

# ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Tuesday 24 November 2015

8.00pm in the Church Hall

#### PRESENT:

Vicar - In the Chair

Diane Williams, John Curtis, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Margaret Curtis, Jill Dickenson, Beryl Ellinor, Doris Gosnold, Karen Forster-Pearce, Daphne Harrison, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Anne Straight; Denis Williams, Lynne Wilson

#### 1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry

#### 3. Approval of Minutes 29 September 2015

The Minutes of the meeting 29 September were amended as follows: The first paragraph of Item 6 was re-written:

**Church Fabric Committee - Car Park Lights:** An example of two types of light were passed around the PCC. It was felt that the galvanised steel columns could be rather costly and the brick style could be easily damaged by, or cause damage to, cars. In addition, Alan Colnet has been on site to advise and suggested a protective cage around the existing lights, which would be a cheaper option. The CFC will continue to look for the best option.

Under Christmas Card Deliveries the word "flier" was corrected to "flyer".

Under Date of Next Meeting "25 November" was corrected to read "24 November".

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

#### 4. Matters Arising

- i) Dunton Green Deliveries: Karen Forster-Pearce managed deliveries to a good number of the Ryewood Estate dwellings. It is a mammoth task and more people will be needed for the next round of deliveries. It was suggested that a check of the roads on the estate would be helpful. Karen was thanked for her sterling efforts. Margaret Nicholas and Bennet Smith were also thanked for preparing the Christmas card in time for the deliveries.
- ii) FairTrade Chocolate Bars: It was generally agreed that the cost of using the personal branding for FairTrade chocolate bars was prohibitive. However, it was submitted that the branding is a good idea if anyone could suggest the occasional specific project when it may be used.
- iii) Bennet Smith told the PCC that he has produced Christmas Cards depicting trees from the Christmas Tree Festival. He will see how they sell at this year's Christmas Tree Festival with a view to doing something similar for St Mary's next year. He has made 50 cards.
- iv) Day of Prayer: This has been postponed. The Vicar suggested we might look into Messy Church as part of the day of prayer and it may be an idea to see how it works prior to the day. As part of the Christmas Tree Festival it has been proposed that we could have tables set up in the hall and invite families to do some bead craft with a faith meaning. The PCC were happy with this suggestion.
- v) Projector & Screen: Robert McLintock has kindly looked into the purchase of a new projector and screen. He suggests we should budget for about £400. The PCC were content for the Standing Committee to spend up to a maximum of £500 once the

specification has been agreed. It was suggested we could have a similar appeal as we did for the wheelchair ramp.

- vi) Filing Cabinet: Thanks were given to the person on FreeCycle who provided us with a filing cabinet and to Gaynor Perry for taking away the old one.

## 5. Finance

Stuart Wigley gave the report. He thanked everyone who contributed to the wheelchair ramp appeal.

Rochester Diocese has emailed to ask about our contribution (pledge) for 2016. We have been requested to give an increase of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% on top of last year's amount. This would be a challenge taking into account our present financial position and possible forthcoming expenditure. Stuart will check through the figures and if we are able to give more this year, we will do so, otherwise he will offer the same amount as last year. The Diocese have asked that we let them know by 18 January 2016. Stuart went on to say that we need to replenish our reserves if we have any spare money. A decision will be made at the Standing Committee meeting. The PCC were content for this to happen.

One of our organists, has asked if we could let him know a price for the Copeman Hart organ as he wants to see if they might be able to use it at the school where he teaches. The PCC agreed a price of £1500-£1600 to give him a rough idea.

## 6. Church Fabric Committee

Diane Williams informed the PCC that the CFC had not met recently.

**Church Lighting:** Robert is still carrying out investigations. The lights currently out of action are being replaced. It is possible we may be eligible for a grant.

**Church Roof Repairs:** The roof has been repaired as an interim measure. We will be submitting a revised bid when the second round of grants from the LPWF become available.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Car Park Lights:** Further discussions were held with regard to vandal-proof lighting in the car park

**Notices for Car Park:** The notices would be put at the top of the slope. An example of two new notices would be: "Be aware of Children" and "No Unauthorised Parking". A notice stating "Church Use Only" will be placed on designated spaces outside the church where spaces will have white markings. There is a danger with children running around when there are parties in the hall while people continue to park down the bottom, although they have been asked not to do so for child-safety reasons. The concern relating to children will be put in a letter to church hall users.

**Trees:** No further news at present.

**Churchyard:** There was an opportunity to put a bid in to Tesco for funding of tree maintenance and wildlife preservation in our churchyard. Kent Council Countryside Partnership are keen to apply on our behalf. Bids have to be in before the end of the week. John and Margaret Curtis have kindly assisted in preparing this.

Martin Perry was thanked for re-pointing the paving outside the church hall.

Redecoration of the church hall will be decided upon after the APCM.

## 7. Events

**Second Wind Concert** - To be held on 19 December at 3.00pm.

**Crib Trail** - Several churches, including St Mary's, will be open for people to see the various crib displays the week after Christmas.

**Week of Christian Unity** - An evening service will be held in St Mary's on Sunday 17 January.

**Christmas Party** - This will take the usual form of a bring and share meal starting at 6.30pm on 9 January.

**Christmas Tree Festival** - Elaine Hanham is standing down after three years. The PCC were extremely grateful to Elaine for her excellent work. If it is to continue the PCC will need someone to replace her.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** - Elaine Hanham and Sarah Stott are standing down with effect from the last WWDP in 2015. The PCC will need to find a rep or reps to replace them

## 8. Outreach

Bennet Smith offered to oversee St Mary's Twitter account.

A representative from the Children's Respite Trust, our final charity for 2015/2016, will be giving a talk one Sunday in February.

#### **9. Church Services**

Margaret Nicholas proposed we reduce Crucifer and two servers to just a Crucifer as she only has seven names on the rota which makes it extremely difficult to manage. To work properly it needs at least 12 names. She suggested we could have three for significant services and manage with just one or two on other occasions. Although the PCC understood the difficulty Margaret has, it was generally felt that it would be preferable to keep to three if at all possible. The Vicar will include a recruitment drive in one of his sermons to try and encourage volunteers.

The Vicar is considering a church service for people with hearing loss, which could be after the 9.30 service. He is researching it at the moment.

#### **10. Church Music**

It was suggested that the choir will need more members while Janet and Barry are away from February to April. The Vicar will make a plea to the congregation at the beginning of a service.

It is anticipated that the new church organ will be installed in April and a service of celebration and thanks will be given in June

#### **11. Sunday School**

There is a steady number of around 30 attendees. The helpers continue to manage very well, for which the PCC expressed its gratitude

#### **12. Teenagers**

St Lukes and St Mary's Kippington, along with St Mary's, are looking into the feasibility of funding for a Youth, Family and Schools Worker. There is a meeting of all churches – especially PCCs - at St Luke's on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January to discuss this

#### **13. Trinity School**

Nothing more to report.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

**Car Lifts:** The Secretary was asked to write to everyone who is on the rota for giving lifts to church members advising them that there must be two people in attendance when giving lifts to anyone with mobility problems. If the person has been advised by a health care professional that they need to use a zimmer frame indoors, they should be advised that they must bring it with them to church, otherwise we will be unable to bring them. The new guidelines are meant specifically for the safety of those with mobility problems and those attending them as recommended by the Vulnerable Adults Officer.

**Mission and Evangelism:** Daphne Harrison has to submit an essay on mission and evangelism as part of her course and will be giving a presentation at the next PCC meeting. She would appreciate some feedback from the PCC, in advance of the next meeting, on a paper relating to her essay, which she handed out to those present.

#### **15. Date of Next Meeting**

Standing Committee: Tuesday 12 January 2016  
PCC: Tuesday 26 January 2016