

ST MARY'S RIVERHEAD with DUNTON GREEN

MINUTES

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Monday 20 September 2010 In the Church Hall

PRESENT:

The Reverend Canon Paul Francis – in the Chair

Jane Edwards, Diane Williams, Barry Sharp, Elaine Hanham, Ronnie Todd,
Audrey Bernardi, Martyn Berry, Miranda Cormack, Jeannette Francis, Doris Gosnold, Yemisi Howitt,
Tim Johnston, Lee Kings, Anne Straight, Sarah Stott, Robin Tonge, Ursula Warner, Lynn Wilson,
Jean Woods

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with worship.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Anne Bourne, Andrew Tawse & Joanna Tawse

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting 20 July 2010

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

4. Matters Arising

- 4.iv The Jonathan Wittchell Memorial Bench - Robin Tonge reported that the faculty papers have been received. The DAC have agreed to the installation of the bench subject to approval of the wording to be carved along the back rail. Public Notices are required to be put up inside and outside the church for a 28 day period. Robin will attend to this. The PCC is required to pass a resolution agreeing to the installation.

In this respect, the PCC members present (18) were asked to vote on whether they agree to the installation of the bench.

Those in favour: 18

Those against: 0

The vote was unanimous in favour of the installation of the memorial bench.

- 4.v Church Repairs – Diane Williams reported that the repair of the Chancel wall has been completed. However there is now a need for the coping on the east side of the roof to be repaired as a piece has fallen off. Two quotes will be requested for the repair. It was agreed that this needs to be done as soon as possible and in the meantime the footpath running beneath the damaged coping will be closed off and a warning notice erected. Diane also reported that the steeple lights need to be replaced. The cost will be approximately £60/70 each for four lamps. The lights in the nave will be changed by Ray Ebdy at the same time. The fence running alongside the churchyard and Churchfields has collapsed and has now been replaced by Denis Williams, Geoff Holland and Diane's two sons-in-law. Robert McLintoch has kindly agreed to undertake the repair of the fence at the top of the car park, and is currently arranging a working party.

8. 3 G's Stewardship Campaign – The Vicar reported that the invitations have been delivered and Alan Strachan will be here on Sunday to give his presentation.
 10. Review/Community Magazine – It was reported that a meeting will be held on 10 October. We will need an editor and a person to canvas the advertisers. Jean Woods noted that Dunton Green Faithworks already have a quarterly magazine for the Dunton Green residents. The Vicar pointed out that the proposed magazine will encompass a wider community and subject matter.
 11. Organist/Choir Leader – The Vicar advised the meeting that an advertisement has been placed in the Royal Society of Church Music magazine. It was suggested that it could also be placed in the Link, the Chronicle and the mini-mag. Someone the Vicar knows has indicated he/she would be happy to play the organ on an ad hoc basis. The question of honorarium was discussed. The Vicar said he will check on the RSCM website as a guide to what should be offered.
 12. Chalice – The Vicar reported that Barry Sharp has now been officially appointed/authorised to act as a chalice administrator.
- Garden of Remembrance – The Vicar has produced a document for signature by those wanting ashes of loved ones interred. He will approach the people who have left shrines and advise them that they must be removed.

5. Events Team Report

Sarah Stott reported on the following events:

Riverhead Carnival – Did really well. A total of £325.90 was made excluding £21 for the pitch and a £30 float. Everyone worked very hard. A limited edition plate (13/100) of St Mary, Riverhead (1997) had been given to those on the stall on the day and this was presented to the Vicar. Sarah made the comment that there were a lot of commercial stalls this year. She has put a note of the event in the mini-mag.

Harvest Supper – This will take place on 2 October with tickets at £3 per adult and £2 per child. The meal will consist of lasagne, garlic bread and salad, followed by apple pie. There will be games after the meal.

Sarah pointed out that we are coming to the end of the year and a new committee will be needed.

The Vicar thanked Sarah and her team for all their hard work in organising the events.

6. Finance and Related Matters

Elaine Hanham reported that our net outgoings so far this year are quite high. Elaine suggested that the budget be discussed at the next meeting. Elaine also suggested that the procedures for sidespersons be discussed at the next meeting. Apparently several of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes have been used but they are not always signed.

7. Littlecourt Lunch Club

The Vicar informed the meeting that he had received a note from Gill Smith about increased costs for the Lunch Club, which is not surprising. He added that we are very grateful to Gill Smith for all she does for the Lunch Club.

8. 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible

The Vicar advised the meeting that it will be the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011. Although our church doesn't regularly use this version of the bible, it would be good to celebrate the occasion. One suggestion was that we ask local schools to paint a picture on "hope" for display in St Mary's and make an event of it. We could also have a church open day. The Vicar suggested that we discuss it again at the next meeting.

9. Church Sound System

It was reported that the church sound system is not working at its best. Robert McLintock suggested the current system be replaced and had carried out some research. However, the cost will be quite high and there may still be problems with a new system. It was agreed that we will work with our existing system for the time being and have some repairs made.

10. Christmas Carols/Children's Nativity Services

The Vicar asked the PCC whether it was time to think again about the format of our Christmas services? Could we possibly combine the morning family service which has the children's nativity play with the 9 lessons and carols service and have one family carols celebration at 4.00 – 5.00 pm. There was considerable discussion and the following points were made:

- It is important for children to have a focal point at Sunday School and they enjoy dressing up for the nativity play.
- Children do not always have a nativity play at school.
- We could liven up the music for the 9 lessons and carols.
- Make the 9 lessons and carols more of a family service.
- The Christingle services take people away from the other services.

The Vicar told the meeting that he would be happy to receive suggestions for consideration.

11. Any Other Business

Sevenoaks District Council – The Vicar has received a notice that a tree preservation order has been placed on trees on the outside of our property but this should not affect us.

Poverty & Hope – The Vicar raised the matter of Poverty and Hope envelopes. These will be given out at All Saintside to avoid the 3 Gs service.

The date of the next PCC meeting will be **Wednesday 10 November 2010.**

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm with prayer.