

## St Mary's Church, Hadlow

### Parochial Church Council

*Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 15 January 2018*

**1. Opening prayer** The meeting began with the first part of Compline.

**Present:** Rev'd Paul White [Rev'd Paul]; Rev'd Nicola Harvey, Curate (Rev'd Nicky); Martin Massy [MM]; Barbara Smith [BS]; Francis Griffiths [FG]; Val Newell [VN]; Kelly Parsons [KP]; Kirsty Finch [KF]; David Gater [DG]; Judy Gater [JG]; Jenny Hopkins [JH]; Eleanor Livett [EL]; Katerina Nixon [KN]; Mark Totty [MT]; Sharon Vanns [SV]; Annie Young [AY].

*(Minutes: Judy Gater)*

**2. Apologies for absence:** Rachel Packham [RP]; Michael Payne [MP];

**3. Approval of Minutes of PCC meeting held on 20 November 2017**

The minutes had already been approved by email but were formally approved and signed.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

**CAROLS IN THE SQUARE** This had gone very well and traffic management was much improved. Carol sheets would be checked before next year's service.

**CHOIR AT WEDDINGS** It was noted that choir members were happy to sing at weddings, provided that plenty of notice was given.

**5. Treasurer's Report (DG)**

DG had circulated a draft report on the state of the PCC finances for the whole of the year 2017 and a list of income/expenditure for the year as far as figures were available.

Alan Knowles (AK) had entered most of the figures for 2017 into the Xero system, but there were still some to come in. The best guess at this stage was that there would be a surplus of approx. £2,000. DG praised and thanked AK for his meticulous bookkeeping and his mastery of the new accounting software.

With regard to the level of general reserves, these were being built up with the CRF (Church Restoration Fund) in readiness for the next Quinquennial inspection. We had borrowed £15,000 from this fund during the Tower repairs to provide liquidity if needed. Approx. £10,000 of this could now be returned, making a very useful start to the PCC's wish to restore reserves to an appropriate level over the next few years.

DG had checked with KCC about the grant it had awarded to help with our Lighthouse project. KCC had considered carefully but decided, notwithstanding a further case being put by Rev'd Paul, that the Beacon service did not meet its criteria for a community project. We would therefore refund the £800. (This was restricted money and therefore would not affect the surplus mentioned above).

The Finance Report for the APCM would be drafted in early February for the Standing Committee to look at and the final version would go to the March PCC for approval.

## • 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### EDUCATION (KP)

Christmas 137 'Baby Jesus stones' went out; this new venture was very well received.

Lent The course 'Guides not Guards' would be used for the older children. It would be launched at the Beacon service on 18 February, continue weekly through Lent and finish at the Beacon service on 18 March. The Beacon service would be on the third Sunday when possible.

Time Together Provision for the younger children, to replace the Time Together services, was being planned. Options were to have alternative services at Golden Green and Hadlow, or to combine with East Peckham church.

*ACTION Rev'd Paul would get in touch with Rev'd Anthony Carr, the rector of East Peckham.*

Baptisms JH mentioned the tradition of the Mothers' Union giving posies or flowering plants to the mothers at baptisms. This practice would continue

under the Education committee umbrella, flowers being presented by ‘the ladies of the church.’

Family Eucharist There was some discussion, raising the following points:

- It would be helpful to construct a complete service – liturgy and hymns as well as the talk – with families in mind.
- A good time for such services might be in the school holidays when the clubs were not operating. On the other hand, term time services would probably attract more children and would also ease the pressure on the Sunday club helpers.
- Good publicity would be needed.

**ACTION** *Rev’d Paul and Rev’d Nicky would construct a suitable service.*

Confirmation About 10 children were coming up to preparing for confirmation.

A Youth Breakfast was being planned. It would take the form of a brunch starting sometime after 9am.

**FABRIC (MM)**

The church tower project was complete at last and the final tranche of grant money had been paid.

The display unit was being manufactured. Stephanie Ingham and Caroline Wetton were working on the design of the display and this was near completion. It would be in three sections – church, notices and Hadlow Tower/village. The outer leaves would fold out like a triptych, and have displays on both sides.

The November gas bill had been very high and investigation showed that the system had kept going overnight. This was being looked into, to correct the problem.

Electricity. Surge protection and emergency lighting were to be installed.

## FUNDRAISING/OUTREACH (KF)

Dates for this year were

- 24 February Curry evening and beetle drive
- 17 February The PCC would run the market stall
- African evening, possibly in March
- April market stall would include a plant swap

## WORLD MISSION (BS)

There were plans for market stalls to raise funds for MAF, the Children's Society, and Link to Hope.

Lent There would be a focus on Tanzania for the Lent appeal. SV and Jim May were looking into various practical possibilities. Lent lunches proceeds would probably be sent to Christian Aid again this year.

The Food Bank in Paddock Wood was delighted to receive the money we raised at Christmas. The bank needs a substantial amount of money to pay for rental of their premises. We might possibly ask the chair of the food bank to talk to us on a Sunday.

## 7. MOTHERING SUNDAY

The groups, Coffee Pot and Tiny Tots and Who Let the Dads Out? would be invited to the Mothering Sunday service

## 8. LADY CHAPEL CANDLES

It had been noticed that the stand near the window was causing problems. Candle wax dripped onto the carpet. This was unsightly and difficult to clean. Various possibilities were discussed and it was decided to try to adapt the existing stand to take tea lights. Otherwise, a special stand would be bought.

## 9. PCC QUIET DAY

This would be on Saturday 20 January in church. Rev'd Paul circulated a programme for the day and it was agreed that we would each donate £10 to Rev'd Christine Spurway and Martin Swindlehurst who were running the day. JH and NH were organising a ploughman's lunch for us to share.

## **10. POLICY FOR LETTING CHURCH TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Rev'd Paul had circulated examples of the sort of structure we needed. BS pointed out that there were already forms to be filled in when new hirers approached St Mary's. Factors such as numbers attending, insurance and ticket sales needed to be considered. *This item would be discussed further at the next Standing Committee.*

## **11 APCM**

- JG reminded the PCC that the APCM is scheduled for 29 April after the 10am service. David Lear had kindly agreed to act as Electoral Roll Officer again and the committee was delighted to elect him, unanimously, to this position. Revision of the Roll would take place in March. There would be an opportunity here to obtain more email addresses from the congregation so that more people could be kept informed by email of church plans.
- DG would prepare the finance report and JG would prepare the APCM booklet of other reports and check that the appropriate notices were posted in the church, according to the Church Representation Rules.
- JG pointed out that the only elections this year would be for the churchwardens and for two new members of the PCC to replace SV and AW whose term of office was ending this year.

## **12 LENT COURSE**

The Pilgrim Courses would be used again and after some discussion it was decided to follow the one on The Bible. The dates would be –

Following on from Ash Wednesday 14 February, the course would be on Wednesdays at 8pm and Thursdays at 1pm (preceded at 12.30 by lunch). The first session would be on 21 February, the last one on 22 March.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

Any items of note had already been dealt with.

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Holiday at Home

JH had already received offers of practical and financial help with this. It was decided that it would take place on Monday 13 August and Tuesday 14 August.

### Chip and Pin machine

Rev'd Paul had found one which connected directly with St Mary's current bank account and was cheaper than the PayPal one. Accordingly it was decided that he should go ahead and purchase it on behalf of the church.

### Fundraising for Kibakwe

SV and Jim May were planning a pilgrimage to Canterbury on 15 – 17 February. The distance is about 40 miles. There is a network of pilgrimage stopovers en route which they would use. The walk would be publicised and sponsorship sought.

The meeting finished with the second part of the Compline service at 9.50pm

### **Dates of next meetings**

**Standing Committee Monday 19 February 2018**

**Full PCC Tuesday 20 March 2018**