

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 24th March 2014

Those present:

John Rogers (Chairman)	Rosa Bardwell	Roger Toms
Joan Crossman	Janet Fagg	Rosemary Cooper
Trevor Greaves	Pat MacDonald	Jenny Beene
Wendy Bertin	Sheila Parker-Boyes	Denise Easteal
Laurie Haseler		

Apologies:

Jenny Foakes	Linda Toms	Giles Winter
Pauline Willis		

The meeting opened with prayers

Substantive item – Finance

It came to light that a full set of figures had not been circulated to the meeting. These were handed out but it was agreed that time would be needed to study them. Oliver Jenks had also prepared a financial statement relating to the restoration/roof appeal which was circulated.

Several points were raised and concern shown over a negative budget. The Rector pointed out that this happened last year but by the end of the year we more or less broke even. The budget shows that our Parish Share is reduced by £30000 for 2014 in order that the roof repairs can be completed. Our income for funerals shows an increase but a reduction in wedding income is expected. The income from this year's Lent Lunches is going to Christian Aid, but this is not shown, neither is the donation from the Christmas collections to the National Churches Trust. The loose plate collections figures appear to be high but possibly includes the Christmas collections. The Stewardship committee have not done a major push this year because of the Roof appeal. JC raised the issue of a contingency fund for the Church Hall but this is not possible in view of the negative budget. £17000 still needs to be raised in order to complete the roof. This figure includes loans to be repaid. This figure should be shown as a liability.

The members were asked to study the accounts over the next few days and advise the Rector of any queries and questions which he will answer and circulate. **A further meeting was arranged for Monday, 7th April at 6.45pm to formally approve the accounts for 2013 and the budget for 2014.**

Other Tabled Reports

The minutes of the Stewardship meeting from 28/01/14 were only circulated today so any queries will be dealt with at the next meeting.

Updates from previous meetings

Mission – The Rector and AR had attended a Mission Action planning meeting which dealt with the wider focus of Mission and the 5 marks of Mission. The Rector is going to put a detailed analysis in the Church Magazine and use the material for his report at the APCM

Restoration – All items still outstanding

Roof update (ordering of ridge tiles) – These have been ordered

Churchyard –closure – The process of writing to the 2 local authorities is under way.

Churchyard – Letter to Bereaved Families – This may not now happen as only 4 families can be contacted. Permission from the Diocesan Authority will be sought to put notices around the churchyard re unsuitable memorabilia.

Churchyard – Authorisation of Monuments – the Area Dean is now responsible for this.

Churchyard – War Graves Plaque – Following further discussion a vote was taken on the placement of a War Graves plaque in the churchyard. **The majority were in favour with one abstention.** The Churchyard committee will be asked to decide where to put the plaque. A reproduction of the plaque will be put on the website
A Faculty will be needed before it is installed

Church Hall

Jackie Marsh is now ready to take over the bookings for the Church Hall

Christian Aid

JC will put posters up in church the week before Christian Aid Week (11th -17th May)
Envelopes will be put in with pew notices on 11th May and JC will put something on the Pew Notice advising the congregation of the new approach to Christian Aid. She will also take some envelopes to the Lent Lunches.

APCM

Barbara would like any outstanding reports by this weekend. SP-B will see Jackie Chappell re the lunch following the APCM. It was noted that the booklet cannot be finalised until the accounts are approved.

A Rector and Sole Churchwarden

RT circulated a list of duties of a Churchwarden and asked the members to consider the options as he sees it and decisions need to be taken before the APCM

1. 2 churchwardens
2. 1 churchwarden with help from members of the congregation
3. 1 churchwarden with a priority list of duties

The Rector advised the PCC that RT's list of practical things did not include the legal responsibilities of a Churchwarden. They are elected at the Annual Vestry Meeting and sworn in at a meeting led by the Archdeacon and Registrar. They are appointed as Bishop's officers and responsible to the Bishop. They are asked to promote good religion in this place and enforce proper conduct in divine worship. They have powers of arrest if unsuitable behaviour takes place. They are also responsible for the fixtures and fittings of the church. The Rector has tried hard to encourage a replacement for RB but as yet, no one is forthcoming and he advised that there is a 4th option – to appoint a further paid secretary which would impact on the budget to the sum of approx. £5000. RB and RT work incredibly hard and the Rector's gratitude knows no bounds but if we are only able to appoint one Churchwarden then things will not get done and the life and mission of this church will suffer.

Whilst acknowledging the huge amount of work done by over 100 volunteers within St. Michael's, the Rector expressed his disappointment that a new Churchwarden has not been forthcoming but recognised that some people may feel that they are unworthy of this office. He will give anyone his support and encouragement while they come to a decision and of course, thereafter. He advised that we must hope for the best and plan for the worst and continue to hold this situation in our prayers.

Correspondence

None

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th February

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record

Proposed by JFa, seconded by RB

Matters arising not covered by the Agenda

APCM – Churchwarden – If no replacement for RB is forthcoming she intends to tender her resignation to the Bishop

AOB-RB- JC has sent a letter of thanks to Ron Corker

Archdeaconry Day – cancelled through lack of support

Correspondence – weddings – The Rector advised that one couple have asked for the £13.00 to be refunded

Church Hall – St Michael's Playgroup will continue in its present form

AOB

JFa – Further commented on the length of the prayer list as discussed at the last meeting but re-iterated how important it is and told the meeting how she had added a name of a 10year old friend of hers with pancreatic cancer who is not a member of St Michael's but is sure our prayers helped

The Rector added comments about the wonderful service last Sunday for the Thanksgiving of a Child and how important the power of prayer must have been for the family when their child was baptised in hospital. The general feeling of St Michael's is wonderful and has been ongoing for the last 825 years.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.20pm

Date of additional meeting to approve the accounts – Monday 7th April at 6.45pm

Date of 1st meeting of the new Term – Tuesday, 27th May

(Please note – the Standing Committee will meet in the interim if any important and urgent business becomes necessary)