

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14th January 2014

Those present:

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| John Rogers (Chairman) | Rosa Bardwell | Roger Toms |
| Joan Crossman | Pauline Willis | Jenny Beeney |
| Wendy Bertin | Rosemary Cooper | Janet Fagg |
| Jenny Foakes | Trevor Greaves | Alan Rutter |
| Pat MacDonald | Sheila Parker-Boyes | Giles Winter |
| Peter Shirley-Quirk | | |

Apologies:

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| Denise Eastale | Laurie Haseler | Linda Toms |
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The Rector opened the meeting with prayers

Substantive item – Mission

Following the last PCC meeting, the mission group, together with some members of the PCC have met to concentrate their efforts on making worship more meaningful. They have taken major topics separately and looked at each of them. The topics are Welcoming, Music, Liturgy, Sermons, Sound and Lighting, Children and Nurture. They are meeting again on Thursday to discuss further. Several further points were then raised:

Affirming the donations should be more noticeable (The Rector is now doing this)

The Sunday School leaders now missed the notices as they are read out at the beginning of the service (The Rector will address this)

At present we are unable to do outreach witnessing but will concentrate on getting people into church and holding on to them.

The Rector is having a meeting with Christian Aid as St Michael's no longer has anyone to organise the street collections so maybe we have to do something different to support this initiative.

Finance

No figures were available for this meeting but GW reported that he had submitted the Gift Aid paperwork to the Inland Revenue and would expect to receive £14000 returned.

2014 Marriage and Funeral Fees

A copy of this year's proposed fees were circulated to the meeting (copies in pigeon holes for non-attendees). They only reflect a rise in the statutory fees, all others kept the same which gives a minimal increase. A question was asked whether all the problems of last year have been resolved. The Rector advised that he has discussed them with the new Archdeacon and has heard nothing further.

The Rector asked that the meeting agree to implement these figures for 2014.

AGREED

Churchyard maintenance – Curtis renewal

Neil Curtis is prepared to continue his contract for 2014 at the same rate (£7000 for the year) **The Rector proposed this be accepted. AGREED.** RT will discuss minor details with Mr Curtis.

Other Tabled Reports

Stewardship 16/9/13 and Fabric 5/11/13
No questions were raised

Updates from previous meetings

Restoration:

Clock – Oliver has resumed investigations on a grant for the clock
Rectors Board – no news
Lighting – This is with the architect
Organ surround and Sound desk – these need to match existing furniture.

One quote has been received and we are awaiting a second quote.

Sound System – continuing problems with the rechargeable batteries still being resolved.

Roof Update:

The 2 side aisles are now complete and it is planned to commence the Chancel roof in May/June.

Churchyard:

The Rector has a meeting on Thursday to fill in all the documentation from the Coroner's Office. The Letter to Bereaved Families will be finalised at the same time.

Church Hall

The repairs are now complete and the Rector urged members to go and have a look at the excellent work. The architect had shown concerns at the finish of the floor in Room 3 which is already becoming scratched but it was felt that this was inevitable.

The changes in the booking form has been left until the repairs were finished. There will be a meeting on Thursday to see how bookings will be processed as the card payments system is now up and running. The terms and conditions of bookings need to be reviewed following complaints re noise.

Following a virtual meeting of the Standing Committee it was agreed to increase all fees by £1 per hour from 1st January 2014.

JC asked that ongoing funds be allocated for the Church Hall when preparing the annual budget.

Correspondence

Visits to Oxford Cathedral – JC had received invitations for Church Groups to visit the Cathedral. Passed to Events committee, but probably needs to be given to MU and Wives Groups

Facebook – St Michael's will run with this idea for a few months and see if it is worth continuing. Several members expressed favourable comments.

Morlais Kitchen – JC had received a letter from Carole Aspinall with her concerns regarding the kitchen in the Morlais Room. This caused a lengthy discussion resulting in JFa being asked to organise a meeting with the main users of the kitchen to get any issues resolved. The Rector re-iterated the need for working together and helping each other when problems occur – as one member said – What Would Jesus Do?

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2013

The Rector asked that these be accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting.
Proposed by JFa, seconded by PMacD and signed by the Rector.

Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

Christmas Collections – JC noted that the Christmas Collections are to go to National Churches Trust. She had advised Oliver Jenks accordingly. This is from the Nativity Service, the Carol Service and Midnight Mass. It was noted that over 1000 people attended the Christmas services which was wonderful.

Brass Band Concert – this raised £450

Mower – RCoo to liaise with PMacD re the purchase of a new mower to the value of £450

AOB

PMacD – Several people have commented to her that the Sick List in its current form has lost its focus. This created a lively discussion ending with the Rector confirming that he has no intention of changing the way it is done. Prayer is fundamental to what we are about and it is very important that the people that have asked for our prayers know that they are being prayed for by name.

TG/RCoo – Advised the PCC that John Hickman, a former Churchwarden at St Michael's had died.

[**14/1/14** – JC had received various returns from the Diocese for completion. She has confirmed that RB will be dealing with them]

The meeting closed at 8.50pm with the Grace

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY (NOTE - CHANGE OF DATE)

FINANCE MEETING – MONDAY, 10TH MARCH (NOTE - CHANGE OF DATE)