

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 8 March 2016
8.00pm in the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the chair

Diane Williams, Ronnie Todd

Doris Gosnold; Anne Straight; Karen Forster-Pearce; Denis Williams; Daphne Harrison; Beryl Ellinor;
Lynn Wilson; Martin Berry; Bennet Smith; Margaret Nicholas

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Stuart Wigley; John Curtis; Margaret Curtis; Jill Dickenson

3. Approval of Minutes 26 January 2016

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

4. Matters Arising

Church Hall Cleaner - Katherine Woodward has taken on the job of cleaner for the church hall.

Garden of Remembrance - Martin Perry has agreed to help with the garden of remembrance.

Easter Eggs - Fairtrade mini eggs have been purchased for Easter Sunday and will be given to the parents/children. There will be an Easter egg hunt using laminated eggs. There will also be colouring sheets for the pews.

Christmas Cards - All 50 cards made by Bennet for sale at the Christmas Tree Festival were sold. He collected £25. Bennet will print some more Christmas and Easter cards to sell for church funds.

Christmas Tree Festival - A Committee has been formed to organise the Christmas Tree Festival in order for it to go ahead in December. December 10-11 has been proposed as a possible weekend date. The Committee presently consists of Diane Williams, Margaret Nicholas and Christine Smith.

Memorials - It was agreed that a courteous letter be drafted to executors of proposed legacies to St Mary's explaining that we are no longer able to accept money for in memoriam benches. However we would be happy to use the money in memory of loved ones in some other way and the executors would be advised of the decision if they wished to continue. A plaque in the name of the loved one would be placed in an appropriate place in the church. Potential ways of remembering loved ones were put forward by some PCC members. Karen Forster-Pearce agreed to collate a wish list. Ronnie Todd was asked to draft a suitable letter to Executors.

5. Finance

The Treasurer had emailed a report to the PCC members in advance of the meeting. The report read:

- I am developing with Robert a donation page for the website - this will go live shortly

- I am working on the use of the Just Giving website to allow flexibility regarding giving - this will enable donations to be provided via text messaging
- There is work being done on a document to assist with the next stewardship campaign for funds
- The accounts for 2015 will be audited by our previous Independent Examiner.
- We have £14,385 in our church repair fund which we should start to use for repairs, rather than using our own funds
- The church repair fund payments are increasing slightly, from this month, to £270 per month, further to the quinquennial inspection report
- I will have the treasurer's report for circulating no later than 20 March

The PCC were all in favour of the Treasurer's Report

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams gave the report.

We should have a decision regarding the grant for the roof repair fund by June. The Quinquennial was brought forward to 1st February 2016 and a £30k claim was submitted as a consequence of the Quinquennial report. Finance for installing a walkway to help when carrying out roof repairs was included in the application.

We are waiting for a second estimate for the car park lighting.

There is a car permanently parked in the church car park and the Churchwardens are endeavouring to find out who owns it.

Robert McLintock is currently investigating new lighting for inside the church.

Voting in relation to the grant from Tesco, arising from the sale of plastic bags, is in progress. We wait to see whether we will receive the lower amount of £8k. It is hoped that the grant may enable us to at least have the proposed tree work done.

The old organ speakers are to be removed and four new speakers will replace them. The new speakers will need sturdy shelving as they are very heavy. Our Architect, Chris Rayner, has advised we use a structural engineer to draw up a design. A faculty has been applied for the new shelving. One of our organists – Nick Castell - will be taking the Copeman Hart organ for his school pupils at Walthamstow Hall School. A concert of music will be held at St Mary's and Walthamstow Hall School and any monies raised will go towards organ and related costs. Robert McLintock has checked the wiring from the old organ and believes it to be safe at the time of inspection.

Funding for the car park lighting and church lighting will be looked into.

7. Events

The Sackville Singers will be holding a concert in church.

Donations from the Easter Walk and Breakfast will be donated to Christian Aid.

8. Outreach & Mission

Daphne Harrison has conducted a survey of church members as part of her course. A questionnaire was given out to members of the congregation two weeks ago. Daphne will look at the responses and report back after Easter. At the end of Daphne's foundation course she will consider whether she wishes to go further and in which direction. If she wishes to go forward, the PCC will need to formally adopt her application which may involve some training expenses.

9. Church Services

Easter Services are as publicised.

The Vicar plans to provide a service for the deaf and hard of hearing on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.30am, possibly starting 17 April 2016. A service sheet will be printed. Power point will be used together with the projector and screen. A signer is hoped to be in attendance. Bennet Smith informed the Vicar he has a friend who is able to sign and may be willing to attend the service, for which we are grateful. Fliers are being prepared. All will be welcome. Depending on its success, the initiative could be discussed with the North West Fellowship of Churches.

The 10.30 Wednesday Communion Services at St Mary's have now stopped due to low attendance. Dunton Green will continue with their mid-week services which are fairly well attended.

10. Church Music

It is hoped the new organ will be in place at the end of April.

11. Sunday School

The PCC thanked the Sunday School very much for a lovely service on Mothering Sunday. It was noted that there are two Sundays left before Sunday School finishes for the Easter holidays. As a result of the Mothering Sunday service, it was evident that we need a proper projector stand. It was agreed that a plea will be put to the congregation to see whether anyone has one they could donate.

12. Teenagers

The Vicar informed the meeting that he is considering holding a four week confirmation course in readiness for a possibly Deanery confirmation service on 12 June 2016.

13. New Church Hall Kitchen

Margaret Nicholas informed the PCC meeting that she had received estimates for the design and installation of a new kitchen last year but, if we are to go ahead, she will need to seek updated estimates. If the PCC approve the proposal the hall will need to close for the whole of August. We have £17k with the Central Board of Finance which is available to be used.

The PCC were asked to agree the following:

- The design and installation of a new kitchen
- Margaret to obtain new estimates
- Closure of the hall during August
- Sub Committee to act on behalf of the PCC (Margaret to give names to the Secretary to circulate to the PCC)
- Margaret to seek official guidance and have the proposal agreed/signed off by the Diocese

The PCC were all in favour

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business

15. Date of Next Meeting

APCM 10 April 2016