

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 21st October 2014

Those present:

Roger Toms (Chairman)	Pat MacDonald	Patrick Woodlock
Rosemary Cooper	Trevor Greaves	Alan Rutter
Sozzie Kasumisoke	Alison Murray	Jane Masson
Sheila Parker-Boyes		

Apologies:

John Rogers	Jenny Foakes	Caroline Heron
Harry Dykes	Sally Cairns	Joan Crossman
Janet Fagg	Laurie Haseler	Jenny Beeney
Denise Easteal		

The meeting opened with prayers

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October

These were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

PM asked whether a formal vote should be recorded for the appointment of PW as Treasurer. This was proposed by RT and seconded by RC and passed unanimously. RC also said that as PW was a serving member of the PCC the appointment does not have to be ex-officio.

Substantive item – Our vision for the next 5 years – how do we progress?

There was some discussion on how to progress a five year plan in such a way to allow for the views and wishes of the next incumbent, whatever is decided it must allow for change and so be flexible. AR said that American consultants were available in the diocese to help guide churches on mission. He and the Rector were looking at a book "We are here now" by Patrick Keifert. The Arch deacon Olivia Graham is also promoting a pilot scheme to involve young people in church. RT said that Jan Rogers was looking to start a weekly group involving youth not necessarily from the church. SK was concerned that all the correct registrations and procedures were followed.

RT invited members to comment on the way forward and the following noted

1. Can make a five year plan but it will be dependent on the next incumbent as the current and next will be the natural leaders.
2. We have had many plans but they have not been brought to fruition.
3. Could have detailed three year plan plus an additional couple of years to keep us going.
4. Whatever plan we have will depend on human resources within the church.
5. All previous plans seem to be based on getting more youth and this has not progressed in the last 15 years.

It was agreed that members think on this subject for discussion at a further meeting.

Finance

RC was thanked for printing hard copies of the 2013 accounts for members.

PW explained the differences from the accounts presented at the APCM and these. He said there would always be differences between working and audited accounts. The main differences were the receipt of the gift aid tax rebate for 2013 in 2014 which was in fact an accrual and added to 2013. In addition the depreciation on Tilston Lodge and the Parish Hall had not been included. This is basically a paper exercise giving rise to the negative balance but he assured members that the church was solvent. Property is normally valued every five years and the figure reset. Regarding the hall the main value is in the land and it was suggested that the actual position regarding the Scout hall is established as it was built by them on church land and joined to the hall.

RC asked if a full audit is required but PW said that not due to the figures involved.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by JM seconded by SK passed unanimously.

Other Tabled Reports

Minutes from Stewardship, and Fabric meetings had been circulated. Those from the Church Hall were circulated at the meeting.

RC suggested that at 4.3 of the Fabric minutes after "memorial" "book" was added. This was agreed.

JM asked that as no one is currently overseeing Pastoral care this is urgently addressed as Margaret is no longer able to carry this out. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

RT asked members to consider charities for giving. Although the Parish Share was paid in full and the church received a rebate there was some discussion as to whether mission giving was appropriate further guidance should be sought.

The beneficiaries of the Christmas collections to be decided and included on the next agenda

Updates from previous meetings

Mission – AR suggested that the best way of keeping new members was after a while to get them involved. PM said once there was a welcoming evening for new members. SPB said she would raise this at the next events committee meeting. Some new members are willing to read etc. which is encouraging.

Restoration – outstanding items – all still outstanding and will be for some time

Roof update – This is progressing and due to be blessed by the Bishop on 5th November.

Churchyard closure – P M said that this was progressing and the last forms with Reading Borough Council Lawyers. AR was not sure that all new PCC members were aware of all the facts and he felt there was still room. PM said that the decision had been made by the PCC and the Arch Deacon had visited the churchyard and agreed that the grass paths etc. should not be used, and closure to proceed. The committee had been acting on the direction of the PCC.

Churchyard – reaction from bereaved families – many items have been removed, and the Fabric and Churchyard committees agreed a thank you notice be put up, this was agreed.

Churchyard – Authorisation of Monuments – this item continues to be handled by the Assistant Area Dean. If a monument is deemed unsuitable, a faculty will be obtained for removal.

Churchyard – War Grave Plaque – The public notice has been displayed and the Faculty will shortly be submitted.

Church Hall – TG said a new committee has been formed in the main made up of the users so it is a learning process. PW said he would attend the next meeting and suggest a financial process to enable a more business like system to be established.

Church Hall – floor – on going.

Training on Sound System – RT said no one had taken up his offer, but some had not known of the date. People can sit with him during services.

Safeguarding – diary now in the office for those doing home visits.

Book of recorded work done in the church – the Churchwardens are working on this with the Fabric Committee.

Terrier, Inventory – this is almost complete and will be presented to the PCC annually.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

AOB

AR – Can we progress the use of Fairtrade products within the church? Some are used but we could do more. RT will consult with those purchasing food and drink items.

TG – As no one person is responsible for the kitchen issues not always addressed. Also if the church made more use for functions of the Parish Hall it would also be a form of outreach to the community.

RT – A policy for lone working within the church premises needs to be progressed.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm with the Grace

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 25th November