

**MEETING OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST
MARY'S, SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW
29th FEBRUARY 2012**

PCC Members Present: Chair – Rev Mel Durrant (MD)
Jackie Molnar (JM), Carole Wyatt (CW), Naomi Booth (NB), Ricky Ironside (RI),
Christine Warner (CW), Paul Skinner (PS), Peter Goldstone (PG), John Cullingford
(JC), David Salmons (DS), Maureen Penrose (MP), Ted Cox (TC); Mike Carter (MC)

Apologies: Bobbie Carter (BC), John Davis (JD)

(52) Welcome and opening prayer

MD welcomed members to the meeting and opened with a reading from Genesis 9: 12-17 followed by a prayer.

(53) Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2012

It was noted that Mike Carter had been present but not on list of attendees. With this amendment noted they were accepted as a true and accurate record.

CW proposed NB seconded, all in favour.

(54) Matters Arising not on the Agenda

Hot Water Urn

MD noted that this was now in place and he has written to thank the donor.

PCC Vacancies

MD noted that JM is stepping down from the PCC Secretary role from April. Please consider if this is something you could take on or have any suggestions of who could. MD also noted that BC, JD and CW end their term of office as PCC members in April. There could be up to 5 PCC member vacancies depending on Church membership numbers. In addition CW will end as Churchwarden MD noted thanks to CW for all that she does.

Website Minutes

MD noted that the Church Handbook states that PCC minutes are confidential and are just summarised at the Annual General Meeting. MD proposed that a summary of the minutes be put on the Church website and that these are prepared and agreed by the Standing Committee. *CW proposed this action, MP seconded. All in favour.*

LPA

MD noted that after the last PCC meeting he had emailed round requesting approval to endorse the authorisation of the Lay Pastoral Team. Our team consists of Lydia Carter, Ted Cox, Margaret Durrant, Maureen Lockyer, Jean Mayne, Margaret Jones, David Salmons and Carole Wyatt. MD circulated details of what the LPAs do. *PG proposed endorsement of authorisation of the LPA ministry, JM seconded. All in favour.*

Financial Update

PS noted that in the financial update at the last meeting RI had noted that he wished to put a further £1000 into the Reserves account to take the total to £7000.

PS proposed putting the additional money into the account, CW seconded. All in favour.

(55) Worship and Ministry

Evening Service Format

MD had asked at the last PCC meeting for consideration of his suggestion to have a mix of different style services for the Evening due to issues with the organ rota. MD noted this had also been discussed at the recent worship leaders meeting where the suggestion had been to always have Evensong. JC noted he that existing pattern could be amending by one service a month having a Bible study format or similar.

MD noted that we could incorporate Bible study or a prayer focus into an Evensong service format. PG suggested using Alpha, or similar, combined with songs and prayers. MC noted that trying something new on a Sunday evening might not be the best time as attendance tends to be low. JC agreed. MD asked for further thought and will also talk to those who regularly attend Evensong.

Christmas Day – two services

MD noted the discussions from the last meeting which considered providing two services on Christmas Day. One would be earlier and more traditional BCP service followed by a more informal one later on. The PCC noted that this might spread attendance too thinly, people might not attend a later service and the traditional format is generally accepted. It was agreed to retain one service but to make it slightly more informal by bringing the children into it more.

Christmas Day - Dinner

MD noted that suggestions relating to this from Margaret Durrant had been emailed round. JC suggested importance of achieving balance between doing voluntary good that that this might not be wanted by those it is offered to. PCC agreed it is important to identify the target audience, suggestions that this could be through article in The Downsman, conversations in village shops, through LPAs and similar. MD noted that discussions around this would continue in order to seek views.

Mothering Sunday, Holy week and Easter Services

MD noted that Mothering Sunday will be very child-focused at 10am with School children involved. The School Headteacher is having her baby baptised, Scouts are preparing posies.

Palm Sunday will be a combined service with Jess the Donkey in the morning and a Prayer Book Communion in the evening.

Easter Sunday will have morning services running at all the Churches. St Andrew's and St Mary's will be running at same time with St Mary's more informal than St Andrew's.

Other Events to be noted

MD noted that there will be a Kids Club on 26th May 2012 with a Kings and Queens theme.

On the Jubilee Weekend 2nd June 2012 the Church will be decorated over the weekend and on the Bank Holiday Monday will be offering cream teas.

On 25th July 2012 there will be Laudemus Evensong at 6pm in the Church.

On 1st September 2012 the Parnham Voices will perform for about half an hour in the Church. There will also be the Pentridge BBQ event on the same day but this will be an evening event.

MD noted that he is awaiting confirmation that John Arul can visit in June, if he does then he will speak at both morning services.

(56) Financial Update

RI circulated figures showing the Church accounts up to 31st January 2012. He confirmed that the two Lloyds accounts are now combined and HMRC Gift Aid has been received totalling £7,232.98. The reports presented show income and payments and the final Share payment for 2011 has been paid. RI noted that he has recorded a split in the report which shows how much is allocated to the Current and Fabrics elements so there is clarity now the accounts are combined. This shows that there is £10,135.51 is current and £6,691.37 is fabric. Some outstanding cheques still to be reconciled to bank statement which RI is still awaited.

Discussion considered using online banking in order to enable RI to have earlier access to the bank statement, but noting concerns over security - with cheque payments two signatures are required. DS suggested seeking advice from the Charity Commissioners about the use of online banking. It was agreed that RI will find out more information from them and also Lloyds TSB.

RI noted that the year-end accounts for 2011 are finished and about to be sent to the auditor, Mr Reed. Once the auditor has confirmed the accounts, RI will circulate approved copies. The PCC noted their thanks to RI for all the work he has done.

PG raised whether we should have a summary balance sheet, RI confirmed he has this but it had been missed in the papers present, this will be sent round in due course.

(57) Buildings and Fabric Update

St Marys Church

Roof - MD confirmed that this work is now completed.

Union Flag - MD noted that the Church doesn't have a Union Flag; PS advised he can source one. MD will write and thank for the donation in due course.

Chancel Paintwork - PG advised he has spoken to Farrow and Ball and they have advised it will be necessary to use a distemper product for damp materials. It looks like the work will only be needed up to the ledge as the only damaged part. PG to get a copy of colour chart to try and match to existing paintwork. When more details are in place PG will discuss with the Church Architect, John Turnbull. Question of whether a Faculty will be needed was raised, John Turnbull should be able to advise.

Churchyard, consecration, hedgerow and walnut tree, survey - MD noted that the hedgerow has now be done. Invitations to the Churchyard consecration at the end of March are being sent out. The survey work on the churchyard is well underway and moving forward swiftly. The walnut tree has been cleared.

Heating - PG updated the PCC on the discussion he has been having with regards to alternative hearing systems and the different suggestions that have been made on the options that could be followed.

The overall recommendation is around under-pew heating. If the pews were filled in at low level the heating would come up around people's legs. The suggested method would be to use tubular type units, which can be put on as and when required. They warm up rapidly, the benefit being that you don't need to try and heat the whole church

just appropriate areas. The electrical work would need to be done first and then sections of the tubular units. This which would be better financially. PG noted that the next stage is to talk to the architect to explore further; this could also involve visiting other churches where they have adopted this approach.

Sound and Vision - MD advised he has received an offer for £5,000 gift aided money to be spent on sound improvements; this would be in addition to the money already in the accounts to be spent on Sound and Vision. PG has spoken with another diocesan advisor on possible Sound system options and is waiting for their report. Initial estimates suggest the Sound system would be around £4000, more information to follow in due course.

Path - MD noted the samples which have been outside the church for viewing. There are two possible options where they could be used, one is the path from the Church door down to the lych gate, the other is to provide a path from the church to the Vicarage.

The PCC chose the Brittany Bronze sample for the path down to the lych gate. Work will now move forward on getting a quote for the different paths and seeking planning permission for a path to the Vicarage. Both paths would need a Faculty. *It was proposed by PS, seconded by MC that quotes for the paths are pursued and also for planning permission to be explored.*

St Andrew's Church - MD advised that the woodwork treatment is being done this week and a quote for replacing the curtain is awaited.

(58) Fundraising and Social Activities Update

The events being planned for the Diamond Jubilee on the 2nd June 2012, the Olympic Fayre on the 7th July 2012 were noted.

(59) Synod Report

DS advised that the next meeting is on 8th March and information will follow in due course. DS circulated details on other recent activity for information, he will email more round after 8th March meeting.

(60) A.O.B

MD noted that preparations are underway for the Annual Meeting, the standing Committee has a diary list of what needs to be done.

MD advised that he has been asked to assist with assemblies at the QE secondary school in Wimborne and sixth form ethics work.

(61) Date of next meeting

This will be the Annual Meeting at 6pm on Sunday 22nd April 2012 in the Church.

The meeting finished with prayer at 9.15pm