

# ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 24 January 2017  
8.00pm in the Church Hall

## **PRESENT:**

Vicar - In the chair

Diane Williams, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley; Ronnie Todd

Martyn Berry; Margaret Curtis; Jill Dickenson; Karen Forster-Pearce; Doris Gosnold; Nicola Joyce;  
Margaret Nicholas; 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**

Beryl Ellinor; Daphne Harrison

## **3. Approval of Minutes 22 November 2016**

The Minutes were 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 circulated an update on church finances.

Fundraising:

Christmas Tree Festival totalled in excess of £700

Recycling print cartridges £23

Easy Fund Raising £340 to date.

Stuart is currently reviewing our Parish Share contribution.

An application has been made for a VAT refund amounting to £406 for lightning protection works.

Stuart was thanked for all his hard work.

## **6. Church Fabric**

Diane Williams gave the report.

*Car Park Lighting:* A letter of acknowledgement has been received from the Local Authority Planning Department but we are still waiting for confirmation of planning permission for the new light installation. Once planning permission has been received we will apply for a faculty.

*Roof Repairs:* There had been a meeting with Chris Rayner who has drawn up a specification of the main works. The Fabric Committee are in the process of prioritising the works.

*Shoreham Lane Parking:* Another letter had been sent to the Local Authority pointing out that the parking contravenes at least three Highway Code Rules and suggested that Sevenoaks Council's traffic enforcement needs to take place. The Local Authority replied that there are no yellow lines in

Shoreham lane and therefore no need for a traffic enforcement officer to patrol the area. They suggested that the police could be contacted to deal with dangerous or obstructive parking.

*North West Kent Countryside Alliance:* There is a time limit for the works to be completed which is by the end of April. The tree maintenance and removal has been quoted at £700. Amherst School would like to know whether there is anything the children could do to help with the project. They are in contact with North West Kent Countryside Alliance. It was also suggested that the children could hold a coffee morning to raise funds.

*Hand Rail:* There were two proposals for a hand rail on the chancel steps, one of which is based on the rail they have at St Luke's Church. This was thought to be the better option. It is removable and would match the hand rail by the steps into the organ vestry. The cost would be approximately £1,000. It is something which could be committed to a future legacy. All present were content for the Standing Committee to approve final cost.

*Organ Loft:* It was suggested that not only could the loft area be used as a meeting place for teenagers in church but also as an office. There could be a polycarbonate screen with a view into the church. CCTV is a possibility, recording to a laptop and available to view for one month. It was agreed that the Fabric Committee would speak to Chris Rayner to obtain an approximate cost. The question was raised whether we have enough teenagers at the moment to make use of it. Bennet Smith suggested that we initially make it habitable without allocating a specific use. Everyone was in agreement.

## **7. Events**

**26/1** - The new Events Committee are meeting to prepare a list of events for the year which will be passed to the Vicar to agree and add any other church events happening throughout the year.

**10/3** - Walthamstow Hall Concert. Takings from the concert will be given towards the cost of our new organ.

**2/2** - Deanery Synod meeting being held in church. Coffee and biscuits at the beginning of the meeting will be required.

**Crib Trail** - Anne Straight reported that 16 people had visited St Mary's.

## **8. Outreach and Mission**

**SKET**- Valerie, the girl we have been supporting, has now left school. It was agreed that we should adopt another child to support with their education.

**Three Charities to Support over the year** - Ronnie Todd will put out the papers requesting nominations from the congregation for their suggested charities. The short list will be decided by the PCC and voted on at the APCM.

**NWF and CTSD** - The Vicar wondered whether there was interest in establishing a homeless shelter over January & February. If so, it would need to be a joint venture between North West Fellowship of Churches and Churches Together in Sevenoaks District. It would show Christian action by churches in the district to offer the homeless a shelter during the two coldest months of winter.

## **9. Church Services**

**19/2** - Gifts and Talents Service - There will be a questionnaire given to the congregation to ask what they enjoy doing/are good at doing/would be interested in doing to assist in church activities.

**1/3** - Ash Wednesday Service

**3/3** - Women's World Day of Prayer, St Luke's

**5/3** - Annika of Risti church will be visiting St Mary's from Estonia

**7/4** - Lent Lunch

**Maundy Thursday** - Margaret Nicholas to check whether the church hall is free for supper to be provided

**Journey of Faith** - Date for service to be agreed with Beryl Ellinor

## **10. Sunday School**

Nicola Joyce reported that Sunday School is working well as a team effort with parents taking on various tasks.

Daphne Harrison will offer training to any potential leaders.

All volunteers will be supported by the current leaders.

The numbers have varied since Christmas and we wait to see what happens.

The PCC were asked to hold the Sunday School and Nicola in their prayers.

The PCC expressed their grateful thanks to Anne and Jo for all the work they have done over the years whilst they have been leaders.

## **11. Teenagers**

See above re the Loft refurbishment.

## **12. Any Other Business**

**i. Calendars.** 50 were printed and there are two or three left. £170 profit was made. Everyone agreed that this was a wonderful idea of Bennet's and he was thanked for all his work in putting the calendar together.

**ii. Coffee.** The subject of coffee at the back of church was discussed. It was agreed that it had been relatively successful but is tight for space, especially as everyone tends to stand around where the coffee and tea is being distributed. Thought will be given as to how this can be improved.

**iii – Our Conversation, Our Future.** The Vicar will put forward a date for the PCC to discuss our response to this Diocesan Initiative. All PCC members will be expected to attend if possible.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Standing Committee: Tuesday 21 February

PCC: Tuesday 7 March