

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

MINUTES of St. Mary's P.C.C. meeting held on Wednesday, 25 March 2015,
7.30.p.m. in the Children's Chapel, St. Mary's.

Present:	Rev. H. Nelson	Mr J Wickham
	Mr B Mayhew	Mrs S Donkin
	Mr R Vinton	Mrs A Pakenham-Walsh
	Mr A Farnfield	Mr T Wormington
	Mrs B Addis	Mrs R Southon
	Mrs P Springett	Mr S Taurins
	Mr K Draper	

	Action By
<p>1. <u>Prayers</u> Rev. Hugh Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from Jill Dunstall and Emma Sibree.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of meeting held on 22.01.15</u> The Minutes were approved and signed.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters Arising</u> Hugh was able to report that half the charge for the hearing with respect to the broadband aerial had been paid by the Diocese. Hugh is going to suggest that Callflow pays half of the remaining £500, so St. Mary's should end up paying £250 in total.</p>	HN
<p>5. <u>Plans for 2015 / 2016</u> The paper 'God's calling' had been circulated prior to the meeting. Hugh was looking for teams 1 and 2 to be up and running in the near future, with teams 3 and 4 being set up in September (teams 3 and 4 may or may not merge at some point in the future). Hugh would be looking for a leader for each team with a real passion for the vision of the team. Simon recommended that each team report to the PCC on a termly basis. Barney also recommended that the PCC approve the core team and their leaders. It was unanimously agreed to adopt both proposals in the paper, along with the two recommendations made at the meeting.</p>	
<p>6. <u>PCC Membership, Electoral Roll & APCM</u> Hugh was able to report that the Electoral Roll was in hand with forms available at the back of church, and reminders to people to</p>	

<p>complete the forms in the weekly email and newsletter. Sue reported that she was coming to the end of her 3 years but would be standing again. Angela would be standing for one further year (this would be an additional year to her 6) and Tim also agreed that he would fulfil his 6th year as churchwarden during 2015/2016. A message would therefore need to be put out at the APCM that we will need two new churchwardens at the 2016 APCM. The replacements would be actively sought during 2015 to ensure adequate handover.</p> <p>On the accounts for the APCM Anthony reported that he would make these available in church well in advance so that any comments could be emailed / sent through to Anthony well in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>7. <u>Mission and Outreach</u> a) Alpha, follow up and small groups Hugh reported that Alpha had been a real success and that there was a lot of enthusiasm which presented us with an important moment to be welcoming as a church. He was hoping that 60% of the people on the course would be feeding into our small group structure, with 3 new groups forming on the back of Alpha. Hugh showed the PCC the new small group leaflet which was much admired.</p> <p>8. <u>Service to the Community</u> a) School Report Richard reported that things were extremely well in the Primary School. Kev is going into the school regularly to do collective worship and this is now producing interesting connections with Parkrun. Kev is also working with the school to create a reflective, multi-sensory prayer space outside where the old vegetable patch was. The prayer space will be used in RE classes but will also be an area that children can go to in playtime if they need some space. b) Environment Forum report Hugh reported that the Diocese is keen for parishes to become involved in environmental matters and that we have a responsibility as Christians to look after God’s creation. Andy and Barbara Payne had attended an Environmental Forum and their notes from this meeting had been circulated. The PCC will return to this matter at a future meeting.</p> <p>9. <u>Teaching and Worship</u> This was covered under 5 above.</p> <p>10. <u>The Church Community</u></p>	<p>AF</p>
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- a. **Sunday Club plans** The Sunday Club leaders are looking at reviewing themselves thoroughly and considering what their dream is for the children in our church community.
- b. **Plans for Summer 2015** These had been circulated with the meeting papers and were approved.
- c. **Rev Craig Huxley** Hugh advised that Bishop Trevor had asked Hugh to take Craig on as an Assistant Curate to assist Craig with his training. Craig is in the unusual position of having a full time chaplaincy role at Benenden Girls School so he will not be with us in the same capacity as a normal curate. Craig will be with us on Sundays and will preach occasionally. Hugh and Craig will also discern one project that he will take on here. Barney and Simon expressed concern that the PCC had not been consulted in this matter, but Hugh explained that the circumstances required him to make the decision in agreement with the two churchwardens, who supported Hugh in the decision.
- d. **Families Minister update** Hugh advised that for the next six months Kev would be working 7 hours a week for the church. He would be focusing on the school, Family Services and one off events.

11. Fabric and Finance

a. **Proposed 2015 budget** Anthony was able to report that there was a surplus over expenditure of £6,000. Barney asked whether there was a level of expectation that our giving should be 10%. Anthony reassured the meeting that once the final figures had been calculated, this would be something that would be addressed, but that the level was noted. The question of adopting a Reserve policy was also raised, but a decision on this could not be made until we knew the outcome of the Parish share. Barney also raised a question about whether we should be spending money on the floodlighting. However Anthony reported that we have only reached the stage of finding out costs so this is a subject that we will return to.

The meeting thanked Anthony for presenting the 2015 Budget in such a clear format, and the Budget was unanimously adopted.

Anthony was able to report to the meeting that Becky would be taking on the book-keeping side of the Treasurer's role. This would allow him to take on more of an Honorary Treasurer role and that he felt he could continue in this role with the new arrangement. There was unanimous agreement to split the role in this way, and also for Becky to be made a signatory on the account.

Anthony asked the PCC about payments made to the church cleaner

and whether these should be made through the payroll. After discussion it was decided that she met the criteria for self-employment, and therefore not go on the payroll, and that Anthony would make her aware of the contents of the Revenue declaration that he is required to make.

b. The Playground Tim has prepared a 5 year licence for the Parish Council to take over the upkeep and responsibility of the Playground. The PCC granted the Finance Committee power to negotiate on this.

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c. AV update Hugh was able to report that the organ microphone was in. There was a discussion about the visibility of the screen on the South side of the church. Hugh will speak to Ian Dodd from the DAC about the possibility of mounting screens on the pillars.

Anthony concluded the Finance section of the meeting by advising the PCC that he had received a letter from Alison Clarke from the pre-school thanking the PCC for waiving the £500 initial start-up loan.

12. Communication

a. Getting your church noticed report from Becky Addis

Becky had attended a course at Church House in London and her report had been circulated. This would be discussed at a further PCC meeting.

13. Deanery

Hugh, and other members of the church community, had attended a good talk by Dr. Revd. Joanna Collicutt about the Spirituality of Ageing. In this Joanna had emphasized the importance of cross age group mixing, and Hugh gave an example of one of the Alpha groups who had teenagers through to ladies in their 80s – this group really loved each other and showed the importance of mixing age groups.

14. Any other Business

Patrice reported that she had received a lot of positive feedback from the Churches Together service on 8 March. It was felt that we should not leave it too long before organizing another similar service.

Simon closed the meeting in with prayer at 9.35pm.