

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's Church Council held on Tuesday 15th November 2011, in the Schoolrooms

The following council members were present:

Edward Armitstead, Bob Banfield, Ed Bangay, Eddie Brooks, Simon Corner, Rob Dean, Roger Fox, Phil Juggins, Tim Lewis, Iain Maitland, Joy Neville, Keith Ovenden, Helen Peace, David Preston. Paula Rollason, Jenny Salberg, Nick Scorer, David Upton, Kath Upton, Robert Warr, Anne Wicks, Chairman: James Dudley-Smith

1. Opening worship

James opened with a reading from Revelations c3, v7. This is part of a letter to the church in Philadelphia. "These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open". This focus's on the door and Jesus as the open door. There are many open doors for us and particularly for children, young families and youth work, for our civic responsibilities as at the Remembrance Day service, for the hospital and hospice services and the various school carol services. We must endure patiently as we discern what our priorities are. This was followed by open prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ros Bush, Ian Croxford, Alan Irwin, David Matthew, Martin Warr,

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meetings held on 20th September were approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising

Sunday Evening Services

Tim Lewis said that the planning committee had met and discussed the vision and general questions. Another meeting is planned for Friday to discuss logistics and personnel involved. It was planned to have the first service on 15th January. Tim said that it would be a service for all church members and fairly informal but demographically may appeal more to the younger element. It will start at 6.30pm with possibly coffee beforehand and finish by 7.45pm to enable the youth group to meet at 8pm. Anyone with views on the service was asked to let Tim know.

5. Finance

The secretary reported on an e-mail from Martin who said that there was a surplus of £17,768 for the 10 months ending 31st October. This included £12,596 from the gift day. Ignoring the gift day our income is £8,621 greater than budget of which £4,200 is pledged giving. We have paid all our charitable and missionary giving for the year. Our parish share for 2012 is £79,620 which is £130 less than 2011.

6 Fabric Reports

Tower

Rob Dean reported that the binocular survey of the tower had been carried out which would enable a more detailed estimate of the cost to be prepared by our quantity surveyor Adrian Stenning. The quinquennial survey due in August 2012 is being brought forward to March to feed into our application for funding to English Heritage.

Font cover

Phil said that he was still waiting for a reply to an e-mail that he had sent to the Archdeacon.

Upgrade of the church amplification system

Keith Ovenden said that the 4 main speakers were in position and in use. There are 2 more speakers to be positioned towards the rear of the church or possibly in the gallery. The total cost so far amounted to £5,760 and well within the amount donated by the Friends. After the installation of the 2 speakers the processor will need to be set up and the system balanced. A donation has been received towards a more powerful projector but one will not be purchased until a decision has been made about the way forward regarding the sighting of screens etc. The cabinet for the amplifier is being made by Steve Hiscock.

Screen for the South Transept

Jenny Salberg said that no further work had been done on obtaining an estimate from a carpenter. The secretary mentioned that we had received a bill amounting to £553 from the architect for preparing drawings. David Matthew had said that he did not ask the architect to prepare drawings and this was confirmed by Jenny and Keith. Following a discussion about whether we should ask the architect to withdraw or reduce his charges it was agreed that we should accept them but Phil Juggins agreed to write to him saying that in future he must only act on instructions from an authorised official such a warden or the clerk of works responsible for managing a project.

Organ.

James reported that a survey of the organ had been carried out by Harrison and Harrison and they confirmed that the organ had been built by the founder of the firm. Their estimate for a complete refurbishment was £300,000. James said that Ray Willis who had taken responsibility for the organ was confident that he could obtain significant grants from various charities interested in the preservation of organs. It was agreed to invite Ray to a future church council meeting to discuss the matter.

Church Lighting

Roger said that he had received an order from the DAC authorising us to install two hanging lights at the crossing which were not included in the original scheme. The estimated cost was £2,000 and would be paid for out of the fabric fund although it was hoped that members of the congregation may wish to make a contribution towards the cost. The meeting agreed that Roger could go ahead.

Bells and Clock

Roger said that he had been seeking the advice of the DAC regarding installing an additional 2 bells and re hanging the existing bells. The cost would be met from the Tom Setter bells fund and members of the congregation would be invited to buy a bell and have it inscribed. The clock in the tower, which is owned by Yeovil Town Council and currently not working, would need to be moved and Roger has written to the Town Council asking them what they wish to do with it.

Old Church Porch Gates

Roger said that the DAC had given permission for the old gates to be disposed of.

7. Parish Youth Work

Simon said that they had had a good weekend away with the CYFA group. 4 volunteers had come forward to help with the Friday night group. A Christian Union had started at Westfield school and another one was planned for Preston school. A quiz was being held on Friday 18th November to raise money for Children in Need and a United Youth Service was planned to be held in St John's church on Saturday 3rd December from 7pm to 9pm. The appeal for the Youth Minister Fund was being made on Sunday 20th

November and James circulated a draft letter to be handed out. It was suggested that an end date should be inserted and that the option to stop contributing should be moved from the first to the last option.

8. To Review past events

a) Confirmation

It was considered to have been a very good service although the attendance was disappointing. Some were disappointed that it was on a Thursday evening but a Sunday would have been very difficult as many of the clergy attending would have been conducting services in their own parishes.

b) Oddments Theatre Company visit

Tim said that he had received mixed feedback. However views expressed at the meeting were that it was too long, not relevant, inappropriate for a family service, joyless and depressing. It was agreed that in future a presentation should be biblically based and ideally last no more than 10 minutes. Tim agreed to draft a letter to the Oddments Theatre Company for James to approve expressing our views in a diplomatic way.

c) Newcomers' evening

A newcomers evening had been held on the previous Saturday when about 15 attended. James said that it was a mixed group of people but was a successful evening and he expressed his thanks to those who had helped.

d) Remembrance Sunday

The service in the schoolrooms starting at 10.30pm had been very successful with a number of newcomers attending. Phil said that it had been good to be able to redirect people arriving for the 10.30am service to the schoolrooms. The service in St John's had gone very well and James thanked all those who had helped.

9. Forthcoming events

a) Hospital and Hospice Service

These were taking place on the next two Sunday evenings.

b) DEF meeting 29th November, 7pm at Wembdon, on 'The Anglican Communion: a local church guide.

Chris Sugdon was speaking about how things were going in the Anglican Communion.

c) Christmas Services and events

The services were all as held in the previous year. The lunchtime service was on Monday 19th December.

d) Children's Christmas Craft Day

Joy Neville said that this was being held in St. Johns on the Saturday morning of 17th December and it was hoped that parents would stay and help rather than leave their children.

e) Christmas Lunch for Single People

Tim asked if anything was being planned on Christmas Day for single people to share a meal with a family. As nothing was being planned he agreed to start a list with the help of Jenny.

f) Lord's Larder Christmas Boxes

These were being planned as in previous years and names of recipients should be given to the Lords Larder by the end of November.

g) New Year's Party

Jenny said that a New Year's Party was being planned for 14th January in the Schoolrooms

10. Any other business

a) Church Storage

Keith said that the amount of furniture and equipment stored in the church was becoming a problem when setting up for the music group.

b) Schoolrooms

Helen said that there was a problem with a damp wall downstairs in the Schoolrooms. It was suggested that she should contact the landlord.

c) Church Spring Clean

James thanked all those who had recently helped clean up the church. A Spring clean up would take place in the New Year

11. Dates of future meetings

Church Council – Tuesday 17th January

The meeting finished with open prayer at 9.15pm