

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD AT THE VICARAGE
ON TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 2008**

Present: Fr Mike, Margaret Symonds (Churchwarden), Richard Spurgeon (Churchwarden), Carol McKells (Treasurer), Denise Rosser, David Palmer, David Hodgins, Leon Bartosiak, Elaine Shimbart, Mabel Maginn, Tony Rice-Oxley, Dick Handy, Jane Cook (Secretary)

ACTION

1. **Apologies for absence:**

David Cavey, Julia Spurgeon, Linda Wainwright (Deanery Synod)

2. **Minutes of last PCC meeting on 6th May 2008**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

- Page 2 - Carol said the Parish Share for April was paid at the beginning of May.
- Page 3 – Carol has withdrawn the money from this account and will now arrange for the account to be closed.
- Page 3 – Carol said she has now met with Gordon Beer and he is coming round on Wednesday to take all the stuff.
- Page 5 – Tony said that a letter has now been sent to Daniel Forshaw and we are awaiting his written reply before writing to Roger Boyce.
- Fr Mike said he has now met with the noticeboard man. He agrees that the wood at the back should not have gone like that and will attend to it. With regard to the surround which has gone pink he is not sure why this should have happened but the firm who made it have gone bankrupt. He said there are two choices – he could try applying spray paint in the hope that it will work and if it does not work take the edging off altogether and put on a wooden surround. The PCC agreed to get him to try the spray paint in the same red we had originally to see if this works.

Carol

Fr Mike

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Carol gave her reports as follows: The figures shown on the report go up to 25th May, so don't show the complete figures to the end of the month.

As you can see, despite withdrawing £1630.76 from the deposit account, the bank balance stands at just over £4,500. The year to date income is just under £5,000 below budget. This is a bit of a worry as there are insufficient funds for bills etc.

Extraordinary income shows the deposit account funds plus £200 which was a cheque made out to the PCC account but was, in fact, an insurance payment to the Church Hall. Its corresponding payment out shows on the opposite side.

The payment showing for the quota is the April payment and May's payment should hopefully go through under May's figures, although the Diocese will receive it shortly. The amount under Admin includes £108.66 for a new supply of pink and green envelopes. Fees paid out covers the recent wedding.

Extraordinary outgoing shows the already mentioned Church Hall cheque

paid out and £112.50 for purchase of choir books, for which we should hopefully be reimbursed from the choir's own funds.

On the LTSB incoming side, none of the Christian Aid collections have gone through this account but £398.03 was sent off directly to them by Jane Cook – with thanks.

£155 has been paid out, representing £50 each to ACT, Christian Aid and the Burma appeal. They were all donated by the Wednesday Coffee morning collections.

It was pointed out that the deposit account line on the incoming side should come out altogether.

5. **Committee Reports**

a) Fabric and Finance

Scheduled to meet in July.

b) Pastoral

These minutes were circulated before the meeting. Dick was asked what the After School Club was. He explained that it was an idea to set up a club for pre Youth Club age primary school children maybe once or twice a month. The Buddy system is still being discussed and something will go in the Bulletin asking the congregation to look out for people around them who may be missing and report to a member of the Pastoral Committee. We would trial this to see how it works.

c) Deanery Synod

Next meeting is the Tuesday of the Music Festival, 10th June.

d) Hall

Met on 12th May, minutes were not distributed before the meeting. Fr Mike had received a note from Colin asking for the Chair of the Hall Committee to be resolved and appointed at this meeting as it has been in limbo since Richard resigned at the APCM following his appointment to Churchwarden. He said that the Chair of the Hall Committee is a different thing to the position of Hall Manager which doesn't exist anymore. Colin asked that the position of Chair of the Hall Committee be put on the APCM agenda for future years but Fr Mike said that whoever took on this role should be an ex officio member of the PCC and a Chair appointed either at the first meeting of the PCC each year or by the Hall Committee members themselves.

Fr Mike asked if there was anyone on the PCC willing to take on this position but there were no volunteers. He then said that Colin is prepared to do it but wants to be able to stand down after a year if he wishes. Richard said that things have changed and now the vast majority of post goes to the Vicarage. Anne Willoughby has said she is happy to continue with bookings. David Cavey is doing the finance and running the bank accounts. The Committee must decide who is the first person to be contacted in case of emergency. For the moment it is Tony or Colin. Richard proposed that we invite Colin to be co-opted as Chairman of the Hall Committee and this was agreed unanimously.

Fr Mike

e) Future Hall developments

Tony reported that last Thursday they met with the Archdeacon and our new Architect, Daniel Forshaw together with two members of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) to look at the Church and the Hall to discuss the various options. No-one seemed unduly worried by the

ACTION

cracks in the Church. They looked at the hall, not worried by the wall bulging into the car park. They noted all the bits that had been added over the years. Looked around inside. Came to the same conclusion as us that it would be good to lose the current hall building and add a hall on to the Church which is what majority of Churches are doing these days. Daniel mentioned the trees which would definitely have a preservation order slapped on them if we went ahead. They said that many churches have sold their halls for a pittance of their real worth. Daniel thought we would have trouble putting up a hall for £½M. Were in favour of a hall and community outreach.

David H. asked if we have a crisis on our hands at the moment with the hall. Richard said the position is getting worse and we are not generating the funds that will inevitably be needed. The steering group has had a first meeting and has said that this is the option we want to pursue but is a long way off. The hall will be 100 years old in 2013 so this is a date to work towards.

Richard said he had met with an officer from the Planning Department at Havant Borough Council in the afternoon. They would prefer a community building and should be able to give us planning permission if we maybe built double storey with office space above. Also pointed out about the trees. Little concerned about developing the site for residential use. Very happy to talk to the architects on an informal basis. She would be happy for them to produce first plans for her to look at. Archaeology Department would need to look at graves. Fr Mike said we are still investigating if there are any covenants on the land.

It was agreed we need to get Daniel Forshaw's costs in writing and see if we need to borrow some money off the church hall funds to pay for the extended survey he is going to carry out.

Tony

6. **Cameras/TV facilities in choir loft**

Dick said that this was brought up some time ago and no decision was ever taken. Cecil is keen to have a camera system/TV so that he can see what is happening downstairs. Dick said it would be a very useful thing to have and had looked briefly at prices. He thinks we could get a basic CCTV system with two cameras and two way switch box and a monitor for under £200. Dick will go ahead and price this up and bring back to the PCC once he has done it.

Dick

7. **St George's Day collection date**

It was agreed to hold this on 19th October and call it Dragons Day.

Fr Mike

8. **Social for Assistant Curate – 30th June**

Fr Mike said that Timon and his family are moving earlier than was originally thought in week beginning 16th June. As previously informed we will be responsible for paying Timon's expenses. To get his phone connected to BT we will need to pay £140. Fr Mike has checked with the Diocese and this will need to be paid by St George's.

Carol

A social evening will be held to welcome Timon and his family to St George's on 30th June – drinks and a cake followed by Complin at 7.30. 9 pm finish.

9. **Comparative energy costs (Report by Tony and David H.)**

In David Cavey's absence, David H. and Tony have progressed the investigation which he had begun to find out if our energy contracts are best placed. David C. has already done a comparison of several major suppliers, including our current suppliers, and had produced a grid of charges. Of these by far the cheapest was a company called Utilities Warehouse so David H. and Tony met with their representative to discuss our needs.

Utilities Warehouse is a smaller organisation than its competitors, and has no advertising, sales or marketing divisions. Sales of gas, electricity, telephone, mobile phone and broadband supplies are gained by using 'commission only' sales people, mainly retired, who present their product (with little or no sales or marketing techniques!!). However, the figures speak for themselves and there appear to be major savings to be made by changing to UW for all our energy supplies. There are no additional discounts to be obtained by transferring all our accounts to one single supplier; however as savings would be made on each account transferred (substantial ones in the case of Hall Gas) it would be profitable to change them all at the same time.

Community Fundraiser – there is a further element in the UW quote which David H. and Tony believe may well provide the church with considerable additional income over a passage of time. That is to become 'agents' ourselves for UW. At first this sounded an unnecessary chore for us to undertake, but it seems that many charities now do this and each new person they convert, as well as benefiting from cheaper supplies would trigger a 2% payment back to the church. Incidentally Tony was approached to be such an agent a couple of years ago, but he refused as, being Churchwarden at the time, he felt it wrong to use that position to try to persuade members of the congregation to change energy supplier.

In simple terms, for each person who converts to UW through their connection with the church, the church would receive 2% of their bill value. If 50 of the congregation changed their supplier for energy (and maybe phone, broadband etc etc) and if a household had a gas bill of, say £20 per month and a similar electricity bill, a payback to the church of about £10 would follow. Multiply this by 50 and you can see that quite large sums would follow. There is a one-off payment of £25 to belong to this scheme, but the 2% refund to the church on the church's accounts alone would soon repay this.

Recommendation – David H. and Tony would strongly recommend that we take this opportunity to change supplier for all four accounts and pay the £25 to become members of this Community Fundraiser scheme. Once we see how this scheme works we could begin to recommend it to parishioners and so begin to reap the 2% reward which would follow from their energy use.

David C /
David H /
Tony RO

10. **Correspondence**

Future Agenda

Fr Mike said it may be worth closing our churchyard for burials which would mean Havant Borough Council would be responsible for maintaining the churchyard including walls. He will find out more from Warblington Church who have done it and put it on the agenda for the

Fr Mike /
Agenda

ACTION

next PCC meeting.

Axim

Margaret Symonds read out a letter received from the new priest, Rev Dixon at St Mary's Church Axim. Since the roof fell in on 3rd April 2000 a lot has been done but they still desperately need money to carry on with the repairs. Our collection for Axim has already taken place in January and Mabel kindly offered to take this money over in the summer when she goes. However Margaret thought we should do something more in the way of fundraising. Tony suggested a raffle in the autumn, set up in the Church hall and sell tickets for 3 or 4 weeks to raise some more money. Margaret will organise this.

Mabel

Margaret

11.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 7th July 2008** in the Church following the 7.30 pm Eucharist.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.