

## ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

### MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 30 January 2018  
7.00pm in the Church Hall

#### PRESENT:

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

Martyn Berry, Jill Dickenson, 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

Beryl Ellinor, Daphne Harrison, Barry Sharp,

#### 3. Approval of Minutes 28 November 2017

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

#### 4. Matters Arising

Three Parish Review

The Vicar, Diane Williams, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley and Margaret Nicholas attended a meeting on 24 January where the Archdeacon was present. The meeting was to begin to explore opportunities for ministry, mission and growth among the parishes of St Mary, Kippington, St Mary, Riverhead with Dunton Green and St Luke's, Sevenoaks. St Luke's, currently in interregnum, are understandably particularly concerned to learn how such developments might affect them.

A list of "hopes" and "concerns" as raised at the 24 January meeting was distributed to the PCC.

The Vicar emphasised that absolutely no decision in this matter has been taken. The Archdeacon has asked that the PCC nominate parishioners who would go on to discuss ways of turning the Hopes into practical outcomes aimed at growing mission and ministry in the Sevenoaks area at a further meeting.

Following that meeting, the outcomes would be compared with a number of templates. These would offer various ways one, two or all three parishes could be supported and resourced in order to encourage growth and outreach in the coming years. The support and resource discussion would range from deployment and staffing to joint outreach initiatives.

(Vicar's note: it is important to stress that this consultation is absolutely not simply in order to find ways of saving money or closing anything – but to increase the viability of ministry and ability of

God's people to increase God's Kingdom where they live and work. Additionally, it is to see how best all the parishes in the Diocese might contribute to the furthering of God's Kingdom in other parts of the Diocese where the need is great and the resources are limited. For example, the Diocese has discerned a need for resources to be assigned to mission in the Chatham area. Consequently, St John's church, which has lain fallow, is to be reopened and a ministry team put in. In other words, not only do parishes have a responsibility under God in their own context, but also to the wider mission of the Church in this diocese and beyond.)

The PCC has been asked to nominate representatives from St Mary's to contribute to the discussion and discernment process at the next meeting.. These representatives will explore the various forms of ministry and mission, highlighted by the Hopes expressed at the initial meeting. Each group will be asked to consider ways forward and suggest practical options. The various proposals and hopes for the future will then be brought to a further meeting where the various forms of support and resourcing for these initiatives and opportunities will be explored.

The PCC were asked to email their suggestions for representatives to the PCC Secretary.

(NOTE: to see what the Diocese is doing in Chatham please read the Kent Online article: <http://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/church-is-given-665000-for-100370/>)

## **5. Finance**

Stuart Wigley gave the report.

A financial update was circulated together with the draft 2018 budget.

Stuart highlighted the fact that we need to raise funds to ensure we have sufficient income in 2018. We do have some very generous people but we cannot rely totally on them. The reserves have not been needed in the past couple of years, which has been a bonus. It is now easy for people to donate online via our website. Stuart has produced a postcard showing the various ways to give which will be given to members of the congregation.

Stuart will agree a date with the Vicar to make a presentation on regular giving.

There are no big surprises in the budget. We have had a relatively good response with individual fundraising for identified items such as the ramp and hymn books.

Stuart will be looking at where we can reclaim VAT.

The lease for our photocopier is coming up for renewal and Stuart will be looking into this.

We need to review how we encourage younger members of the congregation to give. Stuart told the PCC of a website which deals with this subject.

A thank you letter will be sent to regular givers.

Robert McLintock and Colin Butson had raised a couple of queries with Stuart relating to the Accounts and these have been resolved; clarification was detailed on the handout distributed by Stuart."

## **6. Church Fabric**

Diane Williams gave the report.

*Hand Rails* - The hand rails have been made and Diane will collect them this week. Archway Building Co will be installing them.

*Quinquennial Repairs* - The priority jobs will be done in February.

*Church Door* - Diane and Bennet will be deciding on the best colour to paint the church door which will be chosen from the English Heritage colour palette held by the Parish Council. They will agree a date by which this decision will be made in order for the painting to go ahead.

## **7. Events**

*Quiz Night* - A quiz night will be arranged along the same lines as last year.

*Afternoon Tea* - Margaret Nicholas has agreed to hold afternoon tea in her garden as a fund raising event in the summer. It will be before the schools break up for the summer holiday.

Margaret Nicholas is drawing up a calendar of events which will be given to the Vicar to review before being distributed to the congregation.

## **8. Outreach & Mission**

Sevenoaks Counselling will be invited to come and talk to us. They are the last of our three nominated charities for 2017/2018.

## **9. Quiet Day Follow up Meeting**

A follow up meeting will be arranged in due course. Daphne Harrison and The Vicar to decide on a date. This meeting will be linked to the Diocesan Called Together initiative and the Three parish Review (involving St Luke's and St Mary's Kippington) which is currently underway.

## **10. Deanery Synod Briefing**

There has been no Deanery Synod meeting since the last PCC meeting. The next one will be 1 March 2018.

## **11. Church Services**

Ash Wednesday 14 February 2018

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

Diane Williams has received details of an Architect to contact to look at converting the space in the organ loft as a space for teenagers to meet.

## **12. Any Other Business**

*Making an Easter Garden* - Daphne has put forward a suggestion for involving the local community in an Easter event on the Saturday before Easter. The idea is for families to come and make an

Easter Garden which they can keep, or give as a present to friends or family members. It would be a good way of getting across the Easter message, especially to those who do not normally attend church. The Events Committee are happy to provide tea, coffee and biscuits. Attendees will be asked to make a donation, as per the Christmas Tree Festival. It will be advertised on the back of the Easter Card. Bennet Smith agreed to design the advert. The Parish Council have also agreed to let us use the village telephone box to advertise the event. The PCC were happy for the event to go ahead.

**Christmas Lunch** - Another suggestion from Daphne is to provide Christmas lunch for people who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves on their own on Christmas day. It needs to be coordinated and prayerful and careful thought given to how it will be run. Some of the PCC thought it may be difficult to find volunteers to help with the setting up and cooking.

It was suggested that Daphne talks to the congregation about the idea at the start of a Sunday service.

**Lay Ministry Licensing** - Martyn Berry asked whether we know the date when Daphne will be licensed as a lay minister. The Secretary was asked to find out.

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

Standing Committee	6 March 2018
PCC	20 March 2018