

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 12 March 2019
7.00pm in the Church Hall

The Community Liaison Officer for Sevenoaks Police spoke to us before the start of our meeting. Her talk was very helpful and informative advising of cold calling at the door and on the telephone and how to keep ourselves safe. She has worked for the police for ten years but in this role for only a short period. She is available to talk to anyone about their concerns or to give advice and is building up contacts in the area. Laura has helped to settle in Syrian refugees and other ethnic groups who have recently moved to the area.

We explained that there are occasionally problems with youths parked in the church car park using legal highs and sitting around in the churchyard causing annoyance to the surrounding houses. Laura said she would speak to the PCSOs and ask them to drive around the area to make their presence felt.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea for Laura to speak to the elderly attendees at Littlecourt Lunch Club. Ronnie Todd offered to email Deirdre Montenegro and give her Laura's details.

Laura was thanked for speaking to us.

The PCC meeting proper commenced at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Churchwardens in the chair: Diane Williams, Alison Bull,
Stuart Wigley; Ronnie Todd

Susan Allender, Anne Blakeley, Daphne Harrison, Charlotte Rakhit, Barry Sharp, Bennet Smith,
Andrew Swidzinski, Dick Thompson; Rachel Wigley,

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

Daphne Harrison opened the meeting with a bible passage and prayer.

2. Apologies

Margaret Nicholas, Ali Wakefield, Sarah Way

3. Approval of Minutes 29 January 2019

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy by Alison Bull.

4. Matters Arising

Filing Cabinet - Anne Blakeley confirmed to Stuart and Rachel Wigley which filing cabinet was to be removed. Stuart and Rachel are happy to remove it. Barry Sharp said that Janet would like to use it for music. It was thought that Janet could use the two free drawers in the other cabinet as the one to be removed is very decrepit.

5. Finance

Stuart Wigley gave the report. The report and accounts for the APCM had been circulated by email with the Agenda and Minutes.

Stuart went through the salient points, namely:

£99k incoming resources - this is higher than usual because of a £10k legacy and £2k remaining from the Tesco garden and churchyard fund.

The lunch club net proceeds have reduced over the last few years. We need to be mindful of this. It was thought we may be able to get some extra funding from the Sevenoaks Lions group but it would

need to be for a specific event, i.e. Christmas lunch. Dick Thompson will speak to Pam Rankin regarding our concerns and whether the current charge for lunch should be increased. It has been £3 for a very long time.

The church hall is a great asset in providing much needed income.

The new photocopier will be more of a cost this year which means the administration costs have increased.

Outreach - We used to show donations collected on behalf of others as income in the accounts and then the paying over of the funds to the respective charities as expenditure. As we are acting as an agent in this regard there is no need to show these items in this way as they are not our funds in the first place.

£10k legacy is available to spend.

Our reserves equal 3-6 months of expenditure only.

We will continue to pay the same amount of Parish Share to the Diocese after Martin has left.

It was proposed that Stuart puts a suggestion to the Diocese that we deduct from our payments the costs we have to bear for visiting preachers and maintenance costs for the vicarage.

Proposed: Barry Sharp

Seconded: Bennet Smith

All content

The Report and Accounts for the 2019 APCM were proposed for approval:

Proposed: Barry Sharp

Seconded: Charlotte Rakhit

All content

6. Church Fabric

Diane Williams reported that the most important work from the Quinquennial Report has gradually been done over the last year. Total to date £9k. There is one item outstanding.

We need to appoint a new Quinquennial Architect. The Churchwardens will ask the local churches for details of Architects they use.

The blue sign on the bank at the front of the church needs to be replaced at some point, especially as Martin is no longer our incumbent.

Suitable wording is needed for the car park notices which make it clear that it is the church car park. If the organ loft is to be re-designed for the church youth to use, we will need to appoint an architect. There will be a lot of work to do to put it in good order and made safe to use, which will be quite an expense.

The Chancel lights problem is still unsolved. Bennet Smith suggested perhaps we need to rethink the layout and position of the lights as it is causing such a problem. Diane Williams will raise the subject with Robert McLintock.

7. Church Grounds - Notice re Removal of Trees

The Churchwardens reported this is in abeyance.

8. Events

The notable events are:

6 April - Easter Activities 10-12noon in the church hall

18 April - Passover Supper 8pm in the church hall

21 April - Easter walk and breakfast. Martin Perry has offered to help with breakfast. Diane will email him to confirm.

9. Outreach and Mission

A representative from Kerry West Orphanage, the second of our 2018/19 charities to support, is booked to come and speak to us on Sunday 24 March, which is also when the Revd. Christopher Johnson is due to preach.

The third and last of our 2018/19 charities, MAPS, has also been booked for one of our Sunday services but, unfortunately, is again when the Revd. Christopher Johnson is due to preach. Rosemary McLintock will be asked if she could possibly change the date.

10. Three Parish Review/Interregnum

Alison Bull advised the meeting there was nothing more to report on the Three Parish Review since the last PCC meeting.

Interregnum

Alison proposed that we start drafting a Parish Profile sooner rather than later. Diane Williams has copies of the last one. She will pass them on to Bennet Smith who offered to make a start at drafting a new Parish Profile to be brought to the next PCC meeting for discussion.

11. Deanery Synod Briefing

Anne Blakeley advised the PCC that there had been a Deanery Synod meeting on 28 February. There were two presentations. One was on the Bible Society's new course "The Bible Course - Explore the BIG Story". The bible study group at St Mary's has just finished the course. Daphne Harrison reported that the members of the group all found it very informative and inspiring.

The other presentation was about Porchlight which is a local charity for the homeless. They do a lot of good work in helping the homeless to find homes and get their lives back on track. (Porchlight was supported as St Mary's nominated charity at the Christmas Tree Festival.)

12. Church Services

24/3 - Confirmation Service 24/3 at St Nicholas' Church

31/3 - Mothering Sunday - Angus MacLeay preaching

14/4 - Palm Sunday - Lynette Leithead preaching

21/4 - Easter Sunday - Julie Conalty preaching

28/4 - 3 Parishes Prayer Meeting at St Mary's Church, Kippington. It will be a structured evening of prayer preceded by tea. Tea between 4.00 - 4.30pm, prayer between 4.30 - 5.00pm.

13. Sunday Club/Teenagers

The all age Eucharist will continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month up to Mothering Sunday and we will endeavour to involve the children in the service. Anne Bourne will be preaching on the 17th March and has been informed accordingly.

Charlotte Rakhit informed the meeting that she and Nick Castell hope to set up a junior choir as several of the younger ones in Sunday Club have expressed an interest.

Plans are in progress to take the 11 year old Sunday Club members forward as a separate group.

14. Any Other Business

Church Clock - Ronnie Todd informed the meeting that she had been contacted by Geoff Holland, who currently sets the clock to the correct time each week, to ask if the PCC would agree to the installation of an electronic device to keep the clock to the correct time. The cost would be approximately £2k. Geoff has kindly offered to contribute £1k. The PCC raised the point that as it is over £500 we must have three quotes before going ahead, in accordance with St Mary's procurement policy. Ronnie Todd will speak to Geoff.

The subject of the memorial plaque to Doris Gosnold was raised as it was thought the clock time device would be something where a plaque could be dedicated to Doris. Again, Ronnie Todd will ask Geoff if he is happy for this to happen and ask whether he would like to have his name included on the plaque as a donor towards the cost.

Abbeyfield - Alison Bull has drafted a letter to Geoff Marsh at the Diocese regarding the restrictive covenant on Abbeyfield and the fact that Abbeyfield is not currently being used in accordance with the covenant. She has a copy of the Land Registry document. The PCC were all content for Alison to send the letter.

Parish Disclosure Officer - Ronnie Todd asked whether the PCC knew of anyone who might volunteer to replace Rosemary McLintock as Parish Disclosure Officer. A couple of names were put forward and Ronnie will attempt to find someone before the APCM.

Vicarage Garden - Alison Bull asked the PCC for their thoughts on help with looking after the Vicarage garden during the interregnum. It was felt that we could try and find a gardener to go in once a fortnight and ask for volunteers to help at other times. Alison has received offers of help with regard to the Vicarage. Ronnie Todd knew of someone who may be able to help with the gardening. She will make enquiries and report back.

Church Hall Bookings - Looking after the bookings for the church is proving quite demanding with people phoning late at night and leaving numbers for a return call. The PCC were happy to contribute towards phone bills and Rachel Wigley offered to look into the most beneficial phone tariff.

Thy Kingdom Come - Daphne Harrison explained about Thy Kingdom Come which is an annual event between Ascension Day and Pentecost at Rochester Cathedral. All churches in the surrounding Deaneries are asked to participate. Christine Smith has the role of Deanery TKC Champion which means she needs to liaise with other churches in Sevenoaks Deanery, encouraging them to take part and advise Rochester Cathedral of their plans. Christine also needs to represent Sevenoaks Deanery with a display/activity at the cathedral between Ascension Day and Pentecost 30th May - 9th June. Christine would very much welcome support in preparing our own plan for TKC and the display/activity at the cathedral. Also, on the 9th June, it would be wonderful to have a special service at St Mary's as Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali will be the visiting preacher that Sunday. One thought for our church is for various groups to create something for the altar front. The PCC thought it would be helpful if Christine could come and talk to us at our next PCC meeting. It also needs to be explained and publicised to the congregation. Someone other than Christine would need to do this, which shouldn't be a problem. Charlotte and Bennet will speak to Christine.

Photocopier

Stuart Wigley would like to dispose of the smaller of the two photocopiers in the office as it is badly in need of maintenance and is costing unnecessary expenditure. Margaret Nicholas has requested we replace it as the people who tend to use that particular photocopier are unfamiliar with using the larger one, which is a little more complicated. Margaret uses the larger copier every Friday to make 100s of copies for the Sunday services. Her fear would be finding it out of order and unable to use on one of those Fridays.

The PCC felt we should not replace it for the time being and monitor how it works with just the larger photocopier.

15. Date of Next Meeting

APCM: 7 April 2019