

ST MARY'S RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Monday 11 January 2010 In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

The Reverend Paul Francis – in the Chair

Norma Bridgland, Diane Williams, Mark Merson, Ronnie Todd, Anne Bourne, Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, Jeannette Francis, Doris Gosnold, Lee Kings, Yemesi Howitt, Barry Sharp, Anne Straight, Sarah Stott, Robin Tonge, Lynn Wilson, Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with worship.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Edwards, Miranda Cormack, Ursula Warner, Tim Johnston, Andrew Tawse & Joanna Tawse,

3. Minutes of 24 November 2009

The Minutes of 24 November 2009 were approved and signed by the Vicar as a true copy.

4. Matters arising from PCC Meeting 24 November 2009

- ii) Churchyard Faculty – Norma Bridgland reported that we have now received a letter from the Diocese confirming that the faculty has been granted.
- ii) Church Office Space – Diane Williams reported that the next step is to consult Chris Raynor for further advice on measurements etc. She will ask him to let us have an estimate of the work he will be undertaking, and will then report back to the PCC. It was agreed by the PCC that, if the fee is acceptable, Diane will go ahead and apply for a faculty.
- iii) Barn Dance 5 December 2009 – Norma Bridgland reported that it had been an enjoyable evening, despite the weather, but unfortunately we made a loss. It was agreed that if we arrange another barn dance, it would be preferable to organise it in May. Thanks were given to Norma for her hard work in arranging the event.
- iv) Swine Flue/Chalice– The Vicar advised the meeting that we are now using the chalice without any problems.
- v) Church Lighting - The work has now been completed under the supervision of Robert McIntock. Diana Williams also reported that two bulbs on the north side of the steeple had to be replaced. Mr. Ebdy (the electrician) said that the light fittings on the steeple are in poor condition and will need replacing before long. It

was also noted that the chancel lights take quite a while before they come on and it causes some people to switch them on and off several times before realising.

- vi) Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service - The Vicar reminded the PCC that we need to bear in mind SCCS for donations. He recommended that the money collected from the Lent Lunch should be given to them.
- vii) HopeFest – It was reported that several cards with positive comments had been received. There is a debriefing meeting on Friday 15 January. Unfortunately the Vicar is unable to attend.

5. 3G's Stewardship Campaign

The 3G's campaign was discussed and it was established that the PCC are keen to go ahead with the project.

The next step will be to form a sub-committee. It was suggested that Bryan Nicholas be approached as Stewardship leader to be a member of the sub-committee.

Alan Strachan is waiting to hear whether we would like him to come and talk to us again. It was suggested that he comes specifically to speak to the sub-committee to help set up the project.

As Jane Edwards' previous church has already implemented the 3G's project, it was suggested that we meet up with some of their people for guidance.

The names put forward for the sub-committee are: The Vicar, Diane Williams, Yemesi Howitt, Jean Woods, Bryan Nicholas and Jane Edwards. A meeting to discuss how we go forward with the campaign will be arranged by the Vicar.

6. Events Team

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the 2010 Programme of Events. The previous team included Doris Gosnold, Norma Bridgland, Sarah Stott, Diane Williams and Shelia. Margaret Nicholas had been co-opted. It was agreed that we need to look at the '09 programme and take off the events which weren't popular. Sarah and Doris agreed to do the review. Lynn Wilson said that she would also help. Members of the congregation will be asked if any of them would be prepared to form part of the team; they don't have to be PCC members.

7. Lent Course

The Vicar informed the meeting that we will be having an Ecumenical Lent Course this year based on the York Course, which includes eminent speakers including John Bell and Colin Morris. The Vicar will provide details and publicise it to the congregation.

As happened last year, we will include a "Count Your Blessings" event based on the Christian Aid leaflet.

8. Sunday School

Lynn Wilson reported there were no current problems. 47 children are registered of which an average of 20-25 are regular attendees. The 3 - 5 year group has picked up but does vary from week to week. We will be losing eight children from the 6th year at the end of the summer.

Lynn expressed the wish to stand down as Sunday School Leader.

The Vicar conveyed to Lynn how grateful we were to her for all her support and hard work in leading the Sunday School.

9. Vacant Posts

The following posts will be vacant with effect from the Church AGM in April.

Hon. Treasurer
Church Warden (Norma due to step down)
Sunday School Leader

10. Any Other Business

Church Hall Report - A report was read out from Margaret Nicholas (attached).

It was agreed that the booking fee should be refunded even if the hall can't be re-booked as a result of a cancelled booking.

Dunton Green Faithworks Team – Anne Straight reported on the Faithworks Team which has started up in Dunton Green.

The Faithworks Team consists of a group of people from the Bessels Green Baptist Church who are concentrating solely on building up a faith group in the Dunton Green area. They operate totally separately from the Bessels Green church. Adults currently meet in the Dukes Head and children meet in the School Hall.

Anne has supported them when they held a Faithworks Café. They have asked her for more support, but as the group have become more committed, Anne is unable to due to her commitments at St. Mary's. The group are keen to have St. Mary's in the loop and would like someone from St. Mary's on their committee.

It was generally agreed that St. Mary's will be happy to help when they can, provided it doesn't interfere with our own commitments.

Special Weekday Services - The Vicar asked the PCC how they would feel if special services such as Ash Wednesday, Saints Days, etc, were also held on a Sunday. The PCC were of the opinion that this was a good idea. The Vicar will start by moving the Ash Wednesday service to the following Sunday. However, it was agreed that there should still be a service on the appropriate day – e.g. on Ash Wednesday there should be a Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes, probably in the morning, for those who are able to attend.

Womens Day of Prayer - There will be a service in the United Reform Church, St John's, at 2.00 pm on Friday 5 March 2010. It will be advertised in the mini-mag.

Fairtrade Big Brew - This event will be held on Monday morning, 22 February 2010.

David Gilbert's House Group - It was suggested that it may be helpful to Betty Gilbert if she were asked to host a Lent Group. It was a very successful House Group when run by David last year. The Vicar will speak to Betty.

"Helping Hands" - Barry Sharp put forward a suggestion for a "Helping Hands" group. It was mentioned that one already operates in Kemsing. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have a similar group in Riverhead with people who could be called upon to

help those who are in need of help with shopping, etc, especially in bad weather. It would need to have a co-ordinator as well as a group of helpers. Ronnie Todd offered to be co-ordinator if needed. The Vicar said he will give it some thought.

Betty Morris - The Vicar informed the PCC that sadly Betty Morris had died on Sunday (10/1). Her funeral will be on 5 February.

The meeting ended with prayer