

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN  
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 28 November 2017  
8.00pm in the Church Hall

**PRESENT:**

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

Beryl Ellinor, Daphne Harrison, Bennet Smith, Barry Sharp, 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, Jill Dickenson, Margaret Nicholas

**3. Approval of Minutes 26 September 2017**

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

**Amendment of Minutes 18 July 2017**

An amendment was agreed and made to the Minutes of 18 July 2017 as follows:

**6. Church Fabric**

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Quinquennial: .....An electrical condition report of the church and hall has been requested in accordance with the requirements of the Quinquennial Report. The electrical condition report relates to all the fixed wiring, sockets, distribution boards etc to confirm that they are all safe and functioning correctly.....

Church Lighting: Robert McLintock has arranged for new LED lights to be installed in the church.

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**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Finance**

Stuart Wigley gave the report.

The new hymn books have been purchased. The legacy from Jean Knaggs went towards their cost and a book plate in her memory will be put inside the organ version. Members of the congregation have been invited to donate towards the new hymn books by sponsoring a hymn book and a book plate put inside saying "This book has been kindly donated by....." or "... in memory of....", or anonymously.

Stuart will be carrying out an analysis of giving at St Mary's during the next month, namely envelopes v. direct debit.

Fortunately we have not needed to use our reserves to support the current account which is currently at a reasonable level.

The Parish Share paid to the Diocese will be reviewed at the end of the year.

The Quinquennial repairs will be paid out of the repair fund.

Stuart had prepared an excellent notice displaying the various ways people may give to St Mary's Church, including by text and online. Stuart will arrange for the notices to be given out in church and put on the church website. Any donation given by text or online will automatically ask about including gift aid.

Robert McLintock and Colin Butson have raised a couple of queries with Stuart relating to the Accounts and these are being addressed.

## **6. Church Fabric**

Diane Williams gave the report.

*Hand Rails* - Diane has heard from the Diocese that the faculty has been passed on for consideration. Hopefully we should receive the go ahead very soon.

*Quinquennial Repairs* - A list of repairs has been given to the builder dealing with the roof and he is on the case.

*Church Lighting* - New LED light bulb replacements have been fitted in the down lighters which have greatly improved the lighting in the Nave. Thanks were given to Robert McLintock for arranging this.

*Church Door* - An English Heritage colour palette will be consulted by Diane and Bennet to decide on the best colour to paint the church door.

## **7. Events**

**Riverhead Christmas Lights 7 December** - The choir and others from church will be singing carols at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Riverhead.

**Abbeyfield Carols 8 December**

**Christmas Tree Festival 9-10 December** - All in hand.

**Crib Trail 27 December** - It was agreed with Anne Straight that we will open St Mary's to visitors to see our Crib/Nativity Scene on Wednesday 27 December between 1-4pm. Refreshments will be provided as part of the CTSD initiative. Anne will report back to Isobel at CTSD.

**Christmas Party 20 January 2018**

**Second Wind Concert Band** - Unfortunately the excellent Second Wind Concert Band are unable to entertain us this December.

## **8. Outreach & Mission**

*The Air Ambulance* collection amounted to £98.

*Porchlight Charity* will be coming to talk to us on Sunday 17 December.

*Quiet Day, Bishopscourt, Rochester 11 November* - Daphne Harrison gave a report on the quiet day at Bishopscourt. She had distributed her notes in advance of the meeting. It was agreed the day had been helpful and encouraging. It was reflective, prayerful and thought-provoking. The people who went had been given texts to prayerfully reflect on and discuss. It was pointed out that we weren't there to make decisions but to consider the way we can reach out to others in the community, consider our activities and our relationship with God, as individuals and as a church. The Vicar and Daphne will get together to choose a date for a meeting to address the various thoughts and suggestions which came from the meeting.

## **9. Deanery Synod Briefing**

The Vicar reported that the new Director of Finance had made a presentation at the latest Deanery Synod. A new model for helping parishes identify how best to make contributions to the Diocese and its running of various Ministries will be sent out.

## **10. Church Services**

Advent Carol Service - 3 December

Nine Lessons & Carols - 17 December

As mentioned in the previous Minutes, the morning service on Sunday 24 December will be a simple BCP service at 10am, followed by the Christingle services at 14.30 and 16.00 and the midnight service.

The Christmas Day Services will start as usual at 0800 and 0930

#### **11. Sunday Club/Teenagers**

The space in the organ loft is still being considered as a space for teenagers to meet, amongst other uses.

Daphne Harrison reported on Sunday Club. The new set up is going really well and parents are becoming more involved. It is hoped that the bible theme being looked at by the children at Sunday Club will be passed to the intercessors so that they may include it in their prayers. Members of the PCC will be invited to attend Sunday Club to observe what is going on.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

*St Luke's* - The Vicar reported on a meeting regarding the St Luke's incumbency. The Archdeacon and our Vicar as Area Dean had a conversation on the situation and whether the search for a new incumbent should be suspended. The Archdeacon has therefore asked the Bishop to suspend the process in order that due consideration and prayer can be given to the right way forward for both St Luke's and its neighbouring parishes of St Mary's Kippington and St Mary's Riverhead with Dunton Green.

There are a number of ways this might be achieved, amongst others for example:

**Team** - single benefice with one or more incumbent status clergy - team rector as first among equals is the incumbent - others are team vicars - may also be other (non-incumbent status) members of the team e.g. SSMs, Readers, Licensed lay ministers, youth workers.

**Group** - Two or more benefices which remain distinct but incumbents can minister in each other's benefices (under direction of incumbent of that benefice) and are expected to meet as a chapter and work together.

**Multi-parish benefice** - separate parishes, churches and PCCs in one united benefice under one incumbent with the option of associate clergy and lay ministers licensed to the benefice too.

**United Parish** - create one parish under one incumbent with one PCC, but multiple church buildings. Option of associate clergy and lay ministers.

Following suspension, Bishop James and the Archdeacon, will conduct a series of informal and formal consultations with the three parishes, whilst also making use of the Diocesan Deployment Tool. The final decision as to what should happen ultimately lies with Bishop James.

*Christmas Booklets* - The PCC were asked if they were happy for approx £250 to be spent on booklets to give out to children/adults after the Christingle services. There is an Alpha Course booklet called "Why Christmas?" which could be a possibility. We would probably need about 500 in total. It was thought that perhaps some further research should be made for a suitable booklet to be purchased. Daphne Harrison agreed to do some research.

*PCC Start Time* - The Vicar suggested that it would be of benefit to us all if we started our meetings at 7.00pm. This will be tried out for a trial period, starting with the next meeting. To accommodate those coming straight from work it was agreed that coffee and tea will be made available.

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

Standing Committee	16 January 2018
PCC	30 January 2018