



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

Date: 9th Novemebr 2011

Venue: The Vicarage

Chair: Rev Mel Durrant

Started: 7:30pm

Ended: 9:30pm

Present:

(NB) Mrs Naomi Booth
 (MC) Mr Mike Carter
 (TC) Mr Ted Cox
 (MD) Rev Mel Durrant
 (PG) Mr Peter Goldstone
 (RI) Mr Richard Ironside (Treasurer)
 (JM) Mrs Jackie Molnar (Secretary)
 (MP) Mrs Maureen Penrose
 (PS) Rev Paul Skinner
 (RT) Mrs Rita Taylor
 (CW) Mrs Christine Warner
 (CW) Miss Carole Wyatt (Churchwarden)

Apologies for absence:

(BC) Mrs Bobby Carter
 (CS) Mr Chris Stokes (Churchwarden)
 (JC) Mr John Cullingford¹
 (JD) Mr John Davis
 (DS) Mr David Salmons²

1 Licensed Lay Minister
 2 Diocesan representative

Summary of meeting:

- [26] • Welcome, reading from Isaiah 43 and prayer
- [27] • Minutes of last meeting held 7th September 2011 – approved
- [28] • Matters arising – Agenda timing, resignation of CS as Churchwarden, Teddy Bear Drop-in group news
- [29] • Ministry and Worship
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| [a] Weekly notice sheet | [e] External leaders |
| [b] Holy Communion format | [f] Open the Book – school initiative |
| [c] Remembrance Day service | [g] Wedding fees |
| [d] Christmas Carol services | [h] Patronal Service for St Andrew's |
- [30] • Buildings and Fabric update
- St Mary's church roof - quote for repair work
 - St Mary's Churchyard - update on extension
 - St Mary's heating - options being sought
 - Sound and Vision update - offer to cover costs
 - St Mary's path and solar panels
 - St Andrew's Wall Paintings update on costs
- [31] • Financial update – carried forward to next meeting
- [32] • Fund Raising and Social Events
- Autumn Fayre, The 2012 Sixpenny Handley Fayre, Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- [33] • Synod Report
- [34] • Any Other Business
- Prayer meetings in the church
- [35] • Date of next meeting – (Finance) Wednesday 7th December 2011 at the Vicarage

My Notes:**[26] Welcome and opening prayer**

MD welcomed members to the meeting and opened with a reading from Isaiah 43, followed by prayer.

[27] Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2011

CW proposed and TC seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All approved.

[28] Matters Arising**[a] Agenda issue**

MD – raised the issue of how far in advance the PCC agenda is sent to members. JM noted that it is intended to issue two weeks prior to the meeting, however this has at times been affected by holidays and other factors. It was agreed that the agenda will, as far as is practically possible, be issued two weeks before the meeting. It was also noted that it would be helpful to have the Financial Statement and any other papers issued ahead of the meeting too. MD noted however that there are some matters which aren't appropriate to circulate ahead of the meeting.

[b] Chris Stokes resignation as Churchwarden

MD advised the meeting that CS has decided to resign as a Churchwarden. In accordance with the procedural rules, this takes effect two months after notice is given to the Bishop. MD has been discussing the matter with CS for some time on a discreet basis; CS has been concerned about the impact of the role on his family and work commitments. He has also raised personal disagreement with regard to certain MD and PCC matters and has discussed these with relevant people. RT noted that in her view all things should come to the PCC. JM and CW noted regret concerning the decision, that we all have different views and should support MD and CS at this time.

The PCC noted their thanks to CS for all work he has done since taking on role.

[c] Timing of Financial Meeting

MD noted comment from DS regarding the timing of the Financial meeting, this is due to take place in December, as it has in other years. It was agreed by PCC members that the key issue is to have the financial update circulated earlier so timely decisions can be made and forward planning undertaken.

[d] Teddy Bear Drop-in Group

RT noted this is moving ahead as discussed at the last meeting. Good links are being established with the preschool group. NB agreed to make some fliers. RT drew attention to the Pamper Night the preschool group are running in November and encouraged others to go along if they can.

[29] Worship and Ministry

The PCC noted their thanks to Angus and Mary McCleod for all their service to the Church over a number of years and their involvement across all aspects of the music ministry.

[a] Weekly notice sheet

MD circulated short note from Margaret Durrant regarding the format and production of the weekly notice sheet. It was agreed that it is very helpful to have the sheet; MD confirmed it is put onto the Church website each week as well. A few months ago expressions of interest in receiving an electronic copy were sought but only one person wanted this. It was also agreed that printing the sheet on white paper is fine, especially given the additional cost that would be involved in printing on coloured paper, or in coloured ink. The PCC's general view was that it is read by those who attend the services.

My Notes:**[29] Worship and Ministry (continued)**

The PCC recorded their thanks to Margaret for her work in preparing this each week, all agreed it is very good. PG suggested putting some into the post office or shop if there are any spare. It was agreed to distribute any spare copies that are left on a Sunday.

[b] St Mary's 9.30am Holy Communion format

MD advised that further to seeking views from the congregation on the Holy Communion format, the four responses received had been split with two wanting to change back to the previous pattern and two asking for all BCP services. MD advised his recommendation was to move back to the old format and this was agreed by the majority of those present. PG suggested announcing this decision and advising there will be a periodic review and we can change if there is a need to. It was proposed by CW and seconded by PS. All bar one PCC member agreed with the decision. MD advised that Christmas Eve will be BCP and Christmas Day will be a CW Holy Communion even though it will fall as a BCP Sunday.

[c] Remembrance Day service

MD advised that a large congregation is expected, the Scouts will be taking part as in other years. On Friday 11th November, Ray Chalk will play his trumpet at 11am by the war memorial to remember the actual day and time.

[d] Christmas Carol services

MD noted that this will take place on the 16th December 2011 at St Andrews and the 18th December 2011 for St Mary's.

[e] External leaders

MD advised that Malcolm Pettit, a Methodist lay minister in Blandford has asked him to preach in January 2012. Malcom will preach at St Mary's at a later date. A team from St Paul's, Salisbury, are leading the 11.00 service on 4th December. MD has also been approached by the group Laudemaus asking if they can take a sung Evensong in June 2012. RT noted that Harvest this year had fallen on the same day as Back to Church Sunday. She also asked if the Church could consider providing a free or bring and share Harvest Lunch in future years. Other churches do not charge for this and it would be good to consider doing this if possible. It was agreed to consider this for next year.

[f] Open the Book

MD advised he had attended a training event recently. Open the Book is focused on delivering Bible stories into schools to provide children with an overview of the whole Bible. MD will bring more details to a future meeting to see whether we wish to take part in this and asked people to think if they would like to take part. It requires (ideally) a weekly commitment.

[g] Wedding fees

MD raised the situation of a young couple in the Church who wish to be married but might not be able to afford the wedding fees. MD asked the PCC if they would support asking the couple to only cover the legal fee element and not the Church aspect, at his discretion. All agreed. MP said the flowers could also be covered if necessary.

[h] Patronal service

DS has suggested a patronal service at St Andrew's on the Sunday closest to the 30th November. It was confirmed that we don't currently do this, but PS will discuss with DS as he is taking this years' service on that weekend.

My Notes:**[30] Buildings and Fabric Update****[a] St Mary's church roof**

MD circulated an update on the progress to date regarding St Mary's roof and replacement of the lead that was stolen in November 2010. A new quote has been received which totals £7,667 including VAT, scaffolding and a contingency sum. The company who have provided the new quote is recommended by the Church Architect, Mr John Turnbull.

The PCC resolved to accept the quotation from GSL for the work on St Mary's roof for relaying the valley gutter between the north aisle and nave roof interne coated stainless steel. Proposed by JM, seconded by NB. All agreed.

[b] St Mary's Churchyard

The PCC recorded its thanks to Richard Adlem for passing the land to the Church for use in extending the Churchyard. MD will write and formally thank him. The next steps are to apply to East Dorset District Council to change use from agricultural to churchyard use. Once this is obtained then the land will need to be consecrated by the Bishop.

The PCC resolved 'to apply for Change of Use for the extension to St Mary's Churchyard from agricultural land to burial ground, and to ask a bishop to consecrate the land.' This was proposed by CW and seconded by PS. All agreed.

MD and CW also noted that documents had been found from the time when the land was given to church in 1946 by Pitt-Rivers family. There is also an old plan of the burial plots which can be updated by a volunteer.

MD advised that the boundary alongside the recreation ground will need to be established. Advice on this have been received from Patrick Chick, TC suggested a hedgerow which would be in keeping with the countryside around. It might be possible to have input from the Woodlands Trust. It was agreed that TC will put forward some suggested planting options. MD suggested that it would be good to have some seating in the area as well. TC advised this had been suggested in the past.

The PCC recorded its thanks to George Jackson for all the work he has done in tidying churchyard, others have contributed but Mr Jackson has been the figurehead behind the work.

[c] St Mary's heating

PG note circulated details on possible future improvements to the heating systems and talked through the different options and approaches that could be taken as finances allows. He is also discussing options with Rob Churchill, who will visit St Mary's soon, Mr Churchill has done similar work at other churches in the area. MD advised he has also spoken to Simon Downes in the village, who has similar knowledge and may be able to make further suggestions. It was agreed that at present further details would continue to be gathered and then brought back to the PCC in the future for detailed discussion.

[d] Sound and Vision

MD advised that an offer has been made to cover the cost of upgrading the sound system. JC is looking into this and further details will follow in due course.

[e] St Mary's path

DS had raised this issue following recent Parish Council Meeting. It was also noted that the path tarmac is breaking up and options are being looked at for repairing it. A further update will come back to a future meeting.

My Notes:**[f] Solar panels**

It was noted that this is on-going with JC gathering information about different possibilities.

[g] St Andrew's Wall Paintings update

MD provide an update on the conservation work that has taken place, he noted that additional work and costs had been incurred due to unexpected findings whilst the work was carried out. The additional work means the cost of the work is now £3979.40 plus VAT, rather than the original quotation of £2,629 plus VAT which had been approved by the PCC.

[31] Financial update

As RI was not at the meeting and no papers had been circulated in advance, it was noted that the next update will be at the Finance meeting on 7th December 2011.

[32] Fundraising and Social Events update**[a] Autumn Fayre**

MD reminded members that the Autumn Fayre takes place on 12 November 2011, please note that setting up of stalls will commence from 10.15am.

[b] The 2012 Sixpenny Handley Fayre

This will be held on 7th July 2012 and will have an Olympic theme. It will not be a Street Fayre as in other years but based around the recreation ground, village hall, Shed and church.

[c] Diamond Jubilee celebrations

An event will be held on the 2nd June 2012 and be held in The Shed. MD welcomed ideas on what the Church could do as part of this. The possibility of an exhibition in the church over the long weekend was discussed.

[33] Synod report

DS had advised that the next meeting will take place on the 30th November, a report will be brought to the next PCC meeting.

[34] Any Other Business (AOB)

MC raised question about a prayer meeting for the Church. It was noted that the previous prayer meeting had faded away. It was noted that this could be considered at a future meeting.

MD concluded the meeting by noting that the Church is involved in a lot of activity, and that we are always looking at ways in which we can do things better and more effectively. He thanked members for attending the meeting.

[35] Date of next meeting

This will be the annual Financial Review meeting and takes place on the 7th December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Vicarage.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.30pm.