

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN  
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 29 January 2019  
7.30pm in the Church Hall

**PRESENT:**

Vicar in the chair, Diane Williams, Alison Bull, Ronnie Todd

Susan Allender, Anne Blakeley, Margaret Nicholas, Charlotte Rakhit, Barry Sharp, Bennet Smith, Andrew Swidzinski, Rachel Wigley,

**1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers**

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

**2. Apologies**

Daphne Harrison, Dick Thompson, Ali Wakefield, Sarah Way, Stuart Wigley

**3. Approval of Minutes 27 November 2018**

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

**4. Matters Arising**

**Waste Bins** - Alison Bull reported that Sevenoaks District Council have agreed to include the two waste bins outside the church in their collections. It had been noted they are being emptied. Many thanks were given to Alison.

**5. Finance**

Stuart Wigley had sent his apologies and there was no report. He will bring the budget and accounts for PCC approval to the March meeting.

Bennet Smith reported that all the Church Calendars have been sold. We received a total of £367 and made a profit of £198.70. Many thanks were given to Bennet for his work and preparation of the calendar. Please do carry on Bennet!

**6. Church Fabric**

Diane Williams reported that the Churchwardens had met with the builder to go through a few outstanding jobs. Diane again expressed concern about flooding outside and around the vestry door. The builders are replacing a gulley and a pipe has been dug out by Canon Bell's grave. The situation is being monitored. The builder is also looking at putting in a gulley by the side of the slope which comes down from the car park and where the water flows down. It was thought that piling up leaves at the top of the slope is not helpful. Diane has spoken to David (church handyman) to ask him not to pile up the leaves in that spot. She will speak to him again.

The colour for the door has been chosen: Urban Slate. Bennet Smith recommended using paint containing linseed oil. A working party will be needed to refurbish and repaint the church doors. A few people have already offered.

**7. Church Grounds - Notice re Removal of Trees**

The Churchwardens reported that a policy is being prepared.

## **8. Events**

It was noted that the Calender of Notable Services and Events had omitted the Confirmation Service. The Vicar asked Margaret Nicholas to advertise the service in the pew sheet each week up to the service.

No events before March.

## **9. Outreach and Mission**

**Mercy Ships** - An excellent presentation and talk was given at the 9.30am service on Sunday.

**Dunton Green** - We welcomed Phil and Kathy James to speak at our PCC meeting about their thoughts on a Dunton Green initiative. They both attend St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. They wanted to discuss with the PCC an initiative in Dunton Green and are keen to start with an evening course regarding advice on debt management etc. The PCC were in agreement with this level of involvement but stressed that any mission related activities would need our agreement following more discussions with ourselves and Faithworks.

## **10. Three Parish Review**

Alison Bull reported there had been a meeting of representatives from the three parishes. A note of the meeting had been received from the Churchwardens at St Luke's and had been emailed to all PCC members. St Luke's are concerned at only being allocated 0.5 of a stipend whereas both Riverhead and Kippington have been allocated one each. They are eager to have assurance that our Vicar will be mindful of them. The PCC are happy for the new Vicar to share with St Luke's. Martin explained that there will be a Rector and two Parish Priests and assured the PCC that all three will have a pastoral role directly with their own churches. St Luke's are hoping to hold an extraordinary meeting next week and have asked for our response to their meeting note in good time before then. The PCC were happy for the Archdeacon's model to be the basis of the report to the Bishop's Council. Alison will be sending a response to St Luke's and read out the response she proposes to send.

The PCC of St Mary's Riverhead with Dunton Green have read and considered Julie Conalty's paper "A proposal for consultation re Kippington St Mary, Sevenoaks St Luke and Riverhead with Dunton Green" of November 2018.

The PCC welcomes the intention to retain 3 distinct parishes to allow for the continuation of identity and tradition. The PCC understands and welcomes that the proposal provides a structure to foster unity and allows for the ministers to share the workload.

Further, the PCC recognises that whilst the proposed allocation is for 1 full time stipended minister to St Mary's Riverhead with Dunton Green this minister will be expected to fulfil certain duties within the other 2 parishes.

The PCC hereby approves the proposal to go forward to Bishop's Council.

The PCC were asked for their approval.

A vote was taken:

PCC all content

No abstentions

## **11. Deanery Synod Briefing**

There has been no recent meeting.

## **12. Church Services**

24/2 - Evensong

6/3 - Ash Wednesday - The Vicar will liaise with St Luke's to ask whether we may join with them in their Ash Wednesday service.

The Vicar spoke about the slightly different communion service held on Sunday with the intention of involving the Sunday Club children. Anne Blakeley had heard from three children that they were not overly happy with the responses written as their part in the service. It was agreed by all that we must keep trying to encourage the children to be more involved in taking part in the Eucharist services. The PCC were all in favour of trying the new type of communion service for a little longer.  
24/3 - Confirmation service at St Nicholas church

### **13. Sunday Club/Teenagers**

Several of the Sunday Club children will be confirmed on 24/3.

The Sunday Club will run a complete service in the near future. It is believed/hoped that Daphne will be arranging it.

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

**Margaret Nicholas** was asked to check whether the hall is free on 15 February which is the date June Cheesman's family would like to hold her funeral.

**Anne Blakeley** asked if there is someone with a big enough car to take and dispose of the grey filing cabinet in the vestry. Rachel Wigley thought Stuart would be happy to dispose of it as they have a large car.

**Anne** also thought it was time to replace the carpet in the Lady Chapel. It was agreed we would look into the matter.

**Traidcraft** has now been wound up. Anne has nothing left for sale and all monies have been passed on to Stuart Wigley.

**Susan Allender** proposed we have a permanent memorial to Doris Gosnold. She had been a regular member of the congregation since she was a child and had been an absolute stalwart in all she did for St Mary's during her life. It was suggested we have a brass plaque in a prominent position stating that the church doors have been refurbished in memory of Doris Gosnold. The PCC unanimously agreed. Susan will contact Doris's daughters with the memorial suggestion and will let them know that we will be entering her name in the Book of Remembrance which is kept outside the Lady Chapel.

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

**Standing Committee: 26 February 2019**

**PCC Meeting: 12 March 2019**