

**MEETING OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY'S, SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW
19TH SEPTEMBER 2012, 7:30PM, THE VICARAGE**

PCC Members Present:	Chair Rev Mel Durrant (MD)		
Paul Bishop (PB)	Naomi Booth (NB)	Clair Brown (CB)	Mike Carter (MC)
John Cullingford (JC)	Sue Curtis (SC)	Peter Goldstone (PG)	Maureen Penrose (MP)
Rev Paul Skinner (PS)	David Salmons (DS)	Carole Wyatt (CW)	

(01) Welcome and opening prayer

MD welcomed members and opened with a reading from Psalm 62 followed by a prayer.

(02) Apologies: Ted Cox (TC), Ricky Ironside (RI), Jackie Molnar (JM), Stella Symes (SS)

(03) Minutes of the meeting held on 30nd May 2012

Minutes to this meeting were agreed and signed.

(04) Matters Arising & Any Other Business

(4.1) Lay Vice Chair

John Cullingford has agreed to become the Lay Vice Chair:
Proposed CW seconded PS and passed unanimously.

(4.2) PCC Meetings

The Standing Committee suggest we have the same number of meetings through the year, but continue to 9:30pm (if necessary). As much information as possible will be circulated as beforehand (through the Chair).

(4.3) Evening Service Pattern

The Evening Service always being Evensong has lead to a slight increase in numbers.

(4.4) Changing Table

This has been installed and used! A real bonus to the facilities in the Church, especially as the Teddy Bears group is establishing it's self.

(4.5) Ladder

The ladder has been acquired and been used – Item 7.4.

(4.6) Olympic/Village Fayre

Sadly, due to the weather this event was not great, although the Church did raise a good amount of money. Thanks to all those who helped make the day a success. It is unlikely there will be another large scale village event. A decision will be made at the Community Fund October AGM if there is to be a village event next year.

If there is not a village event, MD suggested a Church Fayre could fill the gap left, perhaps on the Bank Holiday weekend when the Cowboys are in town. JC wondered if a day event followed by an evening concert, possible during the good weather of September might be an option? This discussion will be continued.

(4.7) Lee Abbey

Their new programme for 2013 will be released in December and places can be reserved at no cost for up to 2 months; trip proposed for the May half term and the invitation to include Pentridge. If you are interested in going, please let MD know. The cost is from £136 for two night full board, with worship, teaching and activities.

Action MD: 1st December will reserve 20 places for May weekend.

(4.8) Deputy Church Wardens

To ease the burden from Carole and for her to be able to have a Sunday off, JC proposed that the whole PCC consider themselves deputy Church Wardens to assist with duties. PG suggested a list of Warden responsibilities, particularly for Weddings and Funerals. CW pointed out that there should in fact be 2 Wardens.

(4.9) New Church Wardens x 2

CW is giving due warning that she is considering stepping down at the Annual Meeting next April. She has held the role for a number of years and feels it is time for some new input.

Thanks to CW for undertaking the position for as long as she has.

(4.10) PCC meetings held in the Church

DS proposed that the meetings should be moved back to the church. It was agreed that the vicarage is a better, warmer environment to hold meetings.

(4.11) Reredos

PS has received a request to obtain this artwork.

Action PS: Please advise that it is not available and cannot be removed from the Church.

(05) Financial Report

Funds from the Garden Party are not yet included in the figures. At least some of the money might be spent on the curtain and repairs to the chalice.

PS reported that if we don't spend anymore money this year it is likely we will break even. On the whole plate giving is are down - the Offertory collection has reduced by 50%. DS noted that attendance was down, as were the number of Funerals, but the number of Weddings had increased. Thanks to RI, PS, MP & PG for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

Action RI & CW: As signatories to combine accounts.

(5.1) Giving Envelopes

CW reported that there had been a considerable reduction in the number of Orange Envelopes – these are for regular/weekly giving by an individual, and can be Gift Aided if a form has been completed. The Yellow Envelopes are

for Gift Aid on a more ad hoc basis.

Action CW & MP: Re-approach everyone on the Orange Envelope list.

(06) Worship, Ministry and Mission

(6.1) Harvest – Back to Church Sunday

Harvest Services at St. Andrews this Sunday (23rd Sept); Pentridge to follow the first Sunday of Oct. St. Mary's will include the 'Back to Church Sunday' on 30th Sept. with a combined service at 11am. Who are you going to invite? Harvest gifts to be given to the Trussel Trust, PG will take them – Many Thanks. DS to provide the Harvest Loaf – Many Thanks. The School assembly is on Wed. 26th Sept. Please come if you can.

(6.2) Feedback on Services

The possibility of monthly Scout Parades was discussed. PG suggested sponsoring a group; the Church provide a Chaplain to the group for example or take a group through Confirmation.

Action PG: Talk to John Curtis

JC would like to see commitment to a united congregation, through holding monthly combined services. There are currently 6 combined services throughout the year

(07) Buildings and Fabric Update

(7.1) Sound & Vision; PG reported

Sound - update induction loop, improve sound distribution, control within church, better cordless microphones; much better reproduction of voice, music and recordings. £5K promised and other monies ring-fenced, giving us £7,500 already for this project; we have the money.

There are only 2 firms that can match our requirements: #1 API = £8,200 and #2 = £6,700. However, due to differences in the specifications from these companies it is hard to do a direct scope and cost comparison.

API are offering the best option: Works well with the spoken word and music; Hearing Loop updates; Blind spots within the Church dealt with; Battery operated system and Wireless, Head-set style microphone.

Vision – Better, retractable screen, back-projection, linked to laptop and sound system.

The total spend is in the region of £16,000, for which we have £6,250 promised and £950 already raised, leaving about £9,000 to be raised. There may be grants we can access for some of this.

Action Resolution that the PCC definitely wish to pursue both Sound & Vision projects.

Proposed CW 2nd JC Agreed All

(7.2) Heating; PG reported

Under pew heating provided by a convection heater; it's a low cost, simple system to provide local, ambient heat to warm legs and back. There is one available to set up a demonstration at one of the pews near the front. Approximately 2-3 heaters per pew and there will be convector heaters in the communal area and a curtain heater at the door to make a barrier to keep the heat in.

Action PG: Acquire quote from local electrician.

(7.3) Path

CW updated us with some good news – Permission granted from DAC and can now apply to Faculty. (Estimated cost £1,500 maximum.) Got the go-ahead! Thanks to CW

(7.4) Roof maintenance; Chancel

PG and JC have used the new ladder and cleared the blockage to the hopper and moss from the tiles – the damp patch is now drying out. Some tiles missing or need replacing and there are some spare tiles in the valley of the North Aisle. Thanks to PG and JC for climbing the roof.

(7.5) North Aisle

It was recommended that a meeting be held in the Church to look at the space, and possible developments to help with children's work, meetings etc.

(7.6) Churchyard

Congratulations to the team for their Highly Commended from 'Living Churchyard'

Working Party: 27th October.

PB reported that the shed roof could do with some attention and be painted with bitumachit so it lasts a little longer.

Action PS: Purchase bitumastic

(08) Fundraising and Social Activities

(8.1) Grace's Concert - 29th September

Hopes to be a very enjoyable evening. Raffle prizes please!

(8.2) Harvest - 30th September – Item 6.1

(8.3) Autumn Fayre - 24th November

(8.4) Scouts Bonfire Night - 3rd November

Please start making sweets for the church Sweet Stall - bags to be sold at 50p.

(09) Synod Report

This has already been distributed. Thanks to DS and TC

MD noted that he is now on the Diocesan Synod and will be for the next 3 years.

(10) Date of next meeting Wednesday 24th October 2012, The Vicarage, 7:30pm

The meeting finished with prayer at 9.30pm.