

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2nd June 2014

Those present:

John Rogers (Chairman)	Roger Toms	Sally Cairns
Joan Crossman	Pauline Willis	Janet Fagg
Rosemary Cooper	Alan Rutter	Pat MacDonald
Caroline Heron	Denise Easteal	Sheila Parker-Boyes
Laurie Haseler	Patrick Woodlock	Harry Dykes
Jenny Foakes	Alison Murray	Jane Masson
Trevor Greaves		

Apologies:

Jenny Beeneey

The Rector gave a warm welcome to everyone, especially the new PCC members and Sally Cairns, the new Churchwarden. He also welcomed Glenis and Eileen who have come along to join in the substantive item. He continued by reading a passage from the book "Finding my way home" by Henri Nouwen, which was used in place of the usual prayers.

Substantive item – St Michael's 825 year celebrations

This was dealt with as the first item on the Agenda in order that Eileen and Glenis were not delayed.

The year has started with the Medieval Fayre which was a great success and will probably continue for another 18 months. The highlight of the celebrations will be the Flower Festival at the end of September. (26th – 28th September) A recital on the Friday evening, being organised by Jo, one of our Ringers and a talented musician, starts the weekend. There will be lunches and teas served on the Saturday. Eileen has this in hand, together with the actual Flower Festival. She has already raised most of the funds needed and will be looking for volunteers to help on the day. Olivia Graham, the Archdeacon, will be preaching at the 9.30 service and there will be a Parish lunch on this day. This weekend will be a big Outreach celebration of all things great at St Michael's in the last 825 years. It needs to be advertised in the July/August magazine and also in the XN publication. Glenis is keen that this is the start of the celebrations and will continue for another year. Please feed in any suggestions for ways to celebrate to her in order that she may keep the local press well informed.

Expectations of a PCC member and Trustee Leaflet

A leaflet entitled "Trusteeship" was given to every member (copy in pigeonhole for members not at the meeting). The Rector advised that it gave a good understanding of the responsibility of Trustees and asked that everyone takes it away and comes back with any questions. He went on to explain how PCC meetings are conducted. He runs the meeting at a brisk pace ensuring that all voices are heard and asked that people made sure he notices them if they had something to say. He also advised that we listen to one another and work together with patience. When decisions are made, it is the duty of each member to support the decision whether in agreement or not.

DE asked that everyone introduce themselves as she attends the 8.00 service and doesn't know everyone.

All members of the PCC are encouraged to join one of the various sub committees. A Chairperson for both Events Committee and the Church Hall is needed. HD asked what the various committee functions were. The Rector explained that all sub committees reported back to the PCC, the Standing Committee being the only committee able to make financial decisions on its own. This committee is made up of Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and one other from the PCC. RCoo has been this representative over the past year and is happy to continue. **All in favour.** The Fabric Committee look after the fabric of the church, Tilston Lodge and the Church Hall.

Finance

The figures for the 4 month period from January to April had been circulated. The first period comparisons against budget are difficult to understand due to straight line phasing but a further set of figures as at the half year stage will be circulated for the next meeting and these will make comparisons against budget easier to understand. Last year's figures will be circulated for final approval once the Auditor has agreed them.

CH asked if the figures could be shown differently as she was struggling to make sense of them. The treasurer uses a particular finance package approved by the PCC which is very detailed but sometimes confusing from the way that the figures are input to each section. A very lengthy discussion followed and everyone was assured that a budget for the year had been agreed, albeit a slight negative one, and every effort will be made to keep to this budget.

Further lengthy discussion followed when Oliver's roof and restoration figures were circulated. Concern was expressed that funds were in place to complete the second half of the roof works. The Rector assured everyone that cash is available to complete the project but further fund raising is needed to repay the outstanding loans. In the unlikely event of everyone wanting these repaid immediately, there would be a deficit of some £12000. A faculty has to be granted to complete the work and this would not be given if it could not be shown that the funds were in place. From experience of working with the Architect and Contractor for some time, there is no reason to believe that the work will not be completed within budget. There is a contingency figures built into the estimates. The Core Group has looked at the figures with the Architect and Contractor and they are consistent with the prudent approach adopted for previous phases of work. The Rector explained the Parish Share to new members saying that we had negotiated a lower figure of £45000 for 2014 enabling £30000 to be placed in the Roof/Restoration Fund.

The Rector asked the PCC for a continuing commitment to take this to the Diocese to apply for a Faculty to finish the roof project. He put a motion to the meeting to complete the roof project at an estimated cost of £78000, including professional fees. 18 members in favour, 1 against.

The meeting wished to thank Pauline for all the work she puts into the accounts. It is no easy task

Tabled Reports

Since circulating the Stewardship minutes (January 2014) the committee have met again and DE brought 3 points to the meeting

1. Communicating from the Pulpit – Committee members who attend the 8.00am service would like the notices at the end of the service (JC commented that this should be done at the 9.30 as well to ensure that the Sunday School hear anything important.) The Rector advised that this had previously been discussed at length and would not be changed
2. Could a Parish Quiet Day be arranged sometime in 2015 away from Tilehurst. DE was asked if she would take this on board. She will give it some thought
3. Area Contacts – the letter that used to be prepared has been stopped and a postcard is being designed by the Marketing Group to replace the letter as a reminder to people of what an area contact does. This is a very useful means of communication. **PCC all in agreement of this change.**

Updates from previous meetings

Mission – AR advised that most things in the Mission programme had been looked at and many are work in progress. The idea of contacting everyone in the street mentioned in the pew notice has been abandoned as there are not enough volunteers to do it. JFo is looking at a Eucharist for children and the uniformed organisations. She is hoping to have the first service ready for the all age worship on 9th November. Iris Court is now open and an approach from St Michael's has been made, giving them a complimentary copy of the magazine. It was suggested we host an afternoon of welcome for them.

The new service booklet for Ordinary time had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Rector has received many comments which he will be looking at. It will then be used as a trial on Trinity Sunday for the period until Advent. There will also be a new setting for the music responses. The Rector pointed out that the service format is the responsibility of the Incumbent and the PCC has a right to veto this, but if they do then the service format reverts to the Book of Common Prayer! **PCC all in favour of the trial.**

The Rector was very disappointed at the response following his report at the APCM concerning the 5 marks of mission where he asked for feedback and no-one has come forward. He repeated these Marks and asked that we concentrate, initially, on the first 3, think about them, pray about them and give him feedback.

Restoration – As reported in Oliver's figures, all outstanding items are still to be done when funds available but the Rectors' board needs to be done as a priority as the item was raised at the APCM. The current board is damaged beyond repair and it is proposed to have a new one made with calligraphy writing on white vellum and suitably framed. The cost will be approximately £600. Once commissioned, examples will be available. When production is approved, then a faculty will be needed to hang the board. Discussion followed as to whether the funds should be approved in view of the reservations earlier but it was felt that sentiment is also important. The Rector proposed that we have an appeal specifically for the new Rectors' Board. He will talk to Oliver regarding how this can be done **All in favour.**

Roof Update – already covered

Churchyard – proceeding very slowly, awaiting response from the Local Authorities.

War Grave Plaque – PMacD passed her Ipad round with pictures of the plaque and a suitable position. This will be discussed further at the next meeting

Church Hall

Approximately 6 weeks after the new floor had been laid in the Church Hall following the flood, it had rippled. A meeting was held 3 weeks ago between the contractor, architectural advisor, specialist drying contractor and the loss adjustor with an unsatisfactory outcome. If replacement is needed, it will not be covered by insurance. It will be left for a further couple of months to see if it settles.

New Fire Exit signs have been provided at a cost of £100

Christian Aid

JC reported a final figure of £1975.36 plus an estimated Gift Aid figure of £187.30 making an excellent total of well over £2000. She thanked everyone for their support especially the 4 people who actually pounded the streets this year. A breakdown of these figures are on the notice board at the back of the church.

Training on Sound System

JC felt that training on the sound system is necessary for anyone who has to use it. She was asked to speak to Gordon Cooper

Correspondence

1. JC had received a "thank you " card from Rosa for the gift she was given at the APCM
2. JC had received the annual letter from The Link asking for nominations for their disbursement of funds. It was agreed to forward the names of 2 charities – Launchpad and Look good, Feel better (a charity supporting women with cancer) She will advise the Link
3. The Rector reported to the PCC that he had received a letter from the Bishop re Intinction of wafers at Communion.

Minutes of the meetings held on 24/03/14 and 07/04/14

The minutes of the above meetings were accepted as a true record

Proposed by JFa, seconded by PMacD

Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

07/04/14 – Tilston Lodge rent review – ongoing

AOB

JFa – She had been asked to comment on the All Age Worship last Sunday and the lack of Sunday School attending. JF responded saying it is ALL AGE worship, it is not second rate, just different. Most people enjoyed it (and the ice cream!)

TG – promoted the Mens' Breakfast on 14th June which, this time, is open to ladies.

PW – Advised that there are Calor Gas containers in a metal container behind the Church Hall which could be seen as dangerous. TG to talk to Hall Manager.

The Rector thanked everyone for their patience and indulgence at such a marathon meeting and closed at 10.00pm with the Grace

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 22nd July

