



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

Date: 7th September 2011

Venue: The Vicarage

Chair: Rev Mel Durrant

Started: 7:30pm

Ended: 9:15pm

Present:

(NB)	Mrs	Naomi	Booth	(JM)	Mrs	Jackie	Molnar (Secretary)
(BC)	Mrs	Bobby	Carter	(MP)	Mrs	Maureen	Penrose
(MC)	Mr	Mike	Carter	(PS)	Rev	Paul	Skinner
(TC)	Mr	Ted	Cox	(CS)	Mr	Chris	Stokes (Churchwarden)
(MD)	Rev	Mel	Durrant	(RT)	Mrs	Rita	Taylor
(PG)	Mr	Peter	Goldstone	(CW)	Miss	Carole	Wyatt (Churchwarden)

Apologies for absence:

(JC)	Mr	John	Cullingford ¹
(JD)	Mr	John	Davis
(RI)	Mr	Richard	Ironside (Treasurer)
(DS)	Mr	David	Salmons ²

Absent:

(CW)	Mrs	Christine	Warner
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1 Licensed Lay Minister
2 Diocesan representative

Summary of meeting:

- [16] • Welcome, reading from Romans 12 and prayer
- [17] • Minutes of last meeting held 15th June 2011 – accepted
- [18] • Matters arising – Minor break-in at St Mary's, Fire exit sign discussed
- [19] • Ministry and Worship
 - [a] Contribution to LPA plans for young mum's coffee morning group
 - [b] Harvest Festival plans
 - [c] Holy Communion Services
 - [d] Organ Rota
 - [e] Songs of Praise Services – switch to one summer and one winter service
 - [f] St Andrews Services – ideas for Easter services requested
- [20] • Financial Update
 - Summary presented. Options for accounts discussed
 - Work on St Andrews – £900 overspend, but to be covered by external funding
- [21] • Buildings and Fabric Update
 - Kitchen, church path and sound system highlighted for future meeting
 - Solar panels discussed
- [22] • Fund Raising and Social Events
 - Harvest Lunch, Winter Market, Neil's Yard Pamper Day
- [23] • Synod Report
- [24] • Any Other Business
 - Vestry area being tidied up
 - Water supply for churchyard discussed
- [25] • Date of next meeting – Wednesday 9th November 2011 at the Vicarage

My Notes:**[16] Welcome and opening prayer**

MD welcomed members to the meeting and opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 12, followed by prayer.

[17] Minutes of the meeting held 15th June 2011

There were no amendments to the minutes although the following points were noted:

RT advised that there has been some negative feedback regarding numbers moving to St Andrews from St Mary's. The PCC confirmed that discussion at the last meeting had reiterated that people should be able to attend wherever they feel they can worship.

PS asked that for future finance reports full costs should be cited, i.e. under point 10 in the minutes £2,629 should have included the VAT and been reported as £3,155 so that a full cost position is shown.

CS proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by TC. All agreed.

[18] Matters Arising

CW advised the PCC of a recent minor break-in at St Marys, believed to have taken place over last weekend. There was evidence of contact with the coffee cupboard, the plaque on the model church had been forced off, the Aumbry had been slightly damaged, and there was also an attempt to enter the vestry. The incident has been reported to the Police, Crime Scene Investigators have taken fingerprints.

Discussion was given to removing the Emergency Exit sign on the Vestry door in case this indicates another route of exit from the Church. BC advised checking first to make sure fire regulations are not affected.

[19] Ministry and Worship**[a] Teddy Bear Drop-In Sessions**

RT advised that the LPAs have been discussing the introduction of a coffee morning session for young mums with children under 5, to be set up in the Spring of 2012. This would be supported by an LPA and other helpers who would look after the children whilst the mums had a coffee. The LPAs are requesting a start-up contribution of £100 to buy some floor mats and a safety gate for the church door. The plan is to start in the Spring so that CRB checks and other preparations can be fully completed.

Support was given by the PCC, and it was proposed by RT that £100 be given to the group, seconded by NB. All agreed.

MD also noted that the LPAs have been thinking about how best to keep an eye for those who are absent (stop attending) so that a friendly follow up call can be made. It is down to all of us to look out and care for each other.

[b] Harvest Festivals

The service at St Andrews takes place on Sunday 11th September, with St Mary's being on the 25th September. MD noted that Harvest Produce, or proceeds of sale of fresh produce, will go to the Trussell Trust and there will be an additional money collection to be shared between the Church Vision and

My Notes:**[19] Ministry and Worship (continued)**

Famine Relief in Africa through the Salvation Army. It was noted that attention needs to be drawn to the second collection so that attendees know it is being taken and what it is for.

[c] Holy Communion Services 9.30am St Mary's

MD advised that the current format for Holy Communion at St Mary's has been running for 6 months and he would like to review how things move forward. Only a few comments have been received although requests for feedback have been made verbally and via the Sunday newsheet. RT asked for clarification as to why the current format had been adopted, MD advised it was to use a format whose language is most accessible to attendees. Following extensive discussion it was agreed to formally seek views by adding a tear off slip to the notice sheet asking for feedback and for MD to mention in services.

RT asked if it was possible to reduce the number of servers at communion services where numbers are low. Following discussion it was agreed that for any future Communion services only 1 server will be allocated to a service, but when there are larger numbers there should be an additional server.

DS had raised the issue of choir members and the organists not being able to hear the sermons. MP advised there were no complaints from the Choir, but it was suggested that MD could position himself at an angle to help voice projection when talking.

[d] Organ Rota

MD advised that Angus Macleod will not be continuing as an organist due to deteriorating eyesight. JC is looking at possibilities to see how services can be covered; one option would be to not to have an organist for evening services. We might have to think about paying for an organist.

[e] Songs of Praise Services

MD advised that numbers for this service, which takes place on 5th Sundays, have dropped significantly since it began. Following discussion the PCC decided to run with 1 Songs of Praise in the summer and one in the winter and for any other remaining 5th services to take the normal evening format.

[f] St Andrews Services

MD asked for ideas with regards to an Easter service at St Andrews. The Harvest service and Christmas Carol service work well and he has been considering one around Easter time as a third "special" service for the year. CS suggested waiting to see what ideas come through St Andrews regular attendees as further meetings are planned re activities next year. MD asked for any ideas to be passed through to him.

[20] Financial Update

MD advised RI sent his apologies, due to commitments in Exeter today he couldn't make the meeting. MD circulated a summary report and financial papers, with certain points noted it was agreed to look at in more detail at the next meeting.

My Notes:**[20] Financial Update (continued)**

It was agreed that it would be helpful to have the finance papers circulated in advance of PCC meetings so members can consider them beforehand. MD reiterated his thanks to previous Treasurers, David Lockyer and David Salmons, and also all the work that RI is putting into setting up the new systems.

MD gave clarification under point 4 of the report of the church bank accounts; the Lloyds accounts are current and do not give interest; CCLA accounts do give interest but require some notice for withdrawal.

MD also advised that work is due to start at St Andrews and Peter Martindale's invoice will be £3,154 which includes VAT. There might be some additional spend if unexpected items come to light once the work starts. The Architect's invoice is also awaited but this will be minor as not a lot of work has been done by him. It is expected that once all the payments have been made from the ring-fenced St Andrews fund, it will be around £900 overspent. However, external funding of £1500 has been confirmed once the work has been completed and this will offset any overspend.

PS noted under point 2 of the report that Santander bank have previously advised that they don't charge charities for banking and withdrawing monies, it would be worth looking at this as RI explores the charges that Lloyds bank are levying.

CW noted that CCLA account signatures have been changed and gave each PCC member of copy of the Trusteeship details.

MD thanked RI for his continued work and also MP and PG as assistant treasurers.

[21] Buildings and Fabric Update

CS had previously circulated a draft list of desired building works at both St Mary's and St Andrews and asked for any additional items to be notified to him. Given the number it will be necessary to consider priorities at a future meeting.

MD noted that discussion has been given before to updating the kitchen at St Mary's, carrying out repairs to the front path and redecorating the Church. He also advised that a firm commitment of monies has been given to updating the sound and vision system of the Church once a plan is in place for this. PS also noted that the path to the vicarage needs to be included on the list.

Discussion was given to solar panels in terms of external funding that is currently available but only for a few more months. It was also recognised that the location of the panels would need to be carefully considered. It was agreed to discuss the list further at a future meeting.

[22] Fund Raising and Social Events**[a] Harvest Lunch**

BC noted that this will be similar to last year with catering provided for up to 50 people. There will be a small charge but the aim is to cover costs and make a small profit if possible.

My Notes:**[22] Fund Raising and Social Events (continued)****[b] Winter Market**

BC advised this will be held on the 12th November and due to the timing is not therefore being called a Christmas Fayre. An offer has been made by someone to be Father Christmas, but again it was considered that due to the time of the event it wouldn't make sense to take this offer up this year. The Market will be held in The Shed and more details will follow as planning develops.

[c] Neil's Yard Pamper Day

BC advised plans are being made for a Pamper Day in October using Neil's Yard products rather than The Body Shop as previously. More details to follow in due course.

[23] Synod Report

A number of reports had been circulated by DS ahead of the meeting. There were no questions raised regarding them.

[24] Any other Business**[a] Pentridge Fayre**

MD reminded members that this takes place on Saturday 10th September and starts at 2.30pm.

[b] Bonfire Night

MD advised that the Church has been asked to provide a sweet stall as in other years, so items are needed to sell at 50p each. Please help provide if you can.

[c] Vestry Area

MD noted that this is in the process of being tidied up.

[d] Water Supply

MD advised that Victor Fryer has offered to fund the cost of an outside tap for the churchyard. After discussion it was decided that it would be more beneficial to provide a taller tap within the kitchen area of the Church itself. It will be suggested to Victor that he could provide for this if he wished. MD also noted that a wheelchair rota is being looked at to help Victor attend Church.

[e] Diocesan Fund-Raising Meeting

PS asked if anyone was planning to attend this on the 4th October. No-one is intending to go.

[25] Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that this will be on the 9th November 2011, not the 2nd November as previously planned, due to All Souls service. This will be a normal PCC meeting; the meeting on the 7th December will be a Finance one.

There being no further business the meeting ended with prayer at 9.15pm.