

**ST MARY RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 26 September 2017
8.00pm in the Church Hall

PRESENT:

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

Martyn Berry, Jill Dickenson, Beryl Ellinor, Daphne Harrison, Margaret Nicholas, Bennet Smith, Barry Sharp, Andrew Swidzinski, Lynn Wilson

1. Passage of Scripture & Prayers

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

2. Apologies

Anne Straight, Dick Thomson

3. Approval of Minutes 18 July 2017

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

4. Matters Arising

Car Park Lighting - The new lamp post lighting the car park is working well.

5. Finance

The Treasurer gave the report.

Stuart circulated a financial update to the PCC. It showed income from fund raising and giving. We have also recently received a legacy from Jean Knaggs. He has written with our thanks.

The position with our current funds means that we have no need to dip into our reserves at the moment and we may be able to increase our Parish Share contribution if income and outgoings continue as they are.

Barry Sharp mentioned that the regular giving envelopes have reduced quite dramatically and wondered whether it was because more people are choosing to contribute by standing order. Stuart thought standing order payments may have increased but, in any case, he will be making an autumn appeal and will explain about the stewardship scheme.

New gas and electric supply contracts have been concluded and a review of expenditure on church repairs and lease of the photocopier will be done in the near future. Stuart will also be reviewing the finances for the year end.

The Vicar informed the PCC that he had seen a system where laminated cards are available to congregation members to put in the collection bags which say they have made an electronic contribution. They would be available to take as people walk in. It may be an idea for our church. Stuart wondered whether we should have a link on our website for people to give electronically. It was suggested that we would need to ensure that it is secure. Stuart agreed to look into it.

The Vicar spoke about keeping the church open at least one day a week. He thought Monday would be a good day as there is bible study in the morning every other week and Tots and Toddlers each Monday afternoon. The church could be left open in between the two events. The heating could also be put on as the prayer group meets on Monday evenings in the Lady Chapel.

Margaret Nicholas was concerned about security. Stuart confirmed that our Insurers are happy for

the church to be left open unattended. The PCC agreed that we should have a trial period and see how it works.

Stuart then informed the PCC that the church's insurers - Ecclesiastical Insurance - are offering £130 to any church when a member of its congregation takes out House Insurance with them. He will put a note in the pew sheet to say if anyone is thinking of changing their house insurers it may be in their interest, and certainly in that of the church, to look into the possibility.

£430 has been raised from members of the congregation using Easy Fund Raising. Stuart will draw people's attention to it again.

6. Church Fabric

Tesco Money - We have received £7,500 so far from Tesco. We were told that another £2,500 will be given if the work is finished by the end of September. As it has not been possible, Tesco have agreed to extend the time limit to the end of December. It has been agreed with the North West Kent Countryside Partnership that a hedge will be planted on the boundary of the churchyard near the white cottage. Dates for the work to commence are in the process of being decided.

Hand Rails - There is nothing more to report at present.

Quinquennial Repairs - Alison & Simon Bull, Martin Perry and Robert McLintock have all kindly volunteered to help with various jobs which need doing. The roof is in need of quite a lot of maintenance and repair which will have to be done by a professional building company.

Church Door - Riverhead Parish Council wondered whether the PCC would consider the possibility of the front door of the church being repainted. The PCC agreed. A suitable colour will need to be decided on. The PCC were happy for the fabric committee to decide on the colour with some input from Bennet Smith.

7. Events

Harvest Bring and Share Lunch/1st October

Christmas Tree Festival/9th-10th December - There has already been one meeting and another is due in October. All in hand.

8. Outreach & Mission

Kent/Surrey/Sussex Air Ambulance - There was no-one available to come and speak at our service in September but a collection was taken and has been forwarded to Kent/Surrey/Sussex Air Ambulance.

Partner Diocese Celebration 2017 - There was an excellent evening service on 24 September to celebrate Rochester Diocese's partnership with the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. A retiring collection was taken and has been forwarded to the Partner Dioceses Fund.

9. Deanery Synod

There has been no Deanery Synod meeting since the last PCC meeting.

10. Church Services

All Saints and All Souls Service - 29 October

Remembrance Sunday - 12 November

Advent Carol Service - 3 December

The Vicar advised the PCC that, since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, with 14.30, 16.00 and Midnight services as usual, it was probably best to simply have a BCP service at 10am that morning. The PCC agreed.

11/12. Sunday Club/Teenagers

At a recent survey of Sunday School families, it was found that those attending Sunday Club would like to have time in church with their children. They would also value shorter services. Due to the

continuing struggle to find leaders for the Sunday Club, the Vicar suggested that we make the first and third Sunday services more family friendly with no Sunday Club. The services would consist of a shorter family communion service with worship songs rather than traditional hymns and a talk suitable for the children as well as adults. Ronnie Todd was asked to discuss hymns/songs with the choir at choir practice on Thursday evening. 19th November was suggested as the start date, which would give Margaret Nicholas time to rearrange her rotas for bible readers and servers. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays would remain as traditional communion services. The PCC were content. It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed at next years' APCM. Grateful thanks were given to Lyn and David Wilson who had made an excellent job of sorting and tidying the Sunday School cupboard.

13. Any Other Business

Daphne Harrison proposed that the PCC get together for a quiet day or morning . We need to put time aside for reflection/prayer/meditation, especially at this stage in the life of the church. It would also be open to members of the congregation. The only viable date at present is Saturday 11 November. The Vicar recommended that it be away from Sevenoaks. Bishops Court in Rochester was put forward as a possible venue. The Secretary was asked to investigate. A notice will be put in the notice sheet once we have something more definite to report.

Margaret Nicholas informed the meeting that we need to think about producing this years' Christmas card.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Standing Committee	Tuesday 14 November
PCC	Tuesday 28 November