

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 11 October 2016
8.00pm in the Church

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the chair

Diane Williams, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley; Ronnie Todd
Martyn Berry; Margaret Curtis; Jill Dickenson; Beryl Ellinor; Daphne Harrison; Nicola Joyce;
Karen Forster-Pearce; Doris Gosnold; Bennet Smith; Anne Straight; Dick Thomson; Denis Williams

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Margaret Nicholas; Lynn Wilson

3. Approval of Minutes 26 July 2016

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

4. Matters Arising

Friends of St Mary's - Since we have received very little interest in this topic it was agreed to put it in abeyance until further notice. Margaret Nicholas to remove the item from the pew sheet and Robert McLintock to remove it from the website.

5. Finance

Stuart Wigley reported that we are waiting for payment for the kitchen from the Diocese, having previously received confirmation that we may use the £84k for Ecclesiastical Purposes. We will be reviewing our payment to the Parish Share over the next couple of months. Monies paid into the central fund not only go towards the provision of clergy and training, but also to those parishes whose ministries are vital to the community but are not as able to support themselves as other parishes are.

There will be another prompt to the congregation to support St Mary's. A document will be circulated for the PCC's comments.

The Diocese is continuing to look at deployment and individual parish needs and ministries.

The PCC were asked whether we should review our contribution to the Parish Share .

Content: 15

Abstentions: 1

Against: 0

Church Hall Fees - Margaret Nicholas had circulated a note giving a comparison of our church hall fees to the fees of other churches in the area and Riverhead Village Hall. It was noted that our charges are comparable with other halls and it was agreed that there will be no increase at the moment. To be reviewed next year.

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams gave the report:

Roof Repairs - We will be receiving advice on the 4 November with regard to the way forward with the roof repairs. Once a plan of action has been agreed it will be put to the PCC. Diane warned the repairs are likely to be expensive.

Car Park Lighting - We are waiting on a reply from the planning authority. Once this has been received we will submit the faculty request.

Trees - Eight trees have been identified with yellow paint for removal. We are currently awaiting a report from the tree surgeons to advise whether any of them are dying and/or dangerous.

Lightning Conductor - We have now received a report from Braileys. Robert McLintock has looked at the report and noted the areas which are in need of repair. The cost will be approximately £1500 + £420 for the inspection. The PCC were asked if they were content for the work to go ahead.

All content.

Thanks were given to Robert McLintock for all his help.

7. Events

North West Fellowship Autumn Service - 16 October being held at Christchurch United Reform Church

Sunday School Light Party - Saturday 29 October - the church's answer to halloween offering something different. Nicola Joyce confirmed that the requirements related to the safeguarding of children is in hand.

Launch of Samaritan's Purse - Sunday 30 October - boxes to be collected on 27 November

Traidcraft/Children's Society coffee morning & sale of Christmas cards - Saturday 5 November

Day of Prayer - Saturday 19 November, based on Open Doors International Day of Prayer focusing on Syria and persecuted Christians.

Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday/Sunday 10-11 December, arrangements in hand

Second Wind Concert – date and time still TBA

Crib Trail - 27 December 1.00-4.00pm - along the same lines as last year except figures will be taken to each church in the trail.

8. Outreach & Mission

The Vicar reported that the Diocese is producing a "tool kit" to assess each parish and its role within the community and the Diocese. PCCs will be invited to review and respond by next Easter. There will be three questions to consider. We will either get a team together to respond or involve the congregation.

The Poverty & Hope Appeal will be presented over the next two weeks and Martin Berry will speak about the organisation at a forthcoming church service.

Post Service Coffee - A box of goods needed for coffee and tea will be kept in the church. The Vicar explained that the purpose of moving the coffee to the back of the church is to make people feel welcome in church and it is hoped that more people will stay for coffee. It is part of the outreach and mission at St Mary's. It would also mean that Baptism families will be able to use the hall if they wish. It is currently on a trial basis to be reviewed after a reasonable space of time. Ronnie Todd to ask Margaret Nicholas to put an appropriate welcome note to stay for coffee in the pew sheet as a regular item.

Anne Straight raised concerns for the Fairtrade Stall which she holds on regular intervals during coffee in the hall after church services. It will be difficult to move things backwards and forwards from the hall to the church and there is also the question of space. A suggestion of a "pop-up shop" was given and also the provision of a lockable cupboard kept somewhere in church. To be looked into.

9. Church Services

Evening Prayer Service 9 October - The service went extremely well and lots of positive comments were received. - The service was based on a personal talk by Nicola Joyce on her journey of faith. It is hoped similar services will become a regular feature.

All Saints and All Souls 30 October - Tea and biscuits to be provided in the hall after the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed service.

Remembrance Sunday 13 November

10. Sunday School

Nicola Joyce advised the PCC that unfortunately Jo Adams, Helen Hall and Anne Straight are all leaving as Sunday School leaders or have already left, which means there is only Nicola left as a leader. It is essential to recruit new leaders to help if we want the Sunday School to continue.

11. Teenagers

Once the space above the choir vestry has been cleared it will be possible to use it as a space for teenagers.

12. Any Other Business

The Hermitage Singers - The Vicar had received an email from the Hermitage Singers asking if they could repeat their visit to sing in our church as per their visit in 2013. The PCC discussed the possibility but unanimously agreed that it was not something we wish to pursue for 2017 or the foreseeable future. Ronnie Todd will reply and explain our decision.

Chancel Steps Hand Rail - Karen Forster-Pearce asked if it would be possible to install a hand rail by the chancel steps. The Fabric Committee will look into it.

Singing Lessons - Diane Williams reported that an agreement has been drawn up for singing lessons to be given in church to individual pupils who would like to go on to Drama School. The request was received from Jane Housley who regularly rents the hall and the pupils are those who have previously been to her classes. Jane will receive no money in remuneration. The question of safeguarding was raised. Diane Williams told the meeting that Jane has been given a copy of the Church of England Child Protection Policy. DBS Certificates will be shown to the Churchwardens. In light of the ongoing concerns expressed by the PCC re safeguarding Diane Williams will speak to Jane.

Fundraising - Bennet Smith told the PCC that he was thinking of creating a Church Calendar comprising photos of flower arrangements in St Mary's which he will sell to raise funds. The PCC all agreed that this was a good idea.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee - 8 November

PCC - 22 November