



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

Date: 10th March 2010

Started: 7:34pm

Venue: The Vicarage

Ended: 9:00pm

Chair: Mike Dyer

Present:

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

Apologies for absence:

Mrs Meg Cox

* Deanery and Diocesan representatives

Summary of meeting:

- [274] • Minutes of last meeting approved
- [275] • Matters arising – none
- [276] • Pattern of services for March and April
 - Blandford Celebration of Ministry, Saturday 15th May
 - Visit by team from St Paul's, Salisbury
 - Links with more churches?
 - Saying the Blessing at the end of the service
- [277] • Phase one of the reordering work completed and paid for
 - Grants for conservation work at St Andrew's 'expected'
 - The Share membership count coming up in April and May
 - Outstanding Share debt from 2006 has triggered review of loan request
- [278] • Progress report on reordering work given
 - Phase two expected to be completed by mid May
 - Rewiring of St Andrews required, awaiting decision on heating system
- [279] • Fundraising update and coming events to plan for
- [280] • Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 11.00pm April 25th
- [281] • Deanery Synod report by David S
- [282] • Any Other Business
 - Gift to Sudan £100 / Missing music books / Clock maintenance

[274] Minutes of the last meeting (13th January 2010)

These were accepted with a correction to a reference number.
Proposed: Sheila, seconded: Rita, and passed.

[275] Matters arising

The meeting started with Mel reading from Isaiah and giving a prayer. Mike formally recognised the tremendous work put in by the project team and others for bringing phase one of the building work to a finish. The toilet and tower were now complete.

There were no other matters discussed as they were to be covered by items on the agenda for this meeting.

[276] Worship

a) *Pattern of services for March and April.* Mel went over the Easter services, which would follow the same pattern as last year.

b) *Blandford Celebration of Ministry.* Mel highlighted the event, which will be held on Saturday 15th May at Blandford School.

c) *Rita's last PCC meeting.* Rita expressed the hope that ministry would feature more prominently with PCC during the coming year.

d) *Reason for group from St Paul's, Salisbury?* Mel answered Mike's question and explained that such visits help us, by giving our leaders a rest, and the chance for the St Paul's team to teach and lead more often than they would otherwise get the chance to do.

e) *Links with more churches?* Mike suggested that if visits by St Paul's were beneficial then maybe we could do the same with more churches. Mel replied that he had contacted churches in Salisbury, Wimborne and Poole, but only St Paul's had responded.

f) *Saying the blessing at the end of the service.* John C asked about those not ordained saying the blessing at the end of the service. Mel responded that this is debated in clergy circles and that in the strictest sense, only those that are priested can say the blessing 'on you', but that there wouldn't be a problem with anyone saying the blessing 'on us'. Saying the Grace is the other option.

[277] Financial Brief (David L)

a) Phase one of the building project has been paid, or at least committed for payment. £20,485 remains for phase two. A small reduction in costs is expected from the builder, Graham Dye, of approx £1,000 to £2,000.

b) David L went through the figures explaining key items in the accounts. Routine income hasn't dropped as anticipated (due to the credit crunch), but it hasn't increased either, which effectively means a reduction when the increase in cost of living is taken into account.

My Notes:

Financial Brief *continued*

c) Alec asked about grants for conservation of the wall paintings in St Andrew's. Sheila replied that these are 'in the pipeline' and would be expected to come through at some point.

d) The Share membership count is due to take place over five Sundays through April and May. Last year the count was up 1 at 79. The count directly effects how much we pay for our Share.

e) David Smart, a member of Sherborne Stewardship Group, along with Bob Thorne, helped us greatly during our difficulties 18 months ago with paying our Share. Our recent approach for a Diocesan loan has triggered a review of our debt. We still have a £11,854 debt to the Diocese from 2006, when we couldn't pay all of our Share. This means we cannot have a loan without clearing any debt and committing to pay our Share. The debt is expected to be written off eventually.

The meeting discussed whether we should be required to 'guarantee' future payments of the Share as part of a loan agreement. The meeting felt that we are committed to pay the Share and that this was all that could be asked of us. Any loan would be a facility we would hope not to use. Mike asked to speak to him.

f) About £15,500 available for further building works

[278] Progress report on reordering work (*Sheila*)

The builders finished a few days later than expected due to a funeral and additional painting work to completely finish the tower. Phase 2 is due to be completed in May in time for the Street Fayre. This will involve repositioning three of the pews to elsewhere in the church, with a 4th pew to be sold. A new Purbeck stone floor will finish this new open area, to match that of the tower. Restoration and placement of the font will be done when our conservators can fit us in.

Payment for Phase 2 is possible because of a £10,000 grant from the Erskine Muton Trust. Phase 2 is expected to be £4,000 cheaper than originally estimated, due to cheaper price for Purbeck stone.

Grants for conservation work on the wall paintings at St Andrew's is in hand. The chapel needs a new heating system designed with this work in mind. The electricians are consulting with the conservators over this. A final price on the electrical work cannot be given until the type of heating is known. The electrics require a complete rewire, using silicone covered wires (to resist damp) as required by new regulations. The earliest we can start work will be about mid-July.

Sheila expressed our grateful thanks to all our professionals, builders and staff at the DAC office for doing such a wonderful job and keeping the best in mind for both our listed buildings and us.

My Notes:

[279] Fundraising (Mel)

Mel highlighted the blue "Events" sheet. The recent Pamper Day raised £246. The Handley Street Fayre is in hand and the aim is to raise at least £2,000 (about £1,000 was raised last year). There will be about 10 stalls spread between the church and the street.

Mary Mills has offered to run a "Has Handley Got Talent" concert in the summer. John D is planning a Bridge evening in Tarrant Gunville hall, inviting Bridge clubs from around the area.

Bobby highlighted the Barn Dance to be held at The Shed in July.

[280] Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

To be held after the morning service at St Mary's on April 25th 2010. A Vestry meeting of the PCC will be held after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Reports to be prepared.

Sheila will be taking on the leadership of the Mothers' Union as well as continuing with Project Managing the building work. She will not be standing again as Churchwarden, which means there will be one churchwarden vacancy. Will we also need a treasurer after April 25th.

[281] Deanery Synod report (David S)

Bishop David opened the Synod (Triennium). The theme of his address was the calling for the Church to be 'One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic'. A 'road map' for the next three years was given.

A report about and from the Pioneer Ministries was given. Bishop Graham Cray praised the progress of these projects in their first year. More details from the website www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Salisbury Cathedral's running deficit of £500,000 was mentioned. The annual report is available from www.salcath.co.uk. David S also reported that 350 copies of the Sarum Link had been delivered.

[282] Any Other Business (AOB)

Bishop David's appeal for gifts to Sudan. David L suggested making a special outward giving of £100. John C (prop), Rita (2nd), carried.

Mel suggested a maintenance scheme by the Cumbria Clock Co. (£150). Churchwardens to approach Chris Wadge for advice, if favourable, to go ahead. David S (proposed), Mel (seconded), carried.

John C asked for help to find missing Mission Praise books (the full music editions). Ideas on there whereabouts welcome.

Mel thanked those coming off the PCC and closed with a prayer.

Next meeting: To be held after the APCM, April 25th, St Mary's

My Notes: