

PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S, TILEHURST
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25th November 2014

Those present:

John Rogers (Chairman)	Sally Cairns	Joan Crossman
Patrick Woodlock	Alan Rutter	Rosemary Cooper
Sheila Parker-Boyes	Jane Masson	Caroline Heron
Harry Dykes	Laurie Haseler	Denise Easteal
Janet Fagg	Jenny Beeney	Jenny Foakes

Apologies:

Roger Toms	Alison Murray	Pat MacDonald
Trevor Greaves		

The meeting opened with prayers. The Rector used the prayer for the Diocese as we seek a new Bishop

Substantive item – Finance

Forecast 2014/Budget 2015 – Copies of these figures had been circulated to the meeting in advance. The Rector advised of an amendment under item 2801 - £1000 expenditure needs to be added in respect of repairing various doors in the church hall. This is subject to approval of the Church Hall Committee and the Fabric Committee. The Rector asked for questions from the floor. Gift Aid figures were queried and explained by PWO. It was noted that when the churchyard closes, the income will do down. The Rector explained that he did not expect this to make a significant difference. PWO explained that the biggest risk in the budget figures was the drop in Stewardship Giving to £45000 but it was felt that we need to target an uplift to £47000. A Stewardship campaign will be held in the Spring as there hadn't been one for some time due to the roof/restoration project. A separate sheet was passed round showing the current position relating to the restoration/roof funds (copies of this in pigeon holes for non-attendees) This shows that £4000 is still outstanding including the loans to be repaid. A discussion followed on whether to tackle the rest of the outstanding items on the restoration programme. It was agreed that a definite strategy needs to be put in place before the APCM but we must be mindful of keeping the general income/expenditure in order. New members asked for an explanation on restricted and designated funds. Restricted funds are solely for the roof/restoration project, kept separately from the general fund. The PCC can vote to move monies in and out of the designated funds as seen fit. The PCC will need to make a decision to put monies into a designated fund for future repairs, the Archdeacon suggested an amount of £5000 per year but nothing is currently included in the budget. PWO assured the meeting that the end of year forecast was believed to be accurate but the accountant will make adjustments to include items such as depreciation. DE asked that it be minuted how brilliant the presentation is, due jointly to PWO, the Rector and the new system. On a further positive note it was good to see that we are not being asked to agree to a large negative budget and that the targets are achievable. The congregation, as a whole, needs to know this.

Later in the meeting the Rector advised that there was a further £4000 additional costs included in the projected costs for the roof on top of the extra agreed last August due to the size of the roof being underestimated

Following these discussions the Rector asked for a proposal that the circulated figures be accepted, subject to the amendment to item 2801. Proposed by DE, seconded by RCo, all in favour.

Fees 2015 – The Rector explained that he proposes to increase the organist's fees for weddings and funerals by £10 and the Verger's fees by £5. The Organist's honorarium will remain the same. **The Rector asked for a proposal that fees be accepted to commence in January 2015 – one amendment, funeral fees – category 5, statutory fees – PCC – figures should read 82, not 272. Proposed by AR, seconded by SC, all in favour.**

Tabled Reports

None

Updates from previous meetings

5 year vision –progress? – The Rector commented on points from the last minutes as he was not at the meeting. The Vision was set at 5 years, not 3 years so that it could be carried on past his retirement and in place for a new incumbent. He also felt that a number of important steps had been taken and progress had been made so the negative comments were a bit unfair. A discussion followed on encouraging young people as we know this has not been a success despite more than one attempt. Maybe we should concentrate on targeting a different age group. It was noted that 60% of the people on the Electoral Roll live outside the Parish so we must be doing some things right and we need to market the good things we do. Perhaps more recognition should be made to Back to Church Sunday next year. The Rector will not be at the PCC in January but wants the business of “process” nailed at the February meeting

Mission – this follows on from the Vision and the same actions are needed. – how are we actually going to action things, not just talk about them. Maybe a working party is needed, not just from the PCC. These two items will form the substantive item for the February PCC meeting

Restoration – outstanding items – already covered – an action plan must be in place before the APCM

Roof Update – the roof has been completed bar a few minor points.

Churchyard – closure process – continues. Area CR2 is now full but ashes can be interned in the area outside the Parish Office. AR asked for further discussion on the closure, but the Rector confirmed that the decision has been made and there will be no further discussions. It was noted that the area on the Routh Lane side of the church had not been debated. There is a need to look at the documentation and consider this before completing the closure paperwork. This will be brought to the PCC at the March meeting

Reaction from bereaved families – There has been good reactions from most families. A Faculty will be sought to remove any remaining items from February. It is acceptable for Christmas wreaths to remain on graves for a month.

Authorisation of Monuments – this is still with the Area Dean – no longer needed on the Agenda

War Graves Plaque – documentation has been completed for the Faculty

Church Hall items – PWO is now on the Church Hall committee and they are tightening up on bookings and refunds. An independent inspector has been appointed by the insurance company in respect of the problems with the floor. It appears that damp is coming up from underneath.

Book of recorded work done in church, Terrier, Inventory – continues, waiting to establish the book

[AR left the meeting]

Pastoral Care Representative

Mary Plowman is taking over this important role. The Methodist church has also got a pastoral care programme and it is hoped we can work together.

Personnel Relationships

A personnel issue has been raised and the PCC were made aware of it. Positive actions have been taken.

[JFa left the meeting having given apologies in advance]

Charity Giving

JC had circulated a list of suggested charities to be voted on for 2015/2016. A discussion took place on all the charities on the list and further suggestions were taken on board. The final nominations to which everyone agreed are as follows:

Local:

Look Good, Feel Better

Launchpad

National:

College of St Barnabas

Circles of Support

International:

Christian Aid

Mothers' Union – Overseas.

Please ask JC if you want any further details

Christmas Collections 2014 – PACT

Secretary's correspondence

JC had circulated the correspondence she had received from the Diocese. She will put the various events up on the Morlais Room Notice Board. The Prayer for use whilst seeking a new Bishop was used for the meeting and given to the Rector for other times. Filing of Documents – already actioned. October Count – handed to SC for action.

Correspondence

None

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2014

The minutes of the above meeting were signed by the Rector with the meetings' approval as he was not at the meeting. Two amendments were noted

Minutes of the meeting 21st Oct should read 22nd September

Under Tabled reports –Pastoral Care – should read Pastoral Visiting Group

Matters arising not covered on Agenda

None

AOB

JB – Marriage returns - £2 per wedding – will be paid by BACS

PWo – Please bank any cheques issued before end of December

Rector – expressed his displeasure at the time taken for the bank to action the new signature mandate.

JC – asked that the Rector delegate the Remembrance Sunday service to Jenny or Duncan in order that he is able to get to the Cenotaph earlier.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date of next meeting – Monday, 12th January 2015 (RT to chair)