

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2015
ST. MARY'S CHURCH RIVERHEAD
AT 11.15.A.M.

Present:

Revd Martin Booth (Vicar of St. Mary's)
Mr Barry Sharp (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mr John Curtis (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mrs Ronnie Todd (Secretary)

And approximately 29 Church members.

VESTRY MEETING

The Vicar welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in the church.

Election of Churchwardens:

This year we say goodbye to Barry Sharp. We are immensely grateful to Barry for all he has done during his term as Churchwarden, not least through the Interregnum. His calmness, patience, sense of humour and wisdom will be greatly missed. In appreciation Barry was presented with a small gift.

The Vicar advised the meeting that we had received no nominations to replace Barry. He would be happy to speak to anyone who may be interested and they would be welcome to come along as an observer to standing committee and PCC meetings to observe what is involved at first hand.

Fortunately, as an interim measure, Diane Williams has kindly volunteered to stand for one year. However, we would very much like someone new to come forward.

Nominations received for the two Churchwardens, John Curtis and Diane Williams, who will serve for the year 2015-2016.

Members in attendance were all content for John Curtis to continue and Diane Williams to serve for one year.

The Vestry meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2015
ST. MARY'S CHURCH RIVERHEAD
AT 11.15.A.M.**

Present:

**Revd Martin Booth (Vicar of St. Mary's)
Mr Barry Sharp (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mr John Curtis (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mrs Ronnie Todd (Secretary)**

And approximately 25 church members.

1. Apologies for Absence

Doris Gosnold, Audrey Bernardi, Anne Straight, Giancarlo and Wendy Pau, Jill Dickenson, Keith Lovelock, Bruce Dorbon

2. To Approve Minutes of APCM held on 27 April 2014

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive Electoral Roll

Margaret Nicholas gave the number on the electoral roll. There have been eight new entries and we have lost seven. 80 are resident, 38 are non-resident. Total 118. Margaret explained that there is still time to be included.

Margaret made her annual appeal for more sidesmen and servers. The more there are on the list the less often they would be on duty.

5. Annual Parish Report

The Annual Parish Report was attached to the 2014 Minutes.

The Vicar explained this is now a legal requirement. He read through the report for the benefit of those who had not had time to read it as it was a later attachment.

It is important to know our Parish is Riverhead *with* Dunton Green. Dunton Green is very much a part of our Parish.

The Vicar would like to encourage people to involve themselves in the ministry team as it is down from when he first joined as our Minister, mostly due to people moving away or ill health,

There have been a couple of anomalies with the Finance Report as given out two weeks ago but they have now been rectified and will be explained under the Financial Report.

The Annual Report had previously been signed and agreed by the PCC and was adopted by those present at the meeting.

The Vicar advised the meeting that Doris Gosnold is 90 today. She was wished a very happy birthday. Not everyone will know how much Doris has been an enormous part of the life of the church and central to everything happening in St Mary's. She has decided, this year, that it is time to stand down from the PCC and Standing Committee duties and her role as a Deanery Synod member but she will still continue with some of her other roles. Enormous thanks was given to Doris in her absence and a presentation will be made to her next Sunday as she is unable to be with us today.

6. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's Report was attached to the 2014 Minutes and taken as read.

The Vicar expressed his thanks to everyone in the church for their friendship and support. As always there are far too many people to thank individually but particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and the PCC for their invaluable support.

Unfortunately, the world today has a cynical heart. Jesus was put on a cross by that attitude. The Vicar's hope is that we go forward this coming year to develop and encourage people to love not hate.

7. Financial Report, Accounts and Treasurer's Report

The accounts and report were attached to the 2014 Minutes and taken as read.

The amendments made to the Accounts had been approved previously by the PCC.

Stuart apologised for the error which caused making amendments to the Accounts. He had re-printed the pages concerned (2, 9 and 13) and these had been made available to attendees of the APCM.

This year we have spent more than we have received. One of the reasons being a reduction in income. Also, the move to more favourable utility bills has not yet had a chance to catch up prior to the change. Stuart is monitoring the budget for 2015. He will attempt to make some savings and work on increasing our giving.

Many thanks were given to Elaine Hanham, Henry Raschen, Susan Allender, and those that bank the weekly collection, Beryl Ellinor and John Curtis.

Stuart invited questions from the floor.

Q. Martin Perry asked how we solve our running deficit.

A. Stuart replied that one way will be to keep our payments to the Diocese at an affordable level as well as increasing our giving.

Q. Colin Butson asked why there was a discrepancy of £1,311 brought forward from last year on page 9 of the accounts. There were large cost increases, especially the upkeep of services.

A. Stuart explained that we had an increase of organist fees, which was a new monthly expense, as well as the window sills and part payment of estimated utility bills for the previous year. This should be rectified as we have had smart meters installed and they should be more accurate.

Q. What will the estimated deficit be for next year?

A. Target of £10k, but this is dependent on the level of giving, as our outgoings are still more than our income. Stuart explained he will be having a campaign for people to review their giving.

Q. Denis Williams asked whether people could be encouraged to look at their Wills and leave a small legacy to the church.

The Vicar commented that we had lost some income because a few regular givers had died during 2014 but hopefully an appeal should reduce the deficit.

Q. Alan Chart commented that the easyfundraising website would help to bring in some extra money if more of us signed up to it as we all buy things online.

A. Stuart Wigley pointed out that we have now moved our bank account from Lloyds to the CAF Bank and the bank charges have reduced. There are some direct debit payments still paid into the Lloyds account which need to be transferred to the CAF Bank. Stuart has contacted everyone about the change and will chase up the ones which are still outstanding.

Q. Margaret Curtis asked why the lunch club expenses are up by £150.

A. Stuart replied that it was due to a day trip given to those who attend lunch club, which increased the expenditure. However the income is the same.

The Vicar commented that the management of the accounts is exemplary and thanked Stuart for his dedication and hard work and all those who help him.

The Financial Accounts were then proposed and seconded:

Proposer: Margaret Nicholas
Secunder: Robert McLintock
All in favour

8. Churchwardens Report

The report was attached to the 2014 Minutes and taken as read.

John Curtis had prepared the report and invited questions from those present.

There were no questions.

9. Deanery Synod Report

The report was attached to the 2014 Minutes and taken as read.

The Vicar reported that the issue of climate change had been a point of discussion and churches in the Deanery had been asked to give thought to green issues.

Bishop Brian would be visiting churches in the Sevenoaks Deanery. He was looking at how we go forward in light of the poverty there is in the area. He was surprised to learn of families having to use the food bank in an affluent town like Sevenoaks and how we must think and pray about it throughout the year. There is a "Challenging Poverty" conference which will be an interesting day.

There were no questions.

10. Parish Reports

All reports, except music, were attached to the 2014 Minutes and taken as read.

Sunday School - The Sunday School is doing well but does need help and support. The Vicar asked that we hold them in our prayers.

Littlecourt Lunch Club - The lunch club continues to provide friendship and fellowship and is very enjoyable for all those who attend. The Vicar expressed his thanks to all who help in various ways.

Tots and Toddlers - This continues to be a friendly and happy session and is growing. It does have a positive effect on those coming through to baptism.

Church Hall - Margaret Nicholas informed everyone that we have had another break in. This time they took out the whole window but nothing was taken apart from some FairTrade chocolates. The

Vicar met with the police on Saturday evening. They did find a hand print. Thanks were given to Paul Todd who has put up some temporary protection.

A letter will be sent to the neighbours about partying and damage in the garden of remembrance. The car park lights have also been damaged. Thanks were given to Robert McLintock for the repairs he has carried out.

Janet Sharp commented that we need to have more protection on the office windows.

Music - There was no written report as Edwin had already left. Janet Sharp spoke on his behalf. She said it had been a pleasure to have him with us over the last year; we had all thoroughly enjoyed it. Music for the coming year will be shared with Nick Castell and Daniel Eaton. They will also be helping with the choir. Janet will continue with the music group for family services.

Janet explained that March had been a difficult month due to the organ breaking down. We do have an organ on hire for the time being. A quote for a complete rebuild of our Copeman Hart organ has been given and we are hoping to have our old organ back with new parts. This is especially good as the organ had been donated originally. We do need to do some serious fund raising and perhaps we will be having some musical performances to raise funds.

The Vicar thanked Janet for her steadying influence and her ongoing help. We would be in far greater trouble without her.

Janet concluded by asking for more people to join the choir. Anyone happy to join would be made very welcome. She thanked the existing choir members for their continued commitment.

Mothers' Union - Karen Forster-Pearce had attended the AGM yesterday. They are looking for new members to join the St Mary's group of either gender. The cost is £18 per annum. Karen explained that the Mothers' Union is still relevant in this current time. There are lots of events which are all on the church website.

Events Committee - Alan Chart commented that the North West Fellowship Lent Lunches had raised £1k for this year's project. He asked for people to attend future lunches which are very sociable and enjoyable.

The Vicar said that Margaret Curtis and the Committee do a fantastic job in organising various events and thanked them all for their hospitality and welcome, which is all ministry.

Child Protection - Diane Williams pointed out that Zoe Bromwich is the Child Protection Officer. The safety and well-being of our children is an important part of church life and we all need to be alert to the issues and risks. Diane asked that if we see anything we are concerned about to bring it to the attention of Zoe.

Outreach - There were no comments or questions.

The Vicar thanked everyone for their work and commitment, especially the flower team. In particular, Bennet Smith did a wonderful job at Easter with the empty tomb and the sun burst.

11. Election of the PCC

The following four names were put forward for election to the PCC to replace the resignations:

Lynn Wilson
Denis Williams
Beryl Ellinor
Daphne Harrison
Jill Dickenson
Veronica Todd

Unanimous.

12. Election to Deanery Synod

Anne Straight was content to continue
Margaret Nicholas was content to continue

Unanimous.

13. Election of Sidespersons

The list of sidespersons was read out.

Unanimous.

14. Election of Examiner of Church Accounts

Ruth Merson was elected as Church Examiner of the Accounts for 2015/2016.

Proposed: Alan Chart
Seconded: Martin Berry
Unanimous

15. Any Other Business

Karen Forster-Pearce pointed out that "Ryedale" should have been "Ryewood". She asked that the PCC look at delivery of the Landmark to the estate; more volunteers are needed due to the size of the new estate.

Diane Williams wanted to record her appreciation to Robert McLintock for all the work he does for the church, particularly work on the website. It is so important. Robert never says no when asked to help. It is hugely appreciated and we are extremely grateful to him.

Alan Chart said of the Vicar and his wife Maggie that any good ship needs a super captain ably assisted by a super mate. Many thanks to them both for being with us.

The Vicar replied that it was an absolute joy. God puts us together as Parish and Priest and we are able to grow together. They are both grateful for all the love and support given to them by the congregation.

16. To discuss date and time of Vestry and APCM 2016

The date of the next APCM meeting was agreed as 10 April 2016. All in favour.

The meeting ended at approximately 12.15pm