

**MEETING OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY'S, SIXPENNY HANDLEY WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW  
16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013, 7:30PM, THE VICARAGE**

|                             |                            |                   |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PCC Members Present:</b> | Paul Bishop (PB)           | Naomi Booth (NB)  | Clair Brown (CB)     |
| Mike Carter (MC)            | Rev Mel Durrant (MD) Chair | Stella Symes (SS) | Maureen Penrose (MP) |
| David Salmons (DS)          | Rev Paul Skinner (PS)      | Carole Wyatt (CW) |                      |

- (01) Welcome and opening prayer:** MD opened with a reading from Psalm 105 followed by a prayer.  
**Apologies:** Ted Cox (TC), John Cullingford (JC), Sue Curtis (SC), Peter Goldstone (PG), Ricky Ironside (RI), Jackie Molnar (JM),
- (02) Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012:** A true and accurate record. Proposed: CW, Seconded: MP.
- (03) Matters Arising & Any Other Business**
- (3.1) Lee Abbey** Dates provisionally booked: 10-12<sup>th</sup> May; *Renew, Refresh, Resource*. £142/person full-board, £25 non-refundable deposit. A great weekend. Please confirm asap to Margaret.
- (3.2) Church Warden** A reminder that CW finishes at the end of April 2013. Summary of duties attached with the Agenda.
- (3.3) Treasurer** Catherine Chapman has agreed to take on this role. We will have a meeting with MD CW and RI as soon as possible to talk about hand over.
- (3.4) Auditor** We will ask Catherine for advice.
- (3.5) Electoral Roll Officer** Bill Chorley has agreed to take this on. Thanks to CW for organising this.
- (3.6) Sudan Link** Milton and Blandford Deanery are now officially linked with Rokon Diocese, South Sudan. DS asked that they be included in our prayers. If you are interested in being the link person, please see MD.
- (3.7) The Real Easter Egg** Leaflet circulated with the details, they retail at £3.99 and include the Easter story and a fairtrade chocolate egg. CB to co-ordinate the ordering of the eggs.
- (3.8) Parnham Voice** This choir has asked to hold a concert in the church on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- (04) Worship & Ministry**
- (4.1) Review of Christmas Services** Christingle: CB suggested it be at an earlier time of 3 or 4pm. Please ask families if this would be better. St Mary's Carol Service had reduced numbers this year – because there wasn't a children's choir. Should this service become more of a family service rather than traditional Carols? Gussage and Pentridge have traditional service; perhaps Handley could be different? A children's choir would need someone to organise it. Please discuss. Date was discussed – decided 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm.
- (4.2) Lent Course** This year the Lent course will look at The Big Story, from Christmas through to Easter, raising issues and questions over 5 sessions. Different leaders will cover each section as we discuss questions and issues raised. Please come along. Tuesdays in Lent.
- (4.3) Easter Services** Any thoughts or inspiration – most welcome!
- (4.4) Talk at Annual Meeting** beginning now, and continuing at the Annual Meeting, from questions by Bishop Nicholas; *what is the personality and character of our church? What are our priorities? Is there one thing we should take on (recognising that might mean we stop something else)?* Discussion ensued and it was agreed that congregation numbers need to rise, particularly amongst younger people. It was agreed that special and celebration services swell the numbers, but the same people do not come at other times of the year. Issues within our community include the losing of the Post Office and possibly the pub, the lack of affordable housing or care for the elderly.
- (05) Chancel Repair Liability** Thanks to Nick Sherman for all the detail and lengths he has gone to. It seems there may well be liabilities in the parish, but we cannot find out where without spending more money than we would get. The position of the PCC is thrown into question. (A different issue is that we would not claim these, anyway!) Nick has drafted a letter to the Registrar asking for advice.  
**Action:** Letter to be circulated.
- (06) Finances** RI will have the accounts available for audit at the beginning of February. Thanks to RI.  
 £3,400 is left over at the end of the year, therefore Charitable giving can proceed. Following analysis for the year, it should be possible to budget for 2013. Thanks to PS for his continued work on the finances.
- (07) Buildings & Fabric**
- (7.1) Path:** We will proceed as soon as the weather permits.
- (7.2) Sound & Vision:** Waiting on definite quotes from the preferred supplier.
- (7.3) Electrics & Heating:** CW and PG met Simon Wallworth (electrician) and awaiting quotes.
- (7.4) Gussage St Andrew Quinquennial:** Working Party as soon as weather better. A bespoke key safe is being made locally and will have a numbered padlock.  
**Action:** Date to be set for the working party.
- (7.5) Gussage Curtain:** £1,400 incl VAT Funds raised from the Garden Party will cover the cost of the new curtain.
- (08) Outward Giving Review** The list of charities was last reviewed in 2009. Please pass suggestions for any changes to the Standing Committee for future discussion. (List of current charities is in the Church on the notice board)
- (09) Synod Reports** DS circulated Synod Reports, including an update. For further details please contact DS.  
 Our thanks to DS for his continued work as Deanery and Diocesan member.
- (10) Date of next meeting** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013, The Vicarage, 7:30pm. Then Annual Meeting Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 6pm.

The meeting finished with prayer.