

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN  
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
Tuesday 25 September 2018  
7.30pm in the Church Hall

**PRESENT:**

Vicar in the chair, Diane Williams, Stuart Wigley, Ronnie Todd

Susan Allender, Daphne Harrison, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Anne Straight, Sarah Way, Rachel Wigley

**1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers**

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

**2. Apologies**

Alison Bull, Charlotte Rakhit, Barry Sharp, Andrew Swidzinski, Dick Thomson, Ali Wakefield,

**3. Approval of Minutes 10 July 2018**

The Minutes were amended to include Daphne Harrison in the list of apologies, agreed by the PCC and signed as a true copy by the Vicar.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Church Hall Management** - All is in hand.

**5. Finance**

The Treasurer informed the PCC that the finances are in reasonably good order at the present time. He is collating information re next year's budget.

He has a new calculation for the Parish Share; £46,800 for 2018 which will continue into 2019. This is a 2½% increase on our last contribution.

The Diocesan Treasurer has made a visit to each Parish to help and listen to any queries they may have. There is a three year plan with 2½% as the increase pa, subject to income. Any savings we have will be taken into account. A presentation on giving will be made in church in the near future when we hope it will increase our income.

**6. Church Fabric**

Diane Williams gave the report.

It is being considered that rather than using ladders for the work in the Chancel a low scaffold with a platform could be used instead. This will be a safer option. It is reckoned that the scaffolding will be up for a maximum of two weeks for the lighting, unless there are any other jobs which need doing while we have the opportunity.

The colour for the church door is still undecided!

**7. Events**

Estonian Choir visit - 20-21 October - Events Committee holding a meeting tomorrow re catering.

Traidcraft Coffee Morning - 3 November

Christmas Tree Festival - 8-9 December - Committee Meeting being held tomorrow.

Church Quiz - postponed to 2019 - Invite all three churches - (Events committee to coordinate)

## **8. Outreach and Mission**

A proposal for a Mission Venture in Dunton Green was discussed. The proposal is to create a worshipping community for those not currently part of any church. To be discussed further.

A request has been received from the Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley for donations for training Ministers in Kondo Diocese (Tanzania). They are looking to grow a Christian presence but need more clergy. The PCC all agreed we should make a donation of £200 from church funds.

## **9. Three Parish Initiative**

A meeting is to be held this week consisting of the participants of the first discussion meeting which took place in January last year. Each Parish will present its own point of view with no intervention from the other Parishes, after which there will be a discussion. Diane Williams told the meeting that the majority of the PCC would rather stay as we are, but with greater cooperation with the other two parishes. She said that they both recognise that we are different as we are "the Parish of Riverhead with Dunton Green", quite separate from Sevenoaks. The Churchwardens will report back after the meeting.

## **10. Deanery Synod Briefing**

There has been no meeting since our last PCC meeting.

## **11. Forthcoming Services**

4 November - All Souls Service

11 November - Memorial Service - First World War Centenary

**Family Services** - Anne Straight reported that she had run a survey of the Sunday Club parents regarding the time of the family service and the overwhelming majority wanted it to stay at 9.30am. Ann then raised the point that all three churches involved in the 3 Parishes discussion have their family services on the first Sunday of the month. Would it be possible to change this for St Mary's, Riverhead?

In light of Charlotte Rakhit's email regarding Sunday Club and whether the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday family service should continue, Sunday Club members will be discussing the matter. Charlotte's email questioned whether it is time to reconsider Sunday Club coming into church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.

## **12. Sunday Club/Teenagers**

The older children in church will be asked whether they would like to be part of the Diocesan Youth Council.

## **13. Any Other Business**

**NWF/CTSD** - Anne Straight advised the PCC that the North West Fellowship of Churches and Churches Together in Sevenoaks are merging. All their current activities will continue and there will be one more meeting per year.

**Church Bins** - Alison Bull will speak to the Parish Council to ask whether they would consider adding the two waste bins outside church to their collection. We would be happy to pay for the service.

**Open Church** - As had been agreed at a previous PCC meeting some time ago, the church will be kept open during bible study to the end of the Tots & Toddlers session each Monday, unless they don't run for some reason. It will also be open on Wednesday mornings between 9.00am and 10.00am. Ronnie Todd was asked to put a notice to this effect on the Notice Board.

**Organ Scholarship** - Janet Sharp has put forward a proposal that we give Nick Castell's pupil, Emma, an organ scholarship at St Mary's. As we have received a legacy from Bernard Palmer, who played a great part in the music of St Mary's when he attended, it was thought to be a very good idea.

The PCC unanimously agreed.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

Standing Committee Meeting: 13 November

PCC Meeting: 27 November