

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Tuesday 29 September 2015

8.00pm in the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the Chair

Diane Williams, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Martyn Berry, Jill Dickenson, Beryl Ellinor, Doris Gosnold, Karen Forster-Pearce, Daphne Harrison, Nicola Joyce, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith Anne Straight; Denis Williams, Lynne Wilson

1. Opening Prayers & Bible Passage

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Bernardi, John & Margaret Curtis

3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting 21 July 2015

The Minutes of the meeting 21 July 2015 were amended to remove Jean Woods from the list of apologies as she is no longer a member of the PCC. They were then agreed and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

i) The Vicar gave an update on the new church organ. Amended notices were on the notice boards. He has now sent them to the Registrar. There were no objections. He has emailed asking for news but has heard nothing more to date. The PCC are happy to go ahead and the Vicar will send another email to that effect unless he has a reply in the meantime.

ii) It was noted that co-opted members have the same voting rights as PCC members.

5. Finance

The Treasurer gave a progress report.

Thank you letters to regular givers had been sent.

The Stewardship Committee have met to discuss green policies. A report will be given at a later date.

Levels of giving have increased, but more needs to be done to encourage regular giving and Gift Aid donations in this area.

The Diocese sought information about St Mary's financial situation in relation to our Parish Share contribution. The Treasurer replied as discussed and agreed at a previous PCC meeting.

Stuart will be giving a presentation on giving at the 9.30am church service on 11 October.

We have received some money from returned ink jet cartridges and people using the Easyfundraising website.

The Vicar thanked Stuart once again for all his hard work.

6. Church Fabric Committee

Diane Williams reported on the meeting held on 2 September. The notes from that meeting were emailed to the PCC members in advance of the meeting.

Church Lighting: Nothing more to report at present.

Church Roof Repairs: We will be submitting a revised bid when the second round of grants from the LPWF become available.

Security: The meeting on 24th August was attended by Diane, the local PC and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. It was reported that fingerprints had been found regarding the last break in. Someone has been interviewed subsequently. The Vicar and Diane Williams have given witness statements concerning the two recent break-ins.

Car Park Lights: An example of two types of light were passed around the PCC. It was felt that the galvanised steel columns could be rather costly and the brick style could be easily damaged by, or cause damage to, cars. In addition, Alan Colnet has been on site to advise and suggested a protective cage around the existing lights, which would be a cheaper option. The CFC will continue to look for the best option.

It was agreed that a notice needs to be erected in the church car park for those who use the church hall. It should state that church hall users must not use the bottom car park for child safety reasons. Another notice will include a disclaimer that the church will accept no responsibility for accidents and damage to cars. Diane will look into it.

Trees: A Sevenoaks District Council officer had suggested that we take down three cypress trees in front of the church. However, understandably, the council would not be in a position to pay for the work. A quote has been received from Ross Robinson to fell and grind stumps of 3 cypress trees at a cost of £760 + VAT. A quote has also been received from the SDC for £600 which did not include stump grinding; stump grinding would double the cost. A quote to carry out maintenance on the trees has been given at £240 + VAT. The PCC were happy for the trees to receive some attention. The Standing Committee will make a final decision.

7. Events

Bishop Brian had conveyed to the Vicar that he had enjoyed his time of worship with us in celebration of his retirement.

The Second Wind Concert in December will be in the afternoon instead of the evening. Diane will speak to them to suggest they could come on Friday 18/12 as the staging for the play will be up on the Saturday.

Traidcraft Christmas Card Sale will be on 31/10 between 10am-12pm.

There may be a **Lent Course in Feb 2016**, to be taken by the Vicar. Diane will collect the course resources at an introductory morning for the materials: '**Puzzling Questions**'. This is designed for people who would like to understand and discuss freely the basics of the Christian faith.

Day of Prayer on 7/11 - Anne Straight to look into having Messy Church for the children in the morning. Margaret Nicholas to check whether the hall is free. Nicola Joyce to contact Caroline Rink who is attached to Outreach Ministry in London. She connects prayer with doing something creative, which may be something we could do.

8. Outreach

The vicar reported that he will be visiting Dunton Green Primary School on a regular basis from the New Year. Amherst School are hoping to hold their Carol Concert at St Mary's.

9. Church Services

4/10 - Harvest Festival

1/11 - All Souls - Service for the faithful departed

8/11 - Remembrance Sunday

10. Sunday School

Nicola Joyce had written a Sunday School Report which had been sent to the PCC in advance of the meeting. The small number of leaders is something to be aware of, especially as there has been a big increase in the number of children attending.

It would be a nice gesture to acknowledge children who are moving on to secondary school. It had been agreed that the Vicar will give a presentation in future.

The need for involvement of secondary school age children in church services will be looked into by the Vicar and Nicola.

Nicola asked whether it would be possible to have a small projector and screen. Stuart Wigley agreed to look into it.

11. Teenagers

The Vicar has had a discussion with Mark Griffin and others in local parishes regarding a joint effort with other churches to provide support for teenagers.

12. Trinity School

The Vicar reported that Trinity School are happy to continue their contact with our church.

13. Any Other Business

Fair Trade Chocolate Bars - Ann straight passed around a leaflet on personalised chocolate bars where a picture of our church could be printed onto outside wrappers. Anne will make enquiries regarding cost. The PCC were happy for her to do so.

Refugee situation and Christmas Box Appeal - Daphne Harrison put forward two suggestions for giving. One was for collecting specific items needed for refugees which would be distributed by the Red Cross. There is a collection point in Sevenoaks where she would take donations. The other suggestion was to ask people if they would like to give made up Christmas Boxes for the Samaritan's Purse appeal.

Daphne will arrange for a note to be put in the pew sheet and give a presentation at a church service. The PCC were happy for her to go ahead.

Daphne left the room whilst the Vicar informed the PCC that she is attending a course to become a Licensed Minister. It is a 2/3 year course and she is currently in the first year foundation course. There will then be the opportunity to go forward to the second year if Daphne feels she would like to. There is very little expense in the first year but if Daphne continues it may need PCC support. The PCC were delighted at Daphne's exploring possibilities in this way.

Christmas Card Deliveries - A flyer will be inserted in the cards for the new Ryewood properties. A proof copy of the card will be given to the Vicar by the end of October. Margaret Nicholas and Bennet Smith to provide a picture for the front cover. The cards will need to be delivered on 29/11 to precede the Christmas Tree Festival.

Karen Forster-Pearce asked for help with the Dunton Green deliveries. She will remind Martin nearer the time so that he can include it in his announcements.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee: Tuesday 11 November

PCC: Tuesday 24 November