

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 26 July 2016
8.00pm in the Church

PRESENT:

Vicar - In the chair

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

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Nicola Joyce; Stuart Wigley

3. Approval of Minutes 10 May 2016

The Minutes were agreed by the PCC subject to "oak front doors" being removed from the list of Suggestions for Legacies under item 11, Any Other Business. The Minutes were then signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

The draft letter re Legacies is in the process of being amended by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

5. Finance

In the Treasurer's absence the Vicar read out a report which had been sent by Stuart Wigley (Treasurer).

The PCC responses were as follows:

Friends of St Mary's - It was agreed that this was a good idea in theory. It does need volunteers from outside the church as well as PCC members to form a committee. The Committee would be needed for organising fund raising events. As a first step we could put a notice in the pew sheet and update the PCC at our next meeting. Another possibility would be to approach the Parish Council to ask if they would be interested.

Eco Church - It was mentioned that this project was looked into with our previous Vicar, Paul Francis. The PCC agreed that up to a point, we are an ECO friendly church, for instance, the work currently going on in the Churchyard. The Stewardship Committee will be asked to prepare a check list to put forward to the PCC for general approval.

£84k Fund - Stuart has subsequently had confirmation from the Diocese that we are able to use the £84k for Ecclesiastical Purposes, which includes the hall kitchen and fabric of the church. This means

we should be able to review our Parish Share and still have a reserve of three to six months. Stuart will check whether the money will be transferred to our bank account. The PCC were all content.

Stuart was given special thanks for his dedication and hard work on all the above.

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams informed the PCC that we have been turned down for a grant to help with the cost of roof repairs. Robert McLintock will go through the Quinquennial Report and make a list of the most essential repairs which he will send to our Architect, Chris Rayner. It will be put to the PCC in October.

The question of the difficulty for wheelchair users manoeuvring over the cobbles to reach the church hall was mentioned. It will be looked into.

Documents regarding the car park lighting had been forwarded to the Diocese in advance of a meeting on 30 June. We have subsequently received confirmation to say that we may apply for a faculty. We will also need to apply for planning permission. This is all in hand.

As a result of money received from the Tesco Bags of Help project, Groundworks have been trimming bushes and identifying trees to be removed. The trees are numbered and the PCC are invited to check the trees and let the Churchwardens know if they have any strong opinions relating to the proposed works.

The new organ speakers will need to be moved to a better location. Robert McLintock will be asked by the Wardens look into the new positioning and liaise with Janet Sharp.

Work on the new church hall kitchen starts tomorrow The approximate cost for the new kitchen is £6k but this does not include new flooring.

The PCC were all content.

Thanks were given to Margaret and Stuart.

The Vicar informed the PCC that he would like to re-order the back of the church so that coffee could be taken there after Sunday morning services. It was generally agreed that members of the congregation might be more inclined to stay for coffee if they didn't have to walk around to the hall. Large pump type thermos flasks would be used together with ecological disposable cups. It was agreed that we could have a trial period to see whether it works. Anne Straight asked what would happen when she had a Fair Trade sale as she would not want to carry everything in to church from the hall. The Vicar reassured Anne that something would be worked out.

7. Events

Vicarage bring and share lunch - a list is at the back of the church for everyone to sign up to.

Harvest Lunch - The hall is booked.

Events Committee - It was suggested that it would be beneficial to form an Events Committee rather than leaving it all to Margaret Curtis and Margaret Nicholas. A request for volunteers will be put in the pew sheet.

Riverhead Carnival - Margaret Curtis mentioned that the WI will be holding a stall this year with homemade and home grown produce. Margaret suggested that we have a display of church photos, etc, instead of our usual homemade and grown produce. It would also present a good opportunity to launch the Friends of St Mary's scheme. Margaret Curtis was asked to look into material for the stall and delegate the setting up to, say, three others as she will be away during September.

Day of Prayer - November 2016 - Every November, Christians around the world unite to pray for other Christians who suffer for their beliefs. It was proposed that the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted Church would be a perfect time for our church to focus on this for our day of prayer in November. It would also be a good opportunity to think about our own faith journey.

8. Outreach & Mission

As a follow on of the survey carried out over the Lent and Easter period, Daphne Harrison suggested it would be helpful for the PCC to spend time together - maybe over breakfast, lunch or supper - to discuss our mission as a church. It would be an opportunity for us to think about where we go in our daily following of Christ. In light of this, Daphne suggested we invite someone from the Diocese, possibly Jean Kerr, who is a retired member of the Diocese, to come and talk to us. The Vicar agreed to make the initial enquiry and then hand over the arrangements to Daphne et al.

Margaret Nicholas asked that she be informed of a date if the event is to be held in the church hall.

9. Church Services

NWF Evening Services during August - All the NWF services are being held in St Mary's and we will be taking the last service. All services start at 6.30pm. The Vicar asked the PCC to come along and support the services, especially as we are the host church.

Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing -The Vicar informed the PCC that there had been minimal success with this service. Thanks were given to Suzanne for coming along to sign for each of the services.

Third Sunday of the month - The Vicar suggested that we might replace the Deaf and Hard of Hearing service with a get together after the service on one third Sunday of the month to discuss some aspect of the service over coffee.

10. Sunday School

Anne Straight reported that there are now only six Sunday School helpers, three of which are leaders. Helen Hall has left and no other volunteers to help lead the Sunday School have come forward, which makes it very difficult to cope with the various age groups.

There had been an invitation to Sunday School parents to attend a social evening at the Bullfinch. Two parents came. It was a good evening and will happen again.

11. Teenagers

The Vicar reported that the gallery above the choir vestry will be re-ordered for teenagers to use. Louise Straight has given some ideas. This depends also on the Speaker being moved (see above)

12. Any Other Business

Commonwealth War Graves Commission - We have received a request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to erect a sign at the entrance to the churchyard indicating the presence of a war grave. A Resolution agreeing to the sign is required by the PCC. The signage will be at no cost to us. A photo is to be taken and sent to the CWGC once the exact place for the sign has been agreed. The PCC were all content for the decision to be made by the Standing Committee. The Secretary to prepare the Resolution.

Prayer Board - The Secretary advised the PCC of the weekly meeting of a prayer triplet (Daphne, Nicola and Ronnie) on Monday evenings. The meeting takes place in the Lady Chapel where there is a prayer notice board. It would be nice if the congregation were made aware so that they could

make prayer requests when needed. The Secretary was asked to give a note to Margaret Nicholas to this effect for it to be put in the pew sheet. It will also be mentioned at the beginning of the service on Sunday.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee - Tuesday 27 September 2016

PCC - Tuesday 11 October 2016