

ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Tuesday 4 February 2014 – 8.00 pm In the Church

NOTE: The meeting should have been 28 January 2014 but was put back by one week due to a break in at the church hall.

PRESENT:

Vicar (Martin Booth) – in the Chair

Barry Sharp, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd
Susan Allender, Martyn Berry, Margaret Curtis, Doris Gosnold, David Holmes, Ruth Merson,
Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Anne Straight, Diane Williams, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayer .

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Baker, Audrey Bernardi, Chris Ledson,

3. Approval of Minutes of PCC Meeting dated 26 November 2013

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

4. Matters Arising

Safeguarding – The Secretary had received an email from Carol Martin which clarified the position of whether lunch club drivers from St Mary's needed a DBS check. Carol set out the meaning of vulnerable adults in her email and it was agreed by the PCC that the people receiving lifts to the lunch club would not be classed as "vulnerable adults". The lunch club drivers therefore do not need a DBS check. A copy of the email from Carol had been sent by the Secretary to the PCC members in advance of the meeting.

5. APCM

The Secretary read out the names of those who will be standing down from the PCC this year having completed their three years on the Council. It was agreed that although Margaret Nicholas will be standing down as a PCC member she will be co-opted onto the PCC at the APCM in her capacity as steward of the church hall.

David Holmes advised the meeting that he will be standing down as Sunday School leader at the end of the summer.

The Vicar will advise the congregation on Sunday that we will be asking for nominations of their favourite local charities to support this year. The PCC will select five of these and three will be chosen after a vote at the APCM.

6. Financial Update

Stuart Wigley reported that we have transferred our bank account from Lloyds to The Charities Aid Foundation Bank ('CAF').

The Utilities contracts are in the process of being switched as each one comes up for renewal.

We have replaced the old photocopier with a superior reconditioned model. It is currently awaiting an additional sorter to enable folding and booklet printing. Margaret Nicholas has been in contact with the supplier to chase up the additional sorter.

Stuart has received a reasonable insurance quotation which he has paid.

Stuart has now registered our interest for collecting used print cartridges from the church congregation to give to charity, which in turn will pay £1 per cartridge. The recycling boxes are in church.

The regular giving scheme will be reviewed during this year.

Stuart advised the meeting that he is currently working on the figures for the APCM. All seems fairly stable at present.

The Vicar thanked Stuart for all his hard work.

7. Church Fabric

The Church Fabric Committee reported that the drips over the chancel and in the Lady Chapel have been fixed. The company will also be fixing the leak in the hall.

The lighting in church is being reviewed. An electrician is looking at suitable styles, probably downlighters, and will give us a quote.

The new window ledges have been made and will be fitted soon. There is the possibility of engraving donors names on the ledges. The carpenters have quoted £35 per ledge..

Margaret Nicholas reported on the damage to the church hall. The insurance assessors visited and gave the go ahead for repair work to be carried out. De-humidifiers will be in place until the hall is felt to be dry.

The Vicar thanked John Curtis. He thanked Margaret Nicholas especially for all she has done to get the hall back up and running. The Secretary was asked to write a thank you letter to Geers to thank them for their rapid response.

Replacement/removal of the Hall payphone was discussed due to its being ripped from the wall during the break-in. The PCC felt it was a good idea to keep a phone in the hall. Cheaper suppliers will be investigated with the possibility of a broadband connection. Margaret Nicolas/Treasurer to investigate.

8. Events Update

Photo competition - Further details to follow.

Easter Walk/Breakfast – Diane Williams and Ruth Merson volunteered to lead the walk. The Events Committee will arrange the breakfast as usual.

Possible Recital – Susan Allender reported that she had spoken with Wendy Chown who would very much like to arrange a recital with her sister in church. The evening of 17 May was possible. There would be no tickets just donations on the night to be split between the church and a charity nominated by Wendy. There would be refreshments at the end. Margaret Nicholas was asked to check whether the hall is free on that evening.

Diocesan Link Service – St Mary's has been asked to host a service to celebrate the link between the Diocese and The Estonian Lutheran Church on 5 October 2014. It was noted that the hall may be needed.

Sevenoaks Deanery Visitation – Bishop Brian will be visiting churches in the Sevenoaks Deanery in September and will conclude with a Confirmation service on Sunday 28 September .

Fairtrade Big Brew – Anne Straight informed the PCC that she will be holding a Big Brew event on Saturday 1 March 2014 and asked everyone for their support.

9. Outreach

Service on 16/2 – A representative for Spadework will be speaking during the service.

Service on 16/3 – A representative for DAVSS will be speaking during the service.

New Charities for Church Year – See item 5 APCM above.

Estonia Link – The Vicar reported on his visit to Tallinn in January. He met up with members of the Harju-Risti Parish Church which consists of 18 communities. The purpose is to start up a link and develop this by visiting one another's churches. Our local schools, councils and businesses may also wish to become involved eventually. The Vicar asked if the PCC were content to pursue the link. The PCC agreed and was content to meet certain expenses for the Vicar. The Lutheran church in Estonia is similar to the Anglican church in the UK with similar challenges. However, they have experienced much persecution in the past.. Many Estonians speak very good English. The Vicar is a member of the Bishop's Estonia Link team.

10. Church Services

Evensong – The Vicar thought the service went very well. There is the possibility of another Evensong in June.

Ash Wednesday – usual service

Maundy Thursday – Supper, stripping of altar and vigil

Compline – 8.00pm during Holy Week at St Mary's, Riverhead

Good Friday – Usual morning family service
Foot of Cross Service 2-3 pm

Easter Sunday – Walk/Breakfast plus 8.00am & 9.30am services
It was agreed that Anne Straight will purchase the eggs for Easter Sunday from Traidcraft.

11. Teenagers

The Vicar expressed a wish to grow the relationship with SAYT. The Secretary was asked to investigate our outreach link with SAYT.

The first Sunday in March will be based on a Passiontide theme and will be led by The Sunday School.

The youth will lead the service for Mothering Sunday.

The bequest from Olive Kitchingman will be used towards an Award For Music to one of our teenagers. Janet Sharp to provide a trophy.

12. Trinity School

Trinity School will be holding a Communion service at St Mary's in the run-up to Easter

13. Any Other Business

Dunton Green Village Hall – DG Village Hall has also been badly damaged by copper thieves and will not be available for the monthly communion services/coffee mornings for the foreseeable future. Cheryl Davies has kindly offered to host the monthly communion service. Jean Woods is investigating other venues in Dunton Green for the coffee morning. (Update – The Dunton Green Social Club has kindly agreed to host the coffee mornings for the time being).

The meeting ended with prayer

Date of next Meeting: Standing Committee – Tuesday 11 March 2014
PCC Meeting Tuesday 25 March 2014