

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 18 July 2017
8.00pm in the Church Hall

PRESENT:

Vicar in the chair, Diane Williams, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Jill Dickenson, Beryl Ellinor, Daphne Harrison, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Anne Straight, Andrew Swidzinski, Dick Thomson, Lynn Wilson

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Martyn Berry, John Curtis, Barry Sharp

3. Approval of Minutes 23 May 2017

The Minutes were amended as follows:

5. "...put themselves forward..." was amended to read "...had been proposed...". They were then agreed by the PCC and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Finance

The Treasurer gave the report.

Expenditure v. budget will be circulated in due course. The Diocese has asked us to increase our Parish Share contribution. The Treasurer recommended that we keep it as it is at the moment, taking into consideration our current financial position. If we find ourselves in a better position at the end of the year then we have the option to increase it.

Stuart was asked to work towards making an autumn appeal and explain about the stewardship scheme.

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams gave the report.

Hand Rail: It has been suggested by the Diocese that the hand rail needs an extra fixing. A picture of a proposed fixing was handed round to the PCC. It was agreed that it will be safer to have the rail permanently fixed.

The suggested new fixing was proposed and seconded:

Proposed: Lynn Wilson

Seconded: Beryl Ellinor

The PCC were all content

Quinquennial: We are proceeding with the jobs being done by volunteers. Due to the sad death of Chris Rayner we need to decide whether to carry on with the contractors he had proposed. We will need to find a new Architect by the time of the next Quinquennial which is in 3-4 years time.

Church Lighting: Robert McLintock has requested an electrical condition report of the church and hall. The lighting is in much need of improvement.

Car Park Light: The new light has been installed. It will be reviewed in the autumn.

Car Park Sign: A new car park sign "No Parking beyond this Point" has been permanently erected and set in concrete at the top of the slope leading down to the church.

7. Events

Riverhead Carnival - A meeting by the Events Committee to be arranged to discuss the possibility of St Mary's involvement.

Church Walk - It was agreed by those who attended that the walk arranged by Velma had been successful and enjoyable. Thanks were given to Velma.

Later Life Matters - The proposed day has been cancelled as the person from Hodges who had first suggested the event has left the company. We were therefore unable to continue with the event.

Bring and Share Vicarage Lunch - Everything is in place and lists for attendees and food have been placed at the back of the church.

Diocesan Partnership Service - St Mary's will be hosting the service on Sunday 24 September at 6pm. Bishop James will be attending, together with the Archbishop of Estonia, the Estonian choir and an Estonian Folk Dancing Group.

8. Outreach & Mission

Estonia - The donation to Risti church in Estonia is in the process of being transferred at a favourable rate of exchange. £200 plus was raised and the PCC agreed to round up the amount.

SKET - The sale of cakes by the Sunday School raised over £200 for the girl we are sponsoring in Kenya.

Air Ambulance - Rosemary McLintock has contacted the Air Ambulance as one of our chosen charities. Someone will be coming to speak to us.

Ride & Stride - Tom Witchell is continuing to run the event as no one has come forward to take over as yet.

Pastoral Visits - The Vicar will be arranging a meeting to discuss various issues regarding pastoral visits. He told the PCC that he has recently been on a safeguarding meeting.

9. Deanery Synod

Anne Straight gave an update.

There had been a meeting on 26 June when a presentation on Parish Indicators had been given.

There has been an increase of clergy retirements and recruitment in the Tonbridge Deanery.

Resources and Mission was discussed.

There are two new appointments in Knockholt and Seal Chart & Underriver.

The Diocesan Secretary has agreed for an Environmental Policy, proposed by the Sevenoaks Deanery, to be discussed and adopted at the October meeting.

10. Church Services

Nothing beyond the usual services to report.

11. Sunday School

The Vicar thanked Anne and Jo for all their time and hard work given to the Sunday School. He informed the PCC that the Sunday School will be known as "Sunday Club" from the beginning of the new term.

12. Teenagers

The Vicar hopes to encourage the four girls who have left Sunday School to perhaps form a youth group and try to encourage others to attend.

13. Any Other Business

Car Parking - A letter has been received from Sevenoaks District Council enclosing a parking survey. The Secretary will complete and return the survey. The Parish Council will also be responding with some recommendations.

Loaves and fishes - A request was made to Margaret Nicholas to reinstate the notice about loaves and fishes on the pew sheet.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee	12 September
PCC	26 September