

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

<b>PCC Members Present:</b>	Sheila Bradley (SB)	Clair Brown (CB)	Bobbie Carter (BC)
Catherine Chapman (CC) Treasurer	Ted Cox (TC) Deanery	John Cullingford (JC)	Rev Mel Durrant (MD) Chair
Peter Goldstone (PG)	Stella Symes (SS)	Maureen Penrose (MP)	Rev Paul Skinner (PS)
Roy Warner (RW)			

**(01) Welcome and opening prayer:** MD opened with a reading from 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 followed by prayer.  
*Apologies: Paul Bishop, David Salmons, Sue Curtis*

**(02) Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013:**

*Resolution A true and accurate record: Proposed: SS, Seconded: RW, Agreed.*

**(03) Finances**

- (3.1) With regards to the query as to whether the accounts should be shown as Accrual or Cash, CC had attended the Treasury Training and the diocese want them shown as Cash.
- (3.2) Still awaiting the invoice from Fawcetts for work done.
- (3.3) Restricted Funds show specific monies for specific items and money raised expressly for these items. Other fundraising and general donations are included in the general 'pot'. The 'promise' of funds for an item is not noted within the statement and it was suggested that a footnote be added to the statement to include such details for future records. At the moment there is one promise of £5,000 (to be giftaided) towards the sound.
- (3.4) £2,034.54 gift aid banked in July.

**(04) Matters Arising & Any Other Business**

There were no matters arising or AOB.

**(05) Worship & Ministry**

- (5.1) **Grace's Concert/Musical Allsorts** £5 ticket, a great fund raising opportunity. Proceeds will be shared between the Church and Project Uganda (as written about in The Downsman)
- (5.2a) **Parnham Voices** Making a return visit as they liked our church very much: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm. Tickets £5 on the door.
- (5.2b) **Jamie Walton Concert** 5<sup>th</sup> October at The Barn, Woodyates, fundraising for Pentridge church. Tickets £35 from Mary Ferguson or Jane King
- (5.3) **Lee Abbey Visit** We are book for 27-29<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Please talk to those who went last year and think about coming.
- (5.4) **Child Protection Policy** We have a policy dating from 2004. We need to check with the Rural Dean as to whether this requires reviewing/updating.  
*Action: MD*
- (5.5) **Harvest** 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 6pm St Andrew; 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am St Mary's; 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 11:15am St Rumbold's.
- (5.6) **Paul's Status** Paul's office here as 'Assistant Curate under Common Tenure' has lapsed to 'Permission to Officiate'. We can write to the Bishop asking for Paul to be licensed as 'Assistant Curate'. The advantage is that Paul can attend training courses and chapter meetings. His status will be reviewed periodically. The meeting thanked Paul for his ministry in this place.  
*Resolution: to ask the Bishop that Paul's license as an Assistant Curate to this benefice be renewed. Proposed: TC, Seconded: MP, Agreed.*
- (5.7) **Mel's Sabbatical** 11 years after ordination there is the opportunity to apply for a sabbatical (formally called *Extended Ministerial Development Leave*) of up to 12 weeks. MD is applying for July-Sept 2014. This includes working on a resource website for rural ministry as well as his own artwork and looking at his ministry after retirement. It will also be his silver wedding anniversary and they hope to travel to Canada.  
*Resolution: To support the vicar in his application for Extended Ministerial Development Leave Proposed: BC, Seconded: PG.*
- (5.8) **Feedback from August Combined Services**

The services were a mix of traditional and modern hymns, with an 'all age' slot, and then the children taken into the vestry for stories during the sermon. This seemed to work well. Children, young people and families are an important group that should be encouraged and made to feel welcome. They are the future of the church. There is a balance to be made so no group feels excluded. A significant proportion of the formal service are 70+ and some feedback was not happy with the modern/action songs. They are concerned about losing some of the formality. Conversely, some of the families didn't come because of worries about the formality.

The nature of the Combined Services over the year will naturally vary. For instance, Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday are more child-orientated, while Easter Sunday is more formal. We all have to accept that if there is a part of the service we do not enjoy, someone else is being blessed. We can give them those few minutes as a gift. When services are combined, should they be called 'Combined Family Services'?

The use of PowerPoint was good for the songs, but maybe unnecessary for the formal prayers.

One feedback said: *I come to church because I want to come and I want to worship God. I love being with whoever is there – it doesn't matter to me what time the service is, the songs/hymns, the people who are there – the truth is, if the service evolved or became the service that wasn't right for me, then I would know and it would be between me and God about what I should do. I am of a generation who are used to change – things change, develop, move on – I work in an environment like that. Things to me just aren't set in stone but I absolutely respect those whose feelings about change are different to mine. God made us unque and He wants us to be true to ourselves, always treating others as we would expect to be treated – with respect – whatever our differences.*

*Action: The Senior Management Team to look further at appropriate Combined Services*

SB raised the issue of inviting parents to attend the School Assembly held in the church every half term.

**Action:** MD to raise this at school

**(5.9) Sidespersons, Intercessors, Readers**

We are short of sidespersons, particularly at the evening service. In the previous meeting members of the PCC agreed to act as Deputy Churchwardens to support SB. Please think of how you can help – if you think of anyone else who might be appropriate, please talk to the vicar. The rota is compiled by Mike Carter.

**(06) Buildings & Fabric**

**(6.1) Sound and Vision** The Faculty application has been sent to the Diocese and we are awaiting the next phase.

**(6.2) Heating** PG had visited Broadchalke church; their underpew heating and curtain heater at the door is good.

However, it is also double the price to around £300/pew.

So we can apply for Faculty and grants when needed, the following Resolution was passed.

**Resolution:** To put in a new system. Proposed TC, Seconded: CC, Agreed.

**(6.3) High Speed Broadband** Wessex Internet is the independent company proposing this and require enough people to sign up for it. There was mention of BT running a similar scheme, but it seems this is behind schedule. We are unsure if this will proceed, but so we can move ahead if appropriate the following Resolution was passed.

**Resolution** To install the relevant equipment for the HSB. Proposed: PG, Seconded: BC, Agreed.

**(6.4) Front Path** Details are with the architect who is organising a contractor. All permissions have been granted and we are assured the work will be done soon.

**Action:** SB will chase this up.

**(07) Synod Reports:** Thanks to DS for his report, previously circulated, and to DS and TC for their work.

**(08) Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm, in the Church. The meeting finished with prayer.