

**MINUTES OF ST GEORGE'S PCC MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH
ON TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2014**

Present: Fr Mike, Linda Wainwright (Churchwarden), Sonja Barrant, Elaine Shimbart (Deanery Synod), Barbie Lloyd (Deanery Synod), Candy Williams, Colin Monk, Dawn Trimby (Treasurer), Jane Cook (Secretary)

ACTION

Fr Mike thanked everyone for coming.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Rosy Stone (Churchwarden), Marian Haughton, Tony Rice-Oxley, John Hood, Lynne McNeill, Geoff Davies, Abi Morgan
Dick Handy although not on PCC was hoping to attend but is unwell

2. **Minutes of last PCC meeting on 22ND September**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

4. **a) Treasurer's Report**

Dawn explained that she is not going through the September figures tonight as we are just talking about the budget for next year. She gave the following report:

"Budget has been circulated. The Fabric and Finance Committee have discussed it and there is no easy way of saying that we do not have enough income to meet our running costs. Of course we can use our reserves but they will not last forever and there will come a time when we have no more left if we do not try and sort this situation out now.

We have unfortunately had our true financial position masked over the last year. Firstly Edwin's legacy left us feeling that we had plenty of money in case of an emergency, which we do, but we can't afford to rely on this for our everyday bills.

Secondly we have in the past kept all the legacies gifted to the church in the current account. This has given a false account of our true bank balance as these legacies have been given for specific items and cannot be used for anything else. This has particularly come to light with the refurbishment of the organ. We were given £4000 towards this from Madeline Lennon and once the bills came in for the organ our bank balance went down drastically.

We ran the Lent scheme this year and this was a huge success. However we knew that it would take time for all the new standing orders to be processed. It is only as we have come to do next year's budget that the true problem has come to light. Looking back on the Lent campaign we received 7 new standing orders amounting to £117 per month and 14 existing standing orders were increased by £152 per month. This gave us a total increase of £269 per month or £3228 per year. However St George's this year has lost through death several members of the congregation. When taking out this planned giving it gives us a net increase of planned giving of £250 per year.

We have looked at ways to go forward and some of the suggestions are

- We open a separate account with HSBC to keep the legacies for

specific items separate in. With it being with HSBC we will be able to transfer the money through Internet banking to the current account as and when it is needed.

- We have increased the amount we hope to raise through fundraising efforts, but this will need more people to help at the events and fresh ideas. Maybe setting up a new fundraising committee which will focus on fundraising solely and making it clear to the congregation that you do not need to be on PCC to be part of this committee. This will leave the existing Social and Fundraising committee to focus on just social events without the constant pressure of having to make money out of everything we do. In order for this to work, we need ideas that the congregation are prepared to support. The recent auction only had 21 people on the night. There were proxy bids beforehand, but the response was a minority of the 100 people we have in the pews most Sundays.
- We feel that we need to keep a buffer in the bank account in order for us to be in a position to pay our parish share each month. This may mean having to draw down some more money from our reserves in the new year.

To get us through the next few months we have drawn down £7,500 from the UTB bank. This has allowed us to be able to pay the remaining £10,760 of our parish share this year and the final bill for the organ refurbishment of £5,352.48, the total cost of which came to £17,841.60. We do however have £1,100 going into the bank account this week from the auction and the Christmas bazaar is coming up.

We have to look at going forward differently. We have to accept that when we have larger jobs, we will have to take this money from our reserves, for example there are some urgent electrical works that are needed, and we will not be able to cover these from our weekly income.

We are proposing making small changes that may not have a huge impact financially, but may be what is needed for the whole congregation to realise that planned giving needs to be increased if we want to keep our church running as it is at the moment. These would be ideas like only having 50% of the lights on before the service but as the service begins turn the rest on and turning the heating off at 10.30 rather than 11am and using the residue heat in the building.

The Fabric and Finance Committee are open to any suggestions that anyone has to rectify this situation, but the bottom line is that planned giving has gone down and we have managed to keep expenditure down as much as possible”.

Fr Mike thanked Dawn and the F&F Committee for all their work and said we are in quite an awkward state. Colin has tried to do a projection forward and it looks as like if we don't act now our reserves will disappear around 2020. We have a deficit of nearly £7,700 next year – the parish share will undoubtedly go up along with our insurance, utility bills etc. We have also put in an optimistic amount of £10,000 for fundraising but if this is less we will have to find it from elsewhere. Ideally we need planned giving to increase. Need to think about how we can draw extra funds in without hitting the congregation each year.

Dawn said to work out the budget they take three-quarters of income and expenditure for 2014 then round it up to a full year, then add 5% for inflation

then go through it line by line and adjust it. The budget is a balanced budget as we will draw down money from our reserves but it is crucial we get the £7,694 back from the congregation in increased planned giving. It was agreed that we accept this budget and this was proposed by Dawn Trimby, seconded by Linda Wainwright and agreed unanimously. Linda said a big thank you to Colin and Dawn and the F&F Committee who have done a tremendous amount of work.

Need to make Dawn's life easier and in order for her to be able to pay bills on time if we need to we will have to draw down money from our reserves. Linda said that it was worked out that to cover the shortfall we need an extra £2 per person per week. The national average at present is £11 per person per week. Next year our parish share is going up by 4.43% to £56,164 an increase of £2,384 over this year. Dawn explained that we do not pay this by direct debit but pay it over 10 months and the parish share is non-negotiable.

Colin said a new consumer unit for the electrics is needed at a cost of around £1,000 which could possibly throw up other things.

It was agreed:

- not to replace the pew cushions at the moment as it was felt it would be sending out the wrong impression.
- we need to have a St George's Gift Day every year as it is usually very successful perhaps with coffee and cake.
- to produce some sort of welcome pack for new members. Sonja is doing the volunteer welcome pack so could extend that.
- we need to be mindful of what our objectives are before buying anything.
- to send a letter to everyone on the Electoral Roll stating our financial position. Colin suggested on a Sunday in January having a meeting at 10 am before the shortened service and instead of a sermon let the congregation discuss the financial situation and ask questions
- to have 50% of lights off before the service and heating to be turned off at 10.30 instead of 11.00 am.

It was also agreed to:

1. set up a separate bank account for legacies – proposed by Colin Monk, seconded by Linda Wainwright and agreed unanimously.
2. open another deposit account as a buffer account with enough money in it to enable us to pay our Parish Share each month – proposed by Elaine Shimbart, seconded by Dawn Trimby and agreed unanimously.
3. set up a new Fundraising Committee – proposed by Barbie Lloyd, seconded by Sonja Barrand and agreed unanimously.

b) Charity Treasurer's Report

Lynne is unable to be at the meeting tonight and advised that she doesn't yet have the October charity figures. Linda said we have received a request from the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for the Ebola Crisis. November retiring collections are in aid of Naomi House but as there are 5 Sundays it was agreed to advise the congregation this Sunday and then collect on the following two Sundays 16th and 23rd November for this crisis.

Fr Mike

ACTION

c) **F&F & Quinquennial Report**

- The minutes of Fabric and Finance have been circulated and are self-explanatory. We are extremely grateful to the team of men who do jobs around the church which saves us a lot of money. One of the benches in the churchyard has a broken leg beyond repair but Winifred Mancz's family have offered to buy a new bench in memory of Winifred. Colin thinks Babs family might wish to replace the bench but if not the church will not replace it as the cost would be over £1,000.
- Fr Mike had received a letter from Stella Starr's husband Rod with a cheque for £200 and Jane will write a letter thanking him and advising him that this money will be put towards the cost of the organ refurbishment.
- Fr Mike had received a letter from Robin Radley from Chiks thanking St George's church for the generous cheque and asking for the PCC's approval to write to David Hodgens family as the collection at his funeral also went to them. In all just over £500 was sent to them.

Jane

5. **Pastoral Committee Report**

Not met – next meeting 18th November.

6. **Hall Committee Report**

Had a meeting on 8th October and the minutes have been circulated. Colin advised that permanent lettings have reduced over the years but there has been an increase in casual lettings for children's parties. We are still solvent, still more income than expenditure. Need to increase the use of the hall so we are able to help with church finances. Colin said he has advertised on Yell.com and asked John Johnson to give the hall a bigger profile on the church website with a write up on the hall, photos etc. A working party recently cleared the stage and we need to push this with local Amateur Dramatic groups etc. Colin is to look at the light sensors on the hall which have again been broken.

Colin

There was a request from the hall committee for the PCC to approve a spend of up to £1,000 to buy some new tables and chairs for the hall but in view of discussions above regarding church finances it was agreed to postpone this for the time being as it might give out the wrong message as some of the congregation do not seem to realise that the church and the hall are separate entities. Barbie suggested doing a specific survey of the regular users of the hall to see what they think about the facilities.

Hall
Cttee

7. **Other Committee Reports**

a) **Social**

Not met

b) **Fundraising**

Not met

Deanery Synod

Not met. Barbie to send Jane minutes of last meeting held on 10th July to circulate.

8. **Children's Society representative**

Vivienne Wakefield has been our representative for the last couple of years and before sadly passing away this week had asked Fr Mike to find someone to take over from her as she could no longer continue.

ACTION

She had two roles:

1. to collect around 2 dozen boxes
2. to organise the Christingles for the service on Christmas Eve – buying the oranges (which the church will pay for) and getting people to make them up.

If anyone is interested in taking this over please let Fr Mike know.

All

9. **Memorial Concert for Stella Starr**

Fr Mike said that Stella's funeral was a fabulous service with around 265 people attending. When Fr Mike was chatting to Rod he asked whether they could hold a memorial concert for Stella and invite all the choirs she was involved in. It could also be a perfect opportunity for a formal re-opening of the organ. Colin wondered how we would restrict numbers to 250 including performers. It was suggested we could provide tickets on a first come, first served basis either free or in aid of a charity if Rod wishes.

10/11. **Christmas Arrangements for insurance purposes**

For insurance purposes the PCC agreed the following Christmas activities – 1st, 2nd and 3rd December Schools Concerts, Christmas Bazaar on 6th December, Carols in the Precinct on 20th December and French evening on 24th January.

12. **Venue Charge for Waterlooville Music Festival**

Over the last 10 years there has been a number of different ways that the Waterlooville Music Festival has contributed to the church. It is beneficial for the church to know how much they are going to receive and to WMF to know how much to pay the church. The last few years have been set at £2,000. Discussion followed and it was agreed that this should go up to £2,500 for 2015. This was proposed by Colin Monk, seconded by Elaine Shimbart and agreed unanimously.

WMF

13. **Correspondence**

For everyone's information the Lloyd family's new address from Wednesday 12th November will be: Eype, 29 Hulbert Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7NX.

All

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 15th December** at 7.30 pm at the Vicarage.

All

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.