite a few members of the congregation had responded positively.

Most regular givers have now moved over to the CAF Bank.

A budget had been set at the APCM which proposed to reduce the overspend forecast to £10k.

In the budget analysis we had a deficit of £8,490. Currently our income and expenditure are very close, but we do have slightly more money coming in. The finances are now not looking as bad as originally thought at the APCM, although there is still a £10k deficit for the year.

Last year was £20k

The question was raised of how Tots and Toddlers income was shown. Stuart explained that it goes in under the 'collections' heading and is seen separately in the Accounts.

The projected gas usage was a lot less than the actual usage but the meter had been misread last year and we are now in credit.

Stuart told the PCC that he would be happy to answer any questions after the meeting.

The Vicar raised the question of "Green Church Policy". Stuart will look at this with the Stewardship Committee.

It was agreed that a thank you letter will be sent to regular givers. The Vicar will write a covering letter, following the drafting of a letter of thanks.

A small presentation on income and expenditure will be given by Stuart the week after Harvest Festival to explain to the congregation where their money is going.

The Vicar thanked Stuart for all his hard work.

6. Church Fabric Committee

The notes from the last meeting were passed round to the PCC.

A meeting is yet to be held regarding church lighting.

The car park lights need to be replaced. Robert McLintock is in the process of getting a quote for LED lights. Standard lights have been suggested for the car park to stop vandals; this may need planning permission. Another suggestion is that we could have lights set in the ground which would be vandal proof. The subject will be discussed and a proposal for car park lighting will be put forward to the PCC.

Diane informed the PCC that our requested grant for church roof repairs had not been successful.

There are currently some security issues involving people lingering in and around the garden of remembrance, dropping litter and using unacceptable behaviour and language. This is very unpleasant for neighbours overlooking the garden of remembrance. Signs have been posted suggesting that anyone who notices any antisocial behaviour should phone 101. Meanwhile, following calls and a meeting with local police, they have agreed to patrol the area from time to time. The suggestion of a lock on the gate into the garden of remembrance was not thought feasible as family members might need access at any time to the Garden. Sevenoaks Council, who are responsible for the Churchyard and public order generally, have had a meeting to discuss this. Diane Williams, churchwarden, attended. Sevenoaks Council have drawn up a plan whereby this nuisance element might be stopped by the end of August.

There was a bonfire lit in the grounds at an unsocial time. One neighbour contacted St Mary's. Diane has spoken to the person responsible and John wrote a note to the neighbour. The matter was happily resolved.

The toilet lights in the church hall have been left on, on a few occasions after parties in the hall. Margaret Nicholas has put up a notice to remind everyone to switch off the lights. The suggestion of taking a deposit from users of the hall was not felt to be a good idea. The fabric committee will investigate the possibility of installing automatic lights.

7. Events

Riverhead Carnival - 20 September

Ride & Stride - 12 September

There is the possibility of having the Sackville Singers performing in church.

8. Outreach

The RSCM Music Day and Choral Evensong will be arranged once we have an organ in place. Volunteers are needed to deliver welcome leaflets to the new houses currently being erected on the Ryewood Estate in Dunton Green. It was suggested that we could use the previous welcome leaflet with an erratum note. Diane Williams will speak to Jean Woods.

9. Church Services

The Vicar informed the PCC that we will be marking the Saints Day of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 15 August at 10.30 am in the Chancel.

The mid-week Wednesday and Thursday services will be combined with the Dunton Green Thursday services at 11.00am, except when Dunton Green have their coffee mornings every third week. In which case the service will be held at 10.30 on the Wednesday. A notice will be put in the notice sheet. We could also offer coffee in the church hall afterwards and advertise this in our Chronicle column.

10. Sunday School

Anne Straight came forward to speak about her experience at the Rochester Big Day Out. There were lots of activities including a "messy church" theme. Anne told the PCC that there were lots of good ideas for messy church Sunday School which would be for all ages.

There will be a commissioning service for Sunday School leavers in September.

The Vicar would like to encourage more Sunday School families to lead the family services. It was suggested a meeting be arranged to discuss how to make this happen.

11. Teenagers

Nothing to report

12. Trinity School

The Vicar reported that he has developed a good relationship with Trinity School. The School would like this to continue once they have moved to their new location. The Vicar is looking also to develop a relationship with Dunton Green School.

13. Any Other Business

Parish HR Questionnaire - The Diocese of Rochester have requested us to complete a Parish HR Questionnaire. They have asked for this to be formally discussed with the PCC at a PCC meeting. Each question was read out by the Vicar and the reply was discussed and agreed by the PCC. The Secretary will complete the form with the agreed answers and send it to the HR Officer at the Diocesan Office before the requested date of 25 September.

A Questionnaire was also sent to the Vicar which he will complete.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee: Monday 14 September

PCC: Tuesday 29 September