



Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting of
St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew.

Date: 13th January 2010

Started: 7:35pm

Venue: The Vicarage

Ended: 9:40pm

Chair: Mike Dyer

Present:

Mrs Sheila Bradley (Churchwarden)
Mrs Bobby Carter
Mr John Cullingford (Lay Minister)
Rev Mel Durrant
Mr Michael Dyer
Mr David Lockyer (Treasurer)
Mr David Salmons*
Rev Paul Skinner*
Mrs Rita Taylor
Mr Mark Wolstenholme (Secretary)
Miss Carole Wyatt (Churchwarden)

Apologies for absence:

Mrs Meg Cox
Mr John Davis
Mr Alec Hunt
Mrs Jo Scott

Absent:

Mrs Christine Warner

* Deanery and Diocesan representatives

Summary of meeting:

- [261] • Minutes of last meeting approved
- [262] • Fund-raising – ideas to engage those on the electoral role were agreed
- [263] • Mel reported on the Christmas services and his plans for Easter
 - 'Cathedral' style Holy Communion to be dropped
 - Renewal of Mel's license, response to Diocese from PCC to be made
- [264] • Update on 50K Challenge given, restoration of the font has begun
 - Approval to split the building work in two phases has been given
 - £2,000 grant from Talbot Village Trust, other grant bodies approached
 - Electrical work to begin at St Mary's to bring wiring up to standard
 - Fund-raising for restoration of wall paintings and heating at St Andrew's
- [265] • Form 1 application for work at St Andrew's – PCC agrees to proceed
- [266] • St Mary's quinquennial reviewed
- [267] • PCC agreed to survey of roof to tie down cost and required timeframe
- [268] • Financial brief – VAT refunds increase available funds
- [269] • Outward giving returned to 2008 levels, last year's cuts to be paid.
- [270] • Allocation of surplus funds agreed
- [271] • Loan facility to be taken out, £15,000 over three years if needed
- [272] • Fund-raising calendar 2010. Coordinator needed
- [273] • Any Other Business – Treasurer to stand down at end of 2010

[261] Minutes of the last meeting (18th November 2009)

These were accepted with a minor alteration to the wording in item 258 regarding the description of the lead required for roof repairs. Proposed: Carole Wyatt, seconded: Sheila, carried with 1 abstention.

[262] Matters arising

The meeting started with a welcome from Mike. Mel read from Nehemiah 8 v9 and gave a prayer. David Salmons was welcomed back after his sabbatical.

Fund-raising was discussed in relation to the active members of the church and the electoral role of the parish. Can anything be done to improve the communication to those on the electoral role that aren't active members? It was noted that we are fairly good at reaching everyone in the Parish through the Downsman, although it was recognised that this didn't mean it got read! Since the electoral role also plays a part in amount of our Share the meeting recognised the importance of encouraging wider engagement. It was felt that many do not realise that it is the local community that covers the cost of running the church. The following suggestions came from the discussion;

- 1) David Salmons to distribute the Sarum Link church newspaper to those on the electoral role
- 2) Mel to produce a slip to go into the Sarum Link
- 3) Mel to highlight these issues in the Seeker/Downsman

Proposed: Bobby C, seconded: David S. The proposal was carried.

[263] Worship – Mel brought the following items to the meeting;

a) *Renewal of Suspension of Presentation*. Mel explained that he was a 'Priest-in-charge' on a five year license and that the Diocese has written a letter of consultation that this is being renewed for a further five years. Mel explained that this will be superseded by 'Common Tenure' in the next few years. The PCC agreed that the Church Wardens write back a complimentary letter in support of Mel and that we are happy with the on-going arrangement.

b) *Christmas Services*. Mel asked for any feedback on the Christmas services to be sent to him. The attendance at the carol services was down slightly on last year, possible due to the weather. The attendance at St Mary's carol service was similar to last year despite the weather, probably helped by the involvement of the first school and the string musicians which was well received. This will be repeated again this Christmas.

My Notes:

[263] Worship (continued):

c) *Holy Communion distribution*. After a period using the 'cathedral' style of distribution, Mel reported that we will be returning to the Altar Rail style. This was warmly and welcomed by the meeting.

d) *The Lent Course* will return with the theme 'Fully Alive'. Easter services will follow the same pattern as last year. Palm Sunday service (All age with Jess the Donkey), Easter Sunday (traditional).

[264] Update on 50k Challenge (*Margaret joined the meeting*)

a) John Turnball (architect) has obtained permission for work covered by the faculty to be split into two phases. Graham Dye has agreed to a two-phased approach and will supply us with a revised tender. A small increase in the cost is expected. JT and GD have been negotiating prices of stone etc. Samples of Purbeck stone for the floor was shown to the meeting. Work is expected to start in February.

b) Sue & Lawrence Kelland (conservators) have completed phase 1 of their work: initial repairs to the font, dismantling and relocating to its temporary storage space in front of the table tomb. For safety this has been taped off. Once the tower work is finished, the restored font will be moved to its new position.

c) The Talbot Village Trust have awarded us a grant of £2000 to be released when work has commenced. Sheila noted that although we've made a start on the font, it was probably best to wait until the builders have arrived before asking for the funds to be released.

d) Grant applications have been sent off to the Erskine Muton Trust, the Allchurches Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and the National Churches Trust. Other grant bodies are also being sought including the Church Buildings Council and the community arm of the National Churches Trust.

e) Urgent electrical work, required for insurance, will commence this week. This will bring the electrics at St Mary's up to modern standards and will compliment the electrical additions that will be made later for the rebuilding work.

f) Fund-raising for both conservation work to the wall paintings in St Andrews Chapel and the replacement of its heating and electrical wiring is being undertaken by Anne McCall, who lives in Pentridge and plays the organ at St Andrew's Chapel, Gussage. Confidence that she will achieve this by late Spring was expressed at the meeting which will be a big help to increasing the finances available for the rebuilding work at St Mary's. The electrician will give a quote for the heating and other electrical work at Gussage shortly.

My Notes:

[265] Approval to go ahead with the Form 1 application

The Form 1 application, which is the stage before a Faculty Application, for the restoration and repair work at Gussage is in the last stages of preparation and will be submitted to the DAC for consideration at their March meeting. A vote was taken, proposed by Sheila and seconded by Carole. The vote was carried.

[266] Quinquennial Review

Mike started the discussion on the quinquennial work highlighted at the last meeting. Four items of note;

- a) Any DIY type work that can be undertaken by ourselves is in hand and includes removal of the tiles in the base of the tower. This will save us some money and further DIY work, where appropriate will need to be continued during the building project.
- b) The electrical work mentioned in [263-e] will be in hand shortly.
- c) The restoration of wall paintings and electrical repairs at St Andrew's Chapel is expected to be in the order of £7,000. Some £2,700 is currently allocated. As reported in [264-f] fund-raising effort by Anne McCall has been promised. Sheila reported that the Church Building Council is very interested in the historic aspect of this work and that a grant may be awarded. Sheila will get an application in before their next meeting in March.
- d) The roof. Mike had spoken with Alec about the valley and gutter repairs just before this meeting. Alec's opinion was that this will need to be addressed within three to four years and will cost approx. £10,000. It was suggested that a professional survey be undertaken within the next six months. This will confirm what work needs doing and the timescale that it should be completed within. Sheila was asked to seek the advice of our architect John Turnball.

[267] Vote on roof repair survey for St Mary's

A proposal to release funds for a survey of the roof was made. After consulting our architect, we could go ahead in the next few months rather than delay a survey until later in the year. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Mike D. Carried by the meeting.

[268] Financial brief (David Lockyer)

The Treasurer's finance brief was looked at. David brought some 'stop press' news that we've just received the VAT refund for St Mary's of £4,445 which brings the available buildings and fabric fund up to £38,500. Another VAT refund on a donation to St Andrew's brings its available funds up to £3,000.

My Notes:

[268] Financial brief (continued):

Our improved financial situation means that we are in a position to pay the full amount of the Share to the Diocese by the end of November. This gives us the option to receive a 0.75% discount by paying the Share in ten installments. Paul S proposed that we should do this, seconded by David S. Carried by the meeting.

[269] Outward giving

As previously agreed, giving by the Church to other charities would be reviewed at this meeting. It was noted that last year, due to our uncertain financial situation, The monthly gifts from March to October had been reduced by £50. Minutes from last year confirmed that we had made a commitment to restore these monthly gifts to £150 should we have the funds to do so. The meeting agreed that surplus funds currently available meant that we were in a position to do this. The meeting discussed this and whether we wanted to keep this year's gifts at at £150, thus increasing our giving to £200 for March to October. Mike cautioned that financial pressures are sure to return later in the year. Two variations of the proposal were voted on, both carried. Paul S proposed and Mel seconded;

- a) Pay back money cut from 8 of last year's charities
- b) Restore outward giving to £150 a month and pay back last year's reduction (6 for / 2 against)

Mel reminded the meeting that this giving is only part of the church's giving and that different groups within the church, for example, the Soup Lunches and Fellowship Group raise notable sums of money.

[270] Allocation of surplus funds

The surplus funds from 2009 amounted to about £7,000. The meeting discussed where to allocate this surplus with regards to our demanding building programme and uncertain expenses from the quinquennial. The following allocation was proposed by Mel D, seconded by Carole W and carried by the meeting;

- a) £400 to the general fund – for increase agreed in [269]
- b) £2,000 to the contingency fund
- c) £4,600 to the buildings and fabric fund

[271] Loan facility for the 50K Challenge building project

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting, Mike reported that there would be no cost in applying for a loan facility and that we would be applying for a £15,000 loan to run for three years.

My Notes:

[272] Fund-raising

Mel reminded the meeting that fund-raising is a part of what we do and that there is no conflict between fund-raising, social events and our mission – they are all linked together. How we spend our money says everything about who we are and what we worship. Mel outlined the key fund-raising desirables.

Mel handed out a 'Events' calendar for 2010 to help plan our fund-raising and to help show opportunities for extra events. Need for a coordinator discussed. Bobby and Jean thanked for their work organising things previously. Ideas welcome!

[273] Any Other Business

David Lockyer announced his decision to stand down as treasurer at the end of 2010. Ideas for a replacement welcome. Mel to approach possible candidates.

Mark brought a request from a church member asking to bring to the PCC's attention a publication called '*Help your Church grow*' by the Christian Party. A free PDF copy can be downloaded from: www.churchsurvey.co.uk

Sheila and David S expressed a desire to see more time for the discussion of church growth and development at these meetings. It was felt that this would happen once the peak of the building effort was past.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer.

Date of next PCC meeting

7.30pm, Wednesday March 3rd, 2010 at the Vicarage

My Notes: