

St Marys' Church, Brighstone, Isle of Wight

Meeting of the Parochial Church council

9th July 2015 at St Mary's Church, Brighstone

Minutes

Attendees: Alan Edwards (Chair), Rev'd Helen O'Sullivan, Jean Wavell, Keith Plater, Gill Bradbury, June Horsfall (sec)

1. Opening Prayers

2. Apologies: Pete Johnson, Beth Peckham, Stephen Sutcliffe, Norma Bradley, Pat Spittles, Kath Davies

3. Minutes of the last meeting- were agreed and signed

4. Finance:

Apologies that I was unable to attend yesterday's meeting. Alison forwarded me the balance sheet as at 31 December 2014 and the main concern is that the funds have reduced by around £44000 since 2013. I do not have any other years to be able to see if this a deteriorating trend but on speaking to Helen I think this situation may have been going on for a number of years.

Alison also forwarded the income and expenditure and it would have been good to go through this and get a better understanding of where we might be able to increase income and reduce expenditure to correct this position.

5. Fabric: **Roof-** Jeremy Pole architect has inspected the roof and he is of the opinion that repairs need to be done ASAP. Once his report has been received then grants can be applied for. Liz (Jeremy Poll's secretary) has links with the diocese. Janet and John have already been approved to apply for grants. There may be the possibility of Government funding for roof repairs.

Bench- Mr Brian Brake has requested permission to place a bench in the churchyard, in memory of Betty & Rob Dew and their daughter Susan, who died recently. The space allocated for a bench would be for the life of the bench. Therefore once the bench needed replacing the space would be offered to anyone else on a list of applicants wanting to place one in memory of a loved one.

The PCC agreed on a maximum number of 4 benches to be allowed.

The step by the bookstall. Alan Mc Dougall has been asked for an estimate to make a step down into the kitchen and fill in the slope. Photos to be taken for the Archdeacon to approve. It was also felt that a ramp was needed for the outside door to enable any disabled person easy access and Jean mentioned we had one that had been borrowed by one of the other churches in the parish.

PCC agree go ahead if the cost is under £1000.

Stirling Cottage- The roof at Stirling cottage is leaking and has also brought down the ceiling in the airing cupboard. The roof was re-tiled approximately 10 years ago but a

record of the builder cannot be found. Chris Goodman has tried to get the insurance to cover the repair but the assessor says that the work done was substandard.

Two quotes have been obtained one from Bucketts at a cost of £1,888 +VAT, they have supplied a detailed estimate of the work to be carried out including the airing cupboard (approx...£350)

Tim Knight has quoted £1,230+VAT, however his quote did not include work to be done on the airing cupboard.

Time scale here is important as it would be better if the work could be completed in the summer

The PCC asked Miriam to perhaps ask Chris Goodman if he could obtain another quote. Peter will repair the airing cupboard giving us a saving of approx., £300.

The PCC agreed to this work being done after the above information has been obtained

6. Wi-Fi- is now installed and up and running in the Exchange and we have gone with PlusNet as a supplier.

A report from Keith giving details and costings had been circulated to the PCC before the meeting. It was agreed that for the connection to the church PlusNet was again the preferred supplier being considerably cheaper than BT. The cable would be brought into church via the bell tower.

It was agreed that funds from The Dorothy Brooke Fund could be used as it would also enhance the music use in Church.

7. Update, screen, mixer, Mission Praise online, as the technology involved is becoming more available the prices are coming down. We are trying to source locally if possible. A company in Southampton has been approached and Richard and Keith will need to go over to discuss requirements etc., with them in more detail.

Mission Praise access has already been agreed at a cost of £60 per annum. Which would be applied for once the internet and Wi-Fi is up and running in church.

Helen said that at some point the architect would have to be involved with regard to the screen etc. but he was on the island regularly so she didn't see a problem.

8. Parish Giving scheme- The pilot scheme has been a great success with monies donated coming out of givers banks on the 1st, gift aid being claimed, returning back by the 4th and money in our account shortly after.

Alan has written a letter to every person who gives to us by whatever method asking them if they would transfer to the new scheme. This letter will be going out shortly.

For givers who give to general and or youth work, if they inform Alan of this he can allocate the funds easily.

9. Church Teams- this is taken and adjusted from the model Roy gave to us shortly before he died. It has been adapted and the PCC are asked to study the document

and give any feedback to Gill. Please note this is a confidential document as not everyone on it has been spoken to yet.

10. **Church Survey-** Gill passed round a copy of the draft survey for the PCC and various suggestions were made regarding the questions. We are hoping to give this out after the holiday season possibly in September to the church as a whole.

It will help us to understand what people want from the church and asks the question 'are we doing enough and what else would you like from the church as a whole?'

A.O.B.

Bell ringers- have asked if it would be possible for them to have two more bells after an inspection of the bell tower confirm that it would be safe. This would make St Mary's the only 8 bell church in West Wight.

The bell ringers are going from strength to strength and this would enhance their work. Many people have come to the church to learn bell ringing and then returned to their own communities. The fund raising for the bells would be done through the bell ringing fraternity and therefore would not distract from our fund raising for the Church roof.

Linda Edge has offered to organise a few fund raising events to help with the roof appeal. Helen suggested perhaps, Miriam, Norma and Linda possibly get together.

Signed **date**.....