

## The United Benefice of St. Mary's, Goudhurst With Christ Church, Kildown.

**MINUTES** of St. Mary's P.C.C. meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015,  
7.30.p.m. in the Children's Chapel, St. Mary's.

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|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Present: | Rev. H. Nelson  | Mr J Wickham |
|          | Mr B Mayhew     | Mrs S Donkin |
|          | Mrs J Dunstall  | Mr R Vinton  |
|          | Mr A Farnfield  |              |
|          | Mr D Sargeant   |              |
|          | Mrs B Addis     |              |
|          | Mrs P Springett | Mr S Taurins |

|   | <b>Action By</b> |
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| <p>1. <b><u>Prayers</u></b><br/>Rev. Hugh Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.</p>  |                  |
| <p>2. <b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b><br/>Apologies were received from Angela Pakenham-Walsh, Tim Wormington, Emma Sibree, Rosemary Southon and Kev Draper</p>  |                  |
| <p>3. <b><u>Minutes of meeting held on 26.11.14.</u></b><br/>These Minutes were approved and signed.</p>  |                  |
| <p>4. <b><u>Matters Arising</u></b><br/>There were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.</p>  |                  |
| <p>5. <b><u>Music and Worship</u></b><br/>We were very pleased to welcome Jeffrey Gray, who attended to give us a progress report.<br/>He started by saying that we have a diverse community and so we need a flexible framework to work in. At present the first Sunday of the month is a Family Service with the Band, who were working hard, and occasionally a school choir from our local school. The second Sunday is normal, the third Sunday, inventive, and the fourth Sunday a Traditional service, with an augmented choir. Extra choir members would attend the previous Saturday choir practice at 10.00.a.m.<br/>Jeffrey reported that he much enjoyed his weekly visit to the school, and had now been asked to hold a hymn practice for the whole school.<br/>With regard to our organ, Jeffrey felt that it was adequate for normal Sunday use, but was limited. When the church was full, and, for example, for Stainer's Crucifixion from Scratch on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, it</p> |                  |

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| <p>would need enhancing. This would be possible with mikes and speakers, and it was suggested that an organ specialist and our sound people get together to discuss the best options. Jeffrey concluded by saying that those involved in the music of our church try to do everything as well as we can.</p> <p>On the subject of PA systems, it was felt that the village needed a new PA system, and our local council will be approached.</p> <p>The P.C.C. were asked if they had any questions for Jeffrey. Sue suggested that where some hymns include lines for men or women, they could be sung by those applicable. It was also suggested that, perhaps once a term, a new hymn could be taught to the congregation prior to the start of the service, perhaps a Family Service. It was also felt that the first and last hymns of the service should be suitable for the children, as they will be with us then.</p> <p>James thanked Jeffrey very much for attending our meeting. The P.C.C. much appreciated all that Jeffrey was accomplishing.</p>  | <p>T.W.</p> <p>A.F.?</p> <p>J.G.</p> |
| <p><b>6. <u>Mission and Outreach</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Alpha</b> – Hugh reported that Alpha had got off to a good start, with approximately 50 people taking part.</p> <p>b) <b>Plans for 2015/16</b> – Hugh distributed a paper “The next Steps” and this will be discussed at our next meeting. (Copies sent to those members who were absent)</p> <p><b>7. <u>Service to the Community</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>School Report</b> – Richard queried whether a School Report is still necessary as we have Hugh and Jeffrey as our points of contact, but it was felt it would be advantageous to have the occasional report. Richard reported that some pupils are receiving help as Special Needs children.</p> <p><b>8. <u>Teaching and Worship</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Advent and Christmas service reviews</b> – James commented that there were too many people; the church was full before the procession had arrived. Richard was adamant that the format was not changed. James will jot down his ideas for 2015, and any comments should be sent to Hugh. One idea was that a screen be placed outside the church.</p> <p>It was felt that the midnight service on Christmas Eve really needed the choir to assist with the singing.</p> <p>b) <b>Finance Sunday 8.2.15.</b>– Hugh reported that at the services on this Sunday, he will be inviting everyone to consider renewing the level at which they give, both time and money.</p> | <p>J.W.</p>                          |

c) **Lent and Easter**

These will be discussed at a later date.

**9. Fabric and Finance**

a) **Benefice Administrator** – Hugh was pleased to report that Becky Addis has been appointed as the new Benefice Administrator and will commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. It was not thought necessary for Becky to have further D.B.S.checks as she will not have enormous contact with children. Rosemary Southon, who is retiring, will work with Becky for the first week. Hugh recorded his gratitude to Rosemary for the many years she has been in the role.

b) **Fundraising**

The Fundraising Committee had met the previous evening to discuss the way forward. At present the fundraising relies on a few people, and it was hoped to enlarge this group. It was felt that priorities would be Children and Youth Work, and it was noted that our Parish Share would rise substantially.

Plans for the future are a Barn Dance, Quiz and Fete. A Flower Festival and Auction will be held on alternate years

Legacies will be explored.

c) **Accounts**

Anthony presented unaudited figures for the financial year to the end of December 2014. (Copy sent to those members who were absent) There were no unexplained variances from the Budget. The total result was a surplus of £23.1k against the budget of £23.7k. The PCC noted the support we had received from The Friends of St Mary's. Our cash at Bank at 31 December 2014 was £87.8k compared with £61.2K at 31 December 2013. It was noted that our Parish Share for 2015 will be £60.6k compared to £58.0k in 2014.

The P.C.C. thanked Anthony for presenting the figures in an easy to understand format.

**d)Floodlighting:**

Anthony reported that he and Tim Wormington had met Phil Kirkby and Gary Brown on site on 16 January. The outline proposal is to replace the worn out and failed present floodlights with new LEDs. This will lead to much less energy being used.

One important point is that some light spillage onto the pathways by the Church is desirable whilst not being too glaring. An interim proposal is to attach some lights strategically to the outside of the Church building and Tim Wormington will check on this with the Diocese. We do not know at this stage whether any of the cabling will need to be replaced.

T.W.

Richard commented that he would like St.Mary's to have an illuminated star on the roof at Christmas.

**e) Broadband aerials**

Hugh reported that the Commissary General had granted the necessary Faculty for the aerials and for us to enter the licence with Callflow. We are liable for the cost of the Hearing, amounting to £1,106. The DAC has offered to contribute and Hugh reckoned that we might end up paying £300.

**10. Church Room**

Hugh reported that a licence agreement has been agreed with the Playgroup, and the rent is increased to £650 per month.

Anthony reminded the P.C.C. that we had lent them a float of £500 to get started and the P.C.C. agreed to write this off as a gesture of goodwill.

**11. Deanery**

Hugh reported that the Mission and Ministry committee were hoping to organize events that could be joined by parishes in the deanery, such as Alpha. On 12<sup>th</sup> March they have Dr. Rev. Joanna Collicutt giving a talk on Spirituality and Ageing, to which all are welcome. St. Mary's and Christ Church would welcome volunteers to be deanery reps as we only have one at present, Jane Wickham.

**12. Any Other Business**

Simon had several questions:-

- 1) Are we going to hold another Marriage Course?  
Hugh replied that perhaps this could be arranged by the deanery.
- 2) Is there to be a post-Alpha group?  
This is in hand.
- 3) What plans are there for the Explorers group when they reach 18?  
Hugh replied that he hoped they would integrate with the wider church.
- 4) Are there plans for teaching and study groups?  
Yes

**T.V. screens** - The comment was made that people sitting in the side aisles are unable to see the television screens. Enquiries will be made regarding fixing screens to the pillars.

**13. Future Dates 2015**

T.W.

P.C.C. Meetings Thursdays commencing at 7.30.p.m.

26<sup>th</sup> February  
25<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> April – A.P.C.M. – Sunday  
21<sup>st</sup> May  
18<sup>th</sup> June  
23<sup>rd</sup> July  
24<sup>th</sup> September  
22<sup>nd</sup> October  
19<sup>th</sup> November