

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH
ON WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2009**

Present: Fr Mike, Fr Timon (Curate), Margaret Symonds (Churchwarden), David Hodgens, David Palmer, Julia Spurgeon, Colin Monk, Linda Wainwright (Deanery Synod), Barbie Lloyd, Candy Williams, John Towns, Dick Handy, Carol McKells (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

ACTION

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Richard Spurgeon (Churchwarden), Dawn Hyett, Tony Rice-Oxley, Lindsay Chalk, John Towns

Fr Mike opened the meeting with prayers

Amendments to Agenda

Fr Mike said that:

Item 6 - 40th Anniversary Celebrations will become Item 4a

Item 6 – Fees update

Item 9a – Charities Committee

2. **Minutes of last PCC meeting on 16th November 2009**

Item 6 – Lent Programme, typo last line 'he' should read 'she'.

The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Page 1 – Dawn has covered the new Gospel book and the books and processional candles were blessed on Sunday and are now in use.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Carol gave the following report:

Income

Income continues to exceed the budget overall.

- Tax relief on gift aided donations has been received for quarter 3, amounting to £2436.92.
- Interest on investments has been received.
- The promised sponsorship of The Bulletin by Edwards Funeral Directors has been received and appears under Donations
- Fundraising shows £89.62 proceeds from October's table top sale and £3000 from shop sales

To date, donations received as legacies amount to £3253.50, from which £777.16 has been spent on hymn books, brass lanterns, Book of the Gospels and other special prayer & worship books.

Outgoing

- The final Quota for 2009 has been paid

- Admin includes £281 for the copyright licence
- Church Maintenance includes £109.25 for service and repair of boilers and £136.51 for appliance testing, for which the Hall has paid its half share to the PCC account.
- Liturgical costs includes payments for communion wine and candles
- Fees out shows payments relating to funeral services in church

For information, next year's Parish Share is £49,802. For 2009 the Parish Share was paid over 10 months, Feb to Nov, and it is intended to pay 2010's in the same way.

I have received the application form for next year's Pompey Chimes – are we to send this off? The price is the same as last year. After discussion it was agreed that Carol should order the same amount for next year as we had this year.

With reference to the cashed £5000 from Investment account, a cheque has been issued from the PCC account to be paid into the Hall deposit account for holding, pending its need for payments due for work following the Quinquennial inspection.

It has since been suggested that these funds be used in the following way:

“Summary of Financial Position between Church and Hall as at 12.12.2009”

The Church owes the Hall

Loaned in November 2008 to assist with cash flow problem	4000.00
For Electrical Inspection as a result of Quinquennial currently paid by the Hall	230.00
For 50% of Asbestos Inspection of Church and Hall as a result of Quinquennial costing £661.25 and currently paid in full by the Hall	330.62
Total	4560.62
Less	
Annual contribution suggested by PCC and agreed by Hall Committee in reduction of Loan made in 2008 to enable a balanced budget for the Church in 2009 to be agreed	1000.00
Total owed by Church to Hall	£3560.62

In order to simplify the position as at the year end it is suggested that the Church use the £5000 realised from Investments in the autumn, when it was anticipated that work on the Church tower could be commenced, to repay the above sum which, together with additional surplus monies currently in hand on the Hall current account would be transferred to the Hall CBF Savings account in order to maximise interest earnings.

Once the position with regard to work required on the tower is clarified the PCC can then consider whether further funds are required from the Hall to assist with these costs bearing in mind that all funds held by the Hall are in reality Church Funds”

My initial concern was that the encashed funds would be used up in paying back the ‘loan’ to the Hall account and the PCC would have no access to immediate funds for any quinquennial work. David Cavey’s reply was, in effect, ‘...when the cost of the QQ work is known the PCC will have to decide how this is to be met, taking account of funds held at that time on hall deposit account, as these are actually church funds and at the disposal of the PCC should it so decide’.

Carol said we need to make a decision on this and she proposed that we accept David Cavey’s proposal outlined in the above schedule. This was seconded by David Ho and agreed unanimously.

Linda said the Help the Aged retiring collection for November raised £117.

The cheque for the SE Asia appeal was returned from the bank and has now been sent via Christian Aid.

4a. **40th Anniversary Celebrations**

Fr Mike said he has put this on the agenda because the 40th Anniversary Committee were quite upset at the lack of encouragement received from the PCC at the last meeting. Discussion needs to take place about whether we should be celebrating the 40th Anniversary at all. It was agreed that we should celebrate in some way but perhaps not do all the events that have been planned. It was felt that the Easter Sunday photo, cake and wine should go ahead and perhaps another service to mark the end of the year. As the Fun Day is a community outreach and the Mothers’ Union are paying for the clown as part of the MU’s 100th Anniversary it was felt that it is important for this to go ahead, especially as the Clown, Rev Roly Bain has been booked. We have to remember that we are a church and not a business. After discussion it was felt that the Committee were still not sure that the PCC really supported them in this and Barbie suggested putting the wording “enthusiastically” in the proposal. It was also suggested that a member of the Social Committee

should be seconded onto the 40th Anniversary Committee to liaise between the two. It was agreed that the 40th Anniversary would have a meeting to discuss which events they felt they wished to continue with in consultation with the Social Committee.

Dick proposed that the PCC enthusiastically support the 40th Anniversary Committee's endeavour to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of St George's. This was seconded by David Hodgens, there was one abstention and the rest of the PCC were in agreement.

5. **Committee Reports**

a) Fabric and Finance + Quinquennial

Dick said the Quinquennial meeting with the Architect went ahead. The Archdeacon was also there. We need to do this work under the Architect's guidance and control. Our only way ahead is to fully engage with the Architect. Discussions about the tower took place and it turned out that if we had put the scaffolding up for the length of time we had thought of it would have cost £2,000 more than what the Architect is proposing. Redecoration of the church was also discussed and providing it is agreed with the Architect we can put up what colour we want. Subsequent to the meeting a decorator came in to give a quote for painting the back wall and providing the paint for the rest of the church at a cost of £1,500. Neither the Archdeacon or the Architect were at all worried about the cracks in the floor so this is not a priority and would cost a lot of money to put right. The Architect also gave some cheaper options for filling in the gap in the Gallery.

They then went up to the tower – main support timbers are rotten and wooden slats are soaking wet. The rectangular box in the roof gathers water. The exterior surface is not nearly as bad as he thought it would be but there is water coming in all over the place. One set of beams will need replacing, another may do when they can get to look at it. The Architect suggested putting an asphalt roof on. They found asbestos up there which would need removing.

The Architect has gone away to prepare a detailed set of drawings and plans as to what we need to do. He suggested putting the scaffolding up once all the materials etc are ready and a date agreed with the workmen otherwise it could be up for months and would be very expensive. He would not start the work until after Easter.

We now need to work out how we are going to pay for it. This is a major project for 2010. Dick said he has taken a lot of photos which he has put on CD if anyone would like to look at them.

All

The PCC thanked Dick for all his work on this.

ACTION

- b) 40th Anniversary
Not met.
- c) Pastoral
Minutes have already been circulated. Dick went through the key items. The Advent Journey is taking place at the moment and people were encouraged to visit it. Julia asked that in future any Taize dates should be run past her before a definite decision is made.
- d) Hall
Not met.
- e) Fundraising
Not met.
- f) Social
Not met.
- g) Deanery Synod
Meeting held at St George's on 25th November 2009 and Linda gave the following report:
Introduction from Fr Mike – handout about parish given to all members on entry – emphasised welcome to new families and community involvement.

Rev Tim Jessiman elected to Deanery Pastoral Committee. Tony Rice-Oxley standing down as deanery treasurer and Alan Elliott elected to position. Anne Stunt to continue as Deanery Secretary.

Sue Rodgers gave a presentation on General Synod and explained the structure. She is one of 3 elected lay members of Portsmouth Diocesan Synod along with the Bishop and 3 elected clergy (Bob White, David Isaac and Peter Hancock). The meeting acted out complicated voting procedures and motions need to progress from PCC to deanery to Diocesan Synod and thus to General Synod. One fact was that more needs to be done to encourage and involve younger people in the structure of their church. She also spoke later about her involvement in appointment of the new bishop. On finance, £2K is held in reserve and Capitation fees to remain at £20 per member for 2010. Parish shares all up to date, PCCs congratulated and figures for next year finalised.

Angela Herring gave a photo presentation update on the Koforidua projects following a 10 day visit recently. £3K for stipend project delivered personally but Diocesan offices not progressing at the moment. Bishop now has internet access from his house. Time spent on looking at Petersfield deanery proposal to pay extra quota (0.8%) to fund a salary and stipends increase for 2010 but this was not supported by Havant.

Report on Strategy for Mission to manage declining numbers of clergy drew attention to Dec/Jan Pompey Chimes article outlining ideas and explaining options of ministry teams, Group Ministry, community and Minster model. Flexibility will be needed. PCCs

Jane

are to see and discuss ideas with various meetings taking place before end of March.

ACTION

Kairos Buildings timetable slipping.

6. **Fees Update**

Fr Mike handed out a sheet showing 2010 fees. Set fees for weddings and funerals agreed by Church House. David P suggested finding another name for "Server", maybe "Service Assistant". As there was quite a large increase last year it was agreed to accept these fees as they stand. This was proposed by Linda and seconded by David Ho and agreed unanimously.

7. **Lent Redecoration Scheme**

Tony had suggested decorating the church during Lent at the last meeting. This was spoken about with the Archdeacon and Architect and the PCC need to decide whether it is worth pursuing. David Ho said he would like to see what the tower is going to cost and after discussion it was agreed that we should wait until the quinquennial work is done and paid for which means that this would not be happen in Lent 2010.

8. **Church Garden Upkeep**

Tony said that we are no longer in a position to maintain the flower borders and do the edging. He suggested that we hire a gardener and there is money in the budget. David Cavey is getting quotations from the Blendworth Centre but we have not received this yet so it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.

Fr Mike

9. **Correspondence**

None.

9a. **Charities Committee**

2 or 3 people meet with Fr Mike once a year to look at all the requests from national and local charities which St George's will support from February 2010 to January 2011. Barbie, Linda, Candy and Margaret volunteered to meet in early January – a date will be arranged after this meeting.

Fr Mike,
Barbie,
Linda,
Candy,
Margaret

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 18th January 2010** following the **7.30 pm** Eucharist.

All

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.