

MINUTES OF ST. MARY'S, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2017

Present : Rev. Steve Morley in the Chair, Sue Ryman (Sec), Charlotte Scott, Carol Barnham, Rev. Mary Cantacuzene, Andrew Clift, Alan Ryman, Kate Buckle, Jenny Davis, Rev. Tricia Box, Chris Tomkinson, Lynda Lee, Dick Gould, Martin Randall, Sue Emerson, Murray Emerson, Mrs. Emily Bacon, Bures School

The meeting started with a time of prayer.

APOLOGIES : Tereza Fairbairn, Ken Brightwell, Jan Lindsey-Smith

1. **MINUTES** of the meetings held on 13th July 2017 were signed as a correct record.
2. **MATTERS ARISING** :

Church Door : Dick reported that the Carpenter is set to start work on 2nd October and anticipates that the work will take 1-2 weeks. A temporary door will be put in place but the South Door should be used during the work. Rev. Steve asked if the work could be deferred as he has a wedding on 7th and 14th. The problem is that the Carpenter is booked up and at the present time cannot give us another start date. After much discussion it was agreed that Rev. Steve will let the wedding couples know what is happening and hopefully they will agree to use the South Door. The South Porch will be tidied and cleaned.

Soul Survivor : Esme White and Hannah McGrath-Wells went to this event and had a wonderful time. Liz Moulton has yet to let us know how much of the £400 offered for this event, was actually needed.

Church Administrator : the closing date for applications is 30th September and so far there are 2 applicants.

Robinson Memorial : Rev. Steve has spoken to Josephine's family suggesting that a gift to the church in their parent's name might be better than a wall plaque and they are very flexible and quite happy with this suggestion. Rev. Steve will discuss it with the Archdeacon on Friday.

3. **BURES SCHOOL : Foundation Governor** – In the absence of anyone else wanting to take on this post, it was unanimously agreed by the PCC that Karen White continue until July 2019 when her present term finishes in November 2017.

Shaping church school distinctiveness – Mrs. Emily Bacon who is the Reception Teacher (4-5yrs) and is responsible for leading Religious Education and collective worship in the school, said she had felt called to Bures to do God's work. Her responsibility is to see that RE is taught well and includes all religions. The school has had prayer space events for Pentecost, Easter, Advent, The Lord's Prayer etc. and children are taught life values through bible stories. Emily said the school would appreciate more involvement with the church and invited PCC members to go into school and join in assemblies

etc. and of course they always need our prayers. She would like to provide a Prayer Garden as a space where children can go to be quiet and thoughtful. Alan said that the Horticultural Society had received a very generous monetary gift and would be happy to spend some of this in developing a garden. Mrs. Bacon would also like some people to go into school to help the children make a banner for assemblies. Paul asked if it was possible for Emily to get the church message across in the regular School Newsletters and Mary asked whether Emily had any ideas to get youngsters into church. Rev. Tricia said they always needed help serving coffee at church assembly on the first Thursday of each month. Rev. Steve said that the Governors survey to parents on the Christian ethos of the school had produced a very positive response.

4. **GROWING IN GOD** : The last of these questionnaires Growing Younger, was completed and the action aimed for was a Children/Families Minister and also getting some young musicians to get together to form a rock band to encourage them to play for some of our worship. Kate will speak to Nick Hunt (a music teacher at TGS) about this. Rev. Steve will give a summary at the next PCC meeting of the whole Growing in God questionnaires that will be forwarded to the Diocese.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance at Santander	£24,121.85
Balance at Board of Finance	£36,866.78
Total Bank & BoF Deposit accounts	£60,988.63
Sum held re Probert/Nave ceiling Restricted	£20,000.00
Sum held for Glass Door – Restricted	£ 8,594.36
Russe/flower/clock fund	£ 2,734.65
Messy Church balance	£ 885.19
Current DBF fees held	£ 301.00
Funds minus restricted	£28,473.43
Uncleared expenses	£ 907.33
Uncleared cheques paid in	£ 285.33
	£27,851.43

Charlotte said that the current status is looking positive, but the budget suggests that we will not have a surplus at the end of the year. With the regular expenditure on just electricity, insurance and the Centenary share we pay out £5,000 per month but only receive regular bank payments of £3,675 per month.

6. **DRAFT BUDGET 2018** : This had been circulated prior to the meeting and after a few questions, Alan proposed and Kate seconded that the budget was accepted. The meeting unanimously agreed.
7. **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT** : Alan said that he had been advised on the type of paint to get for decorating the kitchen, lobby and toilet by Ken

Brightwell and is now getting quotations for the work. He will inform the Standing Committee when these quotes are in. Dick said that the wall in front of the War Memorial was crumbling due to expanding metal work and it is hoped to get this repaired soon. (following the meeting Alan discovered that the Two Parish Councils have arranged for this work to be done at the same time as the Memorial itself is being tidied up and the Councils are paying)

Rev. Mary asked if the dead tree in the churchyard could be removed and Alan said he will look into this.

8. **DIOCESAN/DEANERY SYNOD, CTiS REPORTS :** There have not been any meetings since the last PCC. David Lee our CTiS representative was at the AGM of CTiS that very evening and will produce a report for the next PCC. Lynda told the meeting about a United Service on 15th October at 6.30pm at Gregory's Church.
9. **MINISTER'S BUSINESS :** Messy Church : Rev. Steve said that the last session of Messy Church had been in July in the Vicarage Garden when 45 attended. The first session of the new term will be on Saturday 21st October. Confirmation : This will take place on 1st October at 4pm when Bishop Mike will be presiding, Alex Curtis, Hannah McGrath-Wells, Esmee White and Rebekah White will be confirmed. Meetings : Rev. Steve had useful meeting in July with Clare Luxton of Scripture Union East Anglia to talk about what they can offer to support youth and children's work in the region and with Phil Bailee, the Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer. He will be meeting Tim Abbot of CYO Colchester on 6th October. He will also be meeting the Diocesan Secretary on Friday 29th September with Simon Gill and the Archdeacon. Martin Randall had kindly offered to complete the Charity Commission Registration and to that end Martin handed out forms for those members of the PCC who had not already completed them.
10. **RE-COMMISSIONING OF LAY ELDERS :** Sue Emerson, Andrea Carter and Jenny Wright are all due to be re-commissioned and the meeting unanimously agreed that they are put forward.
11. **SAFEGUARDING :** Angela had circulated a brief report prior to the meeting and the main item on the report was that all new volunteers must complete on line training prior to working with vulnerable adults and children. No reportable matters have been referred.
12. **PARISH MAGAZINE :** This item was deferred to the next meeting
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS :**
 - a) We have changed our Insurers to Trinitas Brokers underwritten by Aviva and to comply with their requirements we must appoint and inform them of our Health and Safety Officer by the end of October and produce Risk Assessment by the end of November. Following lengthy discussion, it was noted that Derek Wolsten-Croft is already our Health and Safety Officer and

he will be asked to be the named person for the insurers and to arrange Risk Assessment. If he needs help, a couple of members of the PCC will assist him. If more assistance is needed the Diocese should be approached.

- b) Bibles for Baptism families – it was agreed to put this on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- c) Carol asked if the prayers written and left in the Prayer Corner could be collected by the Prayer Team on a Sunday and prayed in the South Porch. This was agreed and Carol will liaise with the Prayer Team.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS : 30th November 2017 and 1st February 2018

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm with The Grace.