

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 24 September 2019
7.30pm in the Church Hall**

PRESENT:

Alison Bull (Churchwarden) in the chair

Rachel Wigley (Churchwarden), Stuart Wigley (Hon Treasurer), Ronnie Todd (Hon Secretary)
Susan Allender, Anne Blakeley, Simon Bull, Daphne Harrison (LLM), Margaret Nicholas,
Charlotte Rakhit, Barry Sharp, Bennet Smith, Sarah Stott,

Visitors: Judy Collins, Kathy James, Phil James

1 Passage of Scripture and Prayers

The meeting began with prayer.

2 Apologies

Andrew Swidzinski; Ali Wakefield , Sarah Way

3. Dunton Green Initiative - Updates

Alison welcomed Judy Collins and Phil and Kathy James to the first part of the meeting. They were attending to give an update on their separate Dunton Green Initiatives.

Judy Collins from Faithworks (Bessels Green Baptist Church) had sent a report, prior to the meeting, on the work they have been undertaking to share the Christian Faith in Dunton Green since 1995. Judy told the PCC that Faithworks hold meetings each Sunday in DG between 10am & 11am. They see the group who attend the meetings as a third congregation, along with their regular morning and 4.30pm services in church. They are a small group who run the meetings which they call "café church" and the Minister attends once a month. They have 12 to 50 people who attend, but not everyone attends each week. Faithworks are active in Dunton Green School and Hamlyn Court. Since St Mary's Vicar retired Daphne Harrison has been helping with the holy communion service at Hamlyn Court while the Faithworks group work alongside and help with coffee.

Phil & Kathy James then gave the report on their initiative in Dunton Green which is called Christians Against Poverty (CAP). They have a Facebook page and have had a few events in the community. So far they have held three courses in different locations. Ten people have committed. Phil and Kathy are starting a new day time course which is being advertised. There have been a few who have attended a bible study session. Someone from St Nicholas church is considering running a mother & toddler group in the area. It is potentially a good Christian witness in the community. CAP is advertised on the DG Parish website and DG school have had a notice about CAP on their Facebook page.

It was suggested by one of the PCC that the bible study should be a joint project between the churches as everyone brings something different and we should work together.

Judy, Phil and Kathy were thanked for their reports and contribution to the PCC meeting. They then left the meeting.

4 Approval of Minutes dated 9 July 2019

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy by Daphne Harrison (LLM).

5 Matters Arising Abbeyfield - Alison Bull and Rachel Wigley reported that the Diocese had sent their objections to Sevenoaks District Council, Planning Authority, regarding the change of use application for Abbeyfield. Unfortunately it looks as if the permission is likely to be agreed. Further objections will be made. Alison and Rachel will keep the PCC updated.

Church Publicity - It was noted we need to keep this item on the Agenda so that we make a more formalised approach to publicising what we are doing. It was suggested we have a Facebook/Twitter page but everyone agreed it needs to be active, otherwise people will not bother to look at it. We need volunteers to post regular articles. It was also suggested we have posters and banners for the outside notice board and railings, plus better quality tee-shirts printed with St Mary's Church, Riverhead with Dunton Green.

6 Finance

The Treasurer reported that the Diocese will be introducing a new system of Indicative Offers next year. The Offer will be a combination of costs associated with Ministry Costs (based on the cost of clergy, national insurance, pension), Diocese Support Costs (support costs such as training, safeguarding, legal, DAC, finance), and a contribution to the wider Diocese mission calculated as 10% of Gross Income. We will be sent an assessment this month (September).

7 Church Fabric

A Fabric Committee report had been circulated to the PCC in advance of the meeting. There has been progress on a few outstanding items, some of which require a faculty. The Quinquennial requires us to appoint an architect and it is also useful to have input for necessary work outside of the Quinquennial. A proposal has been received from the new prospective architect who is well placed and used to working with the Diocese. A copy of the proposal had been circulated to the PCC. It was agreed that having assistance from an Architect is worth paying for.

After some discussion the proposal was accepted and it was agreed by the PCC to go ahead and appoint the architect.

Proposed: Stuart Wigley

Seconded: Margaret Nicholas

All agreed.

No abstentions.

8 Safeguarding

Susan Allender, our Safeguarding Officer, reported on advice from the Diocese that we should have a safeguarding policy for users of the church hall. Susan has sent out a letter to regular hall users to ask for details of their safeguarding policy. She has received few replies to date. A copy of our safeguarding policy needs to be sent to each of the regular hirers of the hall. An example of an appropriate Church Hall SG policy had been sent to Susan from the Diocesan Safeguarding Department. Susan will amend it so that it corresponds to our hall users.

Susan also reported that Safeguarding requirements for church employees and volunteers are changing. She is required to inform the Diocese of our Safeguarding course requirements for leaders in 2020. It was agreed leaders of the Sunday Club will need to attend the C2 Safeguarding session. Susan will speak to Ali Wakefield and Sarah Way to this effect and inform the Diocese.

9 Events

Harvest Lunch- Sunday 6 October. Anne will put a list at the back of church for people to sign up to and a flier has been distributed to the congregation. It is being advertised in the Pew Sheet.

Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday/Sunday 7/8 December. The CTF Committee are holding a meeting Wednesday morning.

10 Three Parish Review/Interregnum

A draft Scheme has been sent to the Secretary which must be made available to the PCC and congregation and any comments to be sent to the Church Commissioners by 9 November. The Secretary will put a copy of the notice and draft scheme on the notice board nearest the front door of the church. The Secretary will give a copy of the text to Daphne to arrange for it to be read out before each and every service up to the 9 November. Margaret Nicholas will also be given a copy for inclusion in the pew sheet. Robert McLintock has been asked to put a copy of the notice and draft scheme on our website.

11 Deanery Synod Briefing

No Deanery Synod meeting has been held since our last PCC meeting.

12. Church Services

6 October	Harvest Festival
3 November	All Souls
10 November	Remembrance Sunday

13 Sunday Club/Teenagers

Anne Blakeley reported on a recent discussion the Sunday Club had had regarding the older group of children - secondary school age. They had been canvassed on their views for what they would like to do but only six had shown an interest. Anne will try again. It had been suggested that different times each month could be tried out for meeting in Malabar. A trial session could be held in November and then work it on a rota system.

The children were very moved by the death of Harry Garret and the leaders thought it would be an idea to offer the children a pairing/buddy opportunity with the older members of the congregation. One suggestion was to take them coffee after the service and/or possibly go with them to take communion, provided they are back early enough from Sunday Club. It is a work in progress.

14. Any Other Business

Margaret Nicolas asked whether the written material for the Christmas card and a photo for the front cover could be prepared as soon as possible as we will need to have them printed in good time for delivery before the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Secretary had been asked by Margaret Holman to raise with the PCC a concern she has with the Garden of Remembrance. Margaret had found that grass cuttings had been left on the small headstones after mowing, which had left a stain. Also the hedges are in need of trimming. Simon Bull will look into it.

15. Date of next meeting:

Standing Committee: 12 November - 8.00pm
PCC Meetings: 26 November - 7.30pm