



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

**Date:** 2nd March 2011

**Venue:** The Vicarage

**Chair:** Rev Mel Durrant

**Started:** 7:33pm

**Ended:** 9:15pm

**Present:**

Mrs Naomi Booth	Mr David Salmons <sup>2</sup>
Mrs Bobby Carter	Rev Paul Skinner
Mr Ted Cox	Mrs Christine Warner
Mr John Cullingford <sup>1</sup>	Mr Mark Wolstenholme (Secretary)
Mr John Davis	Miss Carole Wyatt (Churchwarden)
Rev Mel Durrant	
Mr Richard Ironside (Treasurer)	<b>Apologies for absence:</b>
Mrs Jackie Molnar	Mr Mike Carter

1 Licensed Lay Minister

2 Diocesan representative

**Summary of meeting:**

- [51] • Welcome, reading from 1 Thessalonians 5 v4–11 and prayer
- [52] • Minutes of last meeting – approved
- [53] • Matters arising
  - (a) Electrical work at St Andrew's has started
  - (b) St Mary's roof repair – update
- [54] • Finance
  - (a) Appointment of Assistant Treasurer approved
  - (b) Annual accounts presented for review
  - (c) New accounting workbooks presented
- [55] • Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- [56] • Fundraising – update on main events planned
- [57] • Vision – where do we want the church to be in five years?
- [58] • Changes to St Mary's 9.30am service – drop BCP for six months
- [59] • Any Other Business
  - Mels license now a "common contract"
  - Noticesheets to be made available by email
- [60] • Date of next meeting – Sunday 10th April 2011 at St Mary's

**[51] Welcome**

Mel welcomed everyone and began the meeting with a reading from 1 Thessalonians 5 v4–11 and a prayer.

**[52] Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 12th January 2011 were approved and signed.

**[53] Matters arising**

a) The electrical work at Gussage St Andrew has started and expect to finish just over a week later. The old heaters will be removed. Conservation of the mediaeval wall paintings will begin in the Autumn. There may be a need for scaffolding which will be arranged when required.

b) St Mary's roof repair; Carole reported that we have been successful in our request for the Dorset Historical Churches Trust to convert our outstanding loan of £2,500 into a grant. They have also generously added an additional £2,500 which will give us £5,000 towards the roof repair.

No response from the insurers yet with regards to the roof claim.

The preservation department of East Dorset District Council have confirmed that no planning permission will be needed for the change in materials, from lead to steel, used for the roof repair. John Turnball, our architect, has recommended we get this in writing from EDDC.

John C has kindly gone back on the roof and added a further layer of weather proofing material to extend the life of the temporary repair.

We will not know the full cost of the repair until we've got the architect's fees and any VAT charges. Ricky had information on zero-rating VAT on repairs. We might well be able to apply for a certificate so that the building contractors can proceed without charging us VAT. Ricky to give Carole the details to see if we qualify.

John Turnball will be preparing the necessary drawings and specification so that we can put an application into the DAC for a Faculty. He has also suggested that we put in an application to the Erskine Muton Trust for funds. The application will need to be in by the end of March.

**[54] Finance**

a) Appointments – Maureen Penrose has agreed to take on the roll of Assistant Treasurer with Peter Goldstone to support.

Proposed; Ted C, seconded; Paul S and passed.

The roll of Gift Aid Secretary will be incorporated into the Treasurer's accounting system and be dealt with by Ricky.

**My Notes:**

**[54] Finance (continued)**

b) The provisional accounts for 2010 were presented to the PCC for review. The PCC expressed their thanks to David Lockyer and David Salmons for all their hard work on this.

c) Ricky showed the meeting the new workbooks to be used for future finance recording and explained how they would work. The workbooks use Excel spreadsheet software. The approach was well received by the meeting.

**[55] Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Due to the dates for Easter, the annual meeting for St Mary's will be held in place of the evening service on Sunday 10th April.

Chris Stokes will be standing as churchwarden.

**[56] Fundraising**

a) Street Fayre (Saturday May 28th) – Last year was very successful despite the weather. Ideas wanted to make our contribution even better. The goal is to raise £1,000.

b) Barn Dance – to be held in the Village Hall in the summer.

c) Summer Concert (July) – John C will be coordinating this. The plan is to make this a joint fundraising effort with 50% of the money raised going to the African school project supported by the Styles family. In this way it is hoped that the concert will be supported by more people from the wider village.

d) Winter Market – (November) Name changed from Christmas Fayre to better promote the event and because it wasn't close enough to Christmas! Bobby C will be taking feedback to fine tune the event and is holding a get-together at The Shed on Wednesday March 30th to thank all the helpers.

e) Songs of Praise – Will continue with cream teas before, on every fifth Sunday of the month.

**[57] Vision**

Mel continued the discussion about the future vision at St Mary's started at the last meeting and PCC away-day. Mel asked the meeting to think of where we see the church in five years. The following notes pick out the key points discussed;

That there should be a strong focus on mission with greater engagement with the wider village. To grow contacts and involvement with the different groups such as teenagers, families and retired people.

**My Notes:**

**[57] Vision (continued)**

The issue of youth and the church was discussed with ideas put forward. Music was felt to be a key component that could be used to engage with youngsters. It was recognised that the rural church faced a particular struggle when trying to attract young people and maybe working with the larger town churches, with their greater facilities and size, might provide a way forward.

Taking services out of the church, maybe combined with a picnic for example, could help us reach out to those that wouldn't want to come into the church building. Putting on a show or play was also suggested. Using a neutral space, such as the Village Hall, might help lower the barriers. The style or presentation of services ought to be kept under review as a mix of styles helps cater for different preferences.

Recent feedback on the times of the morning services at St Mary's hasn't been strong enough to make any changes here.

Taking up schemes, such as the solar feed-in tariff ought to be looked at further, as a means to improve our environmental standing and reduce running costs.

**[58] Change to morning services at St Mary's**

After Easter it was proposed to change the Book of Common Prayer morning service at St Mary's so that all the 9.30 morning services would use Common Worship. This would be a six month trial.

Proposed by Jackie M, seconded by Ted C and passed.

**[59] Any Other Business**

Mel has been moved from his fixed five year license to an open-ended common contract.

It is proposed to make the weekly noticesheets available before the Sunday services in an electronic form, sent out by email or through the website.

**[60] Date of next meeting**

Sunday 10th April at St Mary's after the 6.00pm Annual Meeting.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer.

**My Notes:**