

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
24th March 2015 – 8.00 pm
In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the Chair

Barry Sharp, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Martyn Berry, Karen Forster-Pearce, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Diane Williams, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers & Bible Passage

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Church Organ - Report by Janet Sharp

Janet Sharp was present for the first part of the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the failure of our organ. The matter was discussed in detail. The PCC agreed that the Standing Committee be delegated to explore all options as to the repair, rebuilding or purchase of a new organ. The Vicar formally thanked Janet for all her invaluable help.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Baker, Audrey Bernardi, John Curtis, , Margaret Curtis, Nicola Joyce, Chris Ledson, Anne Straight

4. Minutes Of PCC Meeting 27 January 2015

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

5. Matters Arising

It was reported that a representative from the Children's Society will be invited to give a talk to the congregation on Christmas Eve.

6. Finance

Stuart Wigley gave the report.

With regard to church income, our giving is down by 7%. Church fees are also down.

Church Hall income is up by 10%.

Discounting the £5k legacy, our overall income is £11k down from the same time last year.

Expenditure is up due to a 20% increase in the Parish Share and a 2% increase in the Stipend.

Stuart explained that 75p from each £1 given goes to the Diocese.

We have £84k in trust with the Diocese which possibly may need to be used on a new organ.

There is also £8.5k coming in from gift aid.

We should have enough reserves in hand to cover three months expenditure but this is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain as our income is not covering our outgoings.

Stuart will be making a presentation to the congregation at a Sunday Service after Easter to advise on our financial situation and encourage people to sign up to the regular giving scheme.

There will also be a push in the autumn by the Stewardship Committee to encourage raising funds and people giving their talents.

The question was asked whether we should increase the Church Hall rent? It was agreed that Margaret Nicholas will do some research and report back.

Ruth Merson was put forward as the Church Financial Accounts Examiner for 2015/16.

Proposer: Barry Sharp

Seconder: Martin Berry

The PCC were all agreed.

The Vicar thanked Stuart for all the work he does on the Accounts and preparing the report for the APCM.

NOTE: subsequent to the publication of these accounts, it was noted by members of the congregation that an amendment to the figures was necessary. This was done, and the revised accounts were agreed by members of the PCC at the APCM and adopted by the APCM. Details can be found in the APCM minutes.

7. Church Fabric Committee

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

Roof Repair Fund – Diane Williams reported that an application had been submitted to the Listed Place of Worship Roof Repair but they had not received a reply to date. They have apparently received a large amount of applications.

There are many necessary repairs needed in and around the church and any help in this respect would be very gratefully received. Martin Perry is currently carrying out a lot of re-pointing, for which the PCC is very grateful.

8. Events

The Vicar informed the meeting that the diary dates have already been listed on the sheet he had previously prepared. It had been given out at a church service earlier in the year. One thing to note is that there will be no Dunton Green Fun Day this year.

9. Outreach

Ronnie Todd will send an email to the PCC listing the charities nominated by the congregation. Four charities must be selected by each PCC member and their responses sent to the Secretary by a given date in advance of the APCM. The four charities with the most votes will be given out at the APCM and those present will be asked to vote for two. The two charities chosen will then be part of our Outreach giving for 2015/16 and will be announced at the Sunday service immediately following the APCM.

10. Church Services

The Vicar advised the meeting that the Lent and Easter services, as outlined in the published Diary Dates are in hand.

11. Safeguarding

It was agreed that a meeting on our Safeguarding policy needs to be arranged by the autumn.

12. Sunday School

Nothing to report.

12. Teenagers

Nothing to report.

13. Trinity School

The Vicar advised the meeting that there will be an Easter service in the church next Monday at 11am. Margaret Nicholas was asked to find an intercessor for the service.

14. Any Other Business

Church Hall Drain - Barry Sharp reported that the drain was discovered to be blocked on Monday and was duly unblocked. However, it was found there are roots invading the drain for quite some distance and it will need lining. The insurance should cover this, minus the £100 excess.

Easter Eggs - Bennet Smith suggested that a donation of £15 be given to Traid Craft instead of buying Easter Eggs for the children. The eggs for the children have been donated. Agreed.

New Church Warden - The Vicar put forward the suggestion of possible candidates shadowing a Church Warden to find out what is involved.

Baptism Preparation - The Vicar is considering holding preparation for Baptisms on Saturday mornings in church.

Wednesday Morning Service - The Vicar proposed that if he is unable to find cover for the Wednesday Morning Service, the service could, in exceptional circumstances, be cancelled. The PCC agreed.

Food Hygiene - Barry Sharp reported that there has been correspondence in the press recently regarding listing all ingredients of menus in case of allergies. Barry Sharp was asked to send an email to Clive Mansell (Archdeacon) to check it out with the Diocese as it may have implications for the Littlecourt Lunch Club.

NOTE Littlecourt Lunch Club have subsequently adopted relevant policies and procedures.

The meeting ended with Prayer