

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 17th February 2014

Those present:

John Rogers (Chairman)	Rosa Bardwell	Roger Toms
Joan Crossman	Pauline Willis	Janet Fagg
Rosemary Cooper	Jenny Foakes	Trevor Greaves
Alan Rutter [part]	Pat MacDonald	Giles Winter

Apologies:

Denise Easteal	Linda Toms	Jenny Beeney
Peter Shirley-Quirk	Sheila Parker-Boyes	Wendy Bertin
Laurie Haseler		

The meeting opened with prayers

Substantive item – Mission

Alan reported a mixed picture

Some parts of the programme are coming on well – there are some ladies involved in making banners, the drama group is up and running, with its first production planned for Palm Sunday and the Nurture course is being tried out at the moment.

There has been no progress on the service booklets but JR acknowledged that Liturgy is his responsibility.

The choir and some members of the congregation rehearsed the new setting for the Communion service which they enjoyed. Further work is to take place with GW and PS-Q. Other aspects are not moving forward and AR is taking steps to address the missing links.

The Welcomers are doing a good job, 28 newcomers have been identified in the past year, some of which now come regularly and the question was asked if we could do anything better which would be good for new worshippers (and existing ones) Ideas to Alan please. JR asked AR to update people on the Mission programme at all services next Sunday and advised the PCC that it is their corporate responsibility to promote the Mission programme.

[AR left the meeting]

Finance

The yearend accounts will be discussed at length at the Finance meeting on 10th March but the outlook is very positive. The accounts will be circulated to members as a hard copy a week before the meeting to allow any questions to be given to PW before the Meeting.

Other Tabled Reports

Events – It was noted that the date of the BBQ has changed to 2nd August

RCoo circulated a Deanery Synod summary and commented that it was good to visit different venues to see what other churches were doing. JR noted, with gratitude, the Synod's support for the work on the roof.

Updates from previous meetings

The Core Group has met to discuss the outstanding items regarding the Restoration

Clock – Oliver Jenks is investigating the possibility of an independent grant

Tower – Re-decorations and plasterwork still to be done

Rectors' Board – The Core Group has approved in principle a new board to be made out of vellum – Samples to be approved

Lighting – Some areas are not as good as they should be and the Architect is progressing with this

Organ surround and Desk – Tenders have gone out, one reply which is very expensive, Await further responses

Sound System – fingers crossed, now working well

Roof update – the architect and contractors are working together to finalise the quote to finish, then a faculty will be sought to complete the work in June

Churchyard - the closure programme continues. JR has had correspondence with the Coroner's office which has resulted in a long list of questions. PMacD is investigating the Archives and maps of the churchyard have been ordered.

There is a problem with identifying the next of kin in relation to the letter to bereaved families. After consulting with the Arch Deacon and the Diocesan communications office a notice will be put in the local paper

The Authorisation of monuments has now been passed to the Assistant Area Dean

War Graves Plaque – The War Graves Commission has asked all local authorities to approach cemeteries to put up a plaque advising people that there are war graves in the cemetery. This caused a lengthy discussion on celebrating/commemorating the start of a war and a decision will be taken at the next PCC.

Church Hall

The booking system has not been implemented as quickly as hoped. The booking form has been modified to incorporate music/noise. JR reported the problems of a recent party and the numbers that were in the hall. A music licence has been bought for the Hall at a cost of £329, renewable annually, as the Church licence does not cover the hall.

Following an annual inspection there are inadequate fire extinguishers in the Hall David Bardwell has done a specification with Chubb, the cost will be £300 annually for Installation and maintenance. **AGREED**

Lent Lunches

Eileen White has this in hand. Any profits will go to Christian Aid in lieu of street collections

Lent Groups

These are being headed by Jenny Foakes, Alan Rutter, Colin Cairns and Duncan White. The course to be followed is a York Course entitled "Build on the Rock – Faith, Doubt and Jesus"

Christian Aid

As already stated, there will be no street collections this year but envelopes will be given out in church on the previous two Sundays, also be available at Wednesday lunches to be returned by the end of Christian Aid week

Easter Breakfast

The Aspinall family will be organising this event and the profits will go to “Brass for Africa”

APCM – Churchwarden and PCC/Synod members

JC advised that there will be a need of 4 new PCC members and 4 Deanery Synod Representatives, together with a Churchwarden. Synod members are able to continue for a further three years if they wish. They can also be elected as full members of PCC. Existing PCC members are required to have a break of at least a year before putting themselves up for re-election but could stand for Deanery Synod. If a new Churchwarden is not forthcoming RB will continue until one is found. They can stand for a period of 6 years.

Correspondence

1. JR advised that there is a conference to be held in London on 28th March relating to Child Protection and Sexual Exploitation. If anyone wishes to attend he has the full details and expenses will be covered
2. JR advised that the Archdeaconry is changing shape. There will be a new Archdeaconry of Dorchester which will include Abingdon, Wallingford, Wantage and the Vale of the White Horse. To celebrate this, there will be an Archdeaconry Day at Newbury, St Nicholas at 5.00pm on 15th March
3. JR advised that he has had further discussion on the legality of St Michael’s charges for Weddings/Funerals following the problems of last year. The new Archdeacon is not happy that this has not been resolved and will look into the problem and discuss with the Registrar and get his guidance. The problem stems from whether St Michael’s acts as an Agent or is an Employer/Contractor.

It has also transpired that a charge of £13.00 for banns certificates has been made erroneously. JR has written to all couples concerned offering a refund but they have all agreed to put the money to church funds

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014

The minutes of the above meeting were accepted as a true record
Proposed by GW, seconded by JFa. All in favour

Matters arising not covered by the Agenda

JFa has resolved the problems with the kitchen

AOB

RT – There are no bats and no mice in the loft! He thanked LH for all his efforts

RT – advised that he will be doing the Churchwardens’ report for the APCM

TG – Asked that it be noted that John Stevenson be working away from Reading for the foreseeable future and may not be able to be as active within the church

RB – Recorded a vote of thanks for all the work Ron Corker has done over past years. He has now moved away. JC will try to get a forwarding address from Jane Masson and send card

RT – Roger brought the meeting to a close with a huge “thank you” to all members of St Michael’s, telling us that we have something special here, sometimes undervaluing

ourselves. He especially thanked people for the huge support he had received during Linda's illness. The Rector re-enforced his words saying how well we support each other in times of need – this is what a Christian Community should do.

We have a wonderful building but the best thing is the people in it!

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with the Grace

Date of next meeting – Monday 10th March – Finance only
Monday 24th March – Full PCC