

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD w DUNTON GREEN

**MINUTES
Of meeting of the Parochial Church Council
On the 14TH July 2009
In the Church**

PRESENT:

The Reverend Paul Francis – in the Chair.

Norma Bridgland, Diane Williams, Ursula Warner, Jeannette Francis, Martyn Berry, Lynn Wilson, Jean Woods, Miranda Cormack, Doris Gosnold, Lee Kings, Jane Edwards, Audrey Bernardi, Anne Straight, Tim Johnston, Barry Sharp, Mark Merson and Sheila Mace.

1. The meeting began with worship.

The Vicar thanked Sheila Mace, who is retiring to Warwickshire, for her devoted service over 13 years as Secretary of the PCC.

2. Apologies received from Anne Bourne, Robin Tonge and Sarah Stott.

3. Minutes of the meeting of the 11th May were approved and signed

4. Minutes of the Special meeting of the 24th May were approved and signed.

5.. Matters arising:-

- i) Hopefest – The Vicar spoke about the Hopefest in November and December at The Stag in Sevenoaks. A DVD has been produced which introduces the concept of Hopefest giving a taste of what it is about and it is suggested that it be used at the parish launch date. Nick Cuthbert is coming to our Church on Sunday 27th September. At The Stag there are four ways we will be asking people to come – not necessarily Church members and they will come and experience this event. The meetings will be at 6.30. and 8.30 and Churches are being encouraged to cover one of those sessions as voluntary welcomers. We are volunteering the 21st November at 6.30 and will share our duties with Bessels Green Baptist Church. There are also to be events leading up to the Hopefest i.e. Quiz night on the 13th October, an event on the 31st October for young children and a Curry night. There will be a Youth event “Knowhope” which SAYT are doing. We have pledged £1500 to be paid by the end of July as our contribution towards Hopefest.**
- ii) Churchyard – forecourt posts. This is in hand – we have yet to hear whether we need a faculty. Diane Williams stated that the fence has been put on hold as the wire may cost £700. The stopcock has been done.**
- ii) Church Opening – various discussions have taken place with various possibilities**
 - (a) to keep the Church open and**
 - (b) to have office space. One potential place is the organ loft and the balcony which would give office space. Diane Williams stated that she had spoken to Chris Rayner about this proposition and he said yes - great potential. The Fire Officer has taken a look and he saw no problems. He did suggest a smoke detector by the meter cupboard and one half way up the stairs. On that basis Diane is setting up a brochure of photographs with a possibility of sending to the**

Diocese for their thoughts on the subject. There was discussion and it seemed a favourable idea and Diane will report later on this.

- iii) Church Hall. Sheila Mace gave a short report to say that the Police had been round several times and there was no problem with the noise. Diane Williams stated that they had used a decibel meter which in fact showed more noise from the road. There have in fact been no complaints further from the man next door.

6. Standing Committee Meeting 9th June

All matters were dealt with elsewhere on this agenda

7. Finance:

Mark Merson our Treasurer gave an excellent report about our finances – please see attached memo and figures. Much discussion took place as to where we were going and it was decided that we would prepare a Stewardship Campaign led by the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser Alan Strachan. It was decided that there was to be no further charitable giving direct from PCC funds other than that which we were committed to. Separate fund raising and collections will take place as usual

Many thanks were expressed to Mark for his hard work in the preparation and completion of the 6 month accounts.

8. Sunday School Report:

Lynn Wilson gave her report to say that there were 52 children registered – about 42 of those actually come but that the average attendance on a Sunday was 20. There seems to be a slight decline in the 3-5 year olds class and often they are not maintaining the numbers. Discussion took place and Lyn was thanked for all her hard work prior to the Summer holidays. Lynn stated that she had a very good team of helpers.

9. Discipleship Course:

The Vicar stated that following his letter to the congregation about a meeting to explore the idea 22 people came where discussion groups were formed and at the end of the evening, it was decided that over the Summer people would think and pray. There is a very good book that one can read if they wished to purchase it and the Vicar stated that this will be maintained as work in progress.

10 Away Day:

Discussion took place as to whether we would like as a PCC to go on an away day and all were in agreement. Jean Kerr will be asked if she would come along to speak.

11. Appeals

(a) **Bishop Michael's farewell** – Our Bishop Michael is leaving Rochester to set up a Foundation working on the front line between Christians and Muslims and he will be based in Oxford. Did we as a congregation wish to contribute to his farewell on the 12th September? It was decided that we ask the congregation to be encouraged to make personal contributions if they wished. Yemisi Howitt also suggested that all confirmation candidates who had been confirmed by the Bishop might like to contribute. The Vicar will put this in hand.

(b) Archdeacon Peter Lock's farewell – again the congregation will be asked to contribute not the PCC.

(c) Rochester Cathedral trust have asked whether we would contribute towards some new chairs at a cost of £150.00. each. The PCC declined on this point.

(d) Sevenoaks Kenya Education Trust: Mr David Debenham will be at our 9.30. service on the 19th July where he will explain about the Trust and we will have a plate collection on that day. Anyone can sponsor individual pupils on this Trust.

12. AOB –

i) Adele Wells has been approved to be a Sunday School teacher and the paperwork was signed by the Vicar

ii) Child Protection have a seminar on the 7th November at St. Johns Tunbridge Wells and the Vicar encouraged the Sunday School leaders and helpers to try and make this seminar.

iii) There is a fund called “Church and Community Fund England” which can make available to the Church of England the sum of £15,000 in grants.

iv) The Diocese have issued guidelines about swine flu and the fact that it is pandemic. Diane Williams has prepared a pamphlet which will come out this Sunday for the congregation to read. There are a number of points that will need to be looked at.

v) Anne Straight spoke about the CTSD and a Report was shown to each member of the PCC.

vi) Anne Straight also spoke about Traidcraft and she was thanked for her work in this regard.

vii) Doris Gosnold spoke about the untidiness of the graves up the path and asked who was responsible. Diane Williams confirmed that it the responsibility of District Council and will look into this.

viii) Barry Sharp asked about Water Rates and the Vicar stated that new measures were coming in which will largely increase the amount we pay because of waste water charges. Tim Johnston stated that we should refute any claims and show the Water Board our drains have good soakaways.

(ix) Jane Edwards stated that the course that she went on now will have a follow up on a Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening in September. She will let people know the date as soon as possible.

13. There were no matters of confidentiality

14. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 22nd September at 8.00pm in the Church hall

Meeting closed at 9.45.p.m. by saying The Grace.

NEXT MEETING

22nd SEPTEMBER at 8 o'clock IN THE HALL.