

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's Church Council held on Tuesday 18th May 2010, in the Schoolrooms

The following council members were present:

Bob Banfield, John Brookes, Ros Bush, Simon Corner, Ian Croxford, Rob Dean, Roger Fox, Phil Juggins, Keith Ovenden, Roy Penny, Colin Reston, Jenny Salberg, David Upton, Kath Upton, Martin Warr, Anne Wicks, Chairman: James Dudley-Smith

1. Opening worship

James opened with prayer and read a passage 1 Corinthians 12 v 21, "The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor." James said that this is about the nature of the whole church. There were so many problems and divisions in the early church of Corinth but all members were part of the body of Christ. James handed out a booklet called "Stop Dating the Church and Fall in Love with the Family of God" The purpose of the book is to enthuse every Christian with their place in the local church and we were asked to read it by the September Church Council meeting when there would be a short discussion on it.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Rev Ed Bangay, Alan Irwin, Linda Keyworth, David Matthew, Joy Neville, Paula Rollason

3 Election of Treasurer and Secretary

James welcomed the new members elected at the AGM. Martin Warr, John Brookes, and Kath Upton were co-opted on to the committee. Martin to serve as Treasurer and John as Secretary.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February were approved without amendment.

5. Matters Arising

a) Mission Statement/strapline

James said that a meeting of the sub committee had been held and they suggested a fairly simple title "St John's and St. Andrew's for Christ in the heart of Yeovil" and Ed Ovenden had designed a logo which James handed out. He asked for any comments to be fed back to him.

6. Membership of Sub Committees

James asked for anyone interested to serve on any particular committee to talk to him. The following committees were identified.

Finance also covers Fabric issues - Rector, a warden, treasurer, secretary, Roger Fox, Rex Beable, Anne Wicks

Schoolrooms - A warden, Pauline Kibblewhite, Keith and Gill Ovenden, Kath Upton

Town Centre Churches (LEP) – James as vice chairman, Beth Farrington, we need to appoint a St. John's representative to replace Chris Salberg.

Beyond Yeovil Group - Beth Farrington, Keith Stevens, Mike and Flic Streatfeild, Linda Jackson, Phil Juggins, another from St. John's needed to replace Chris Salberg.

Pastoral Group - Meets on first Thursday of the month at 10am in St. John' for prayer,

Jenny Salberg, Margaret Kent, Ann Beable, Ed and Eileen Bangay, Rosemary Vowles, Pat Legg and anyone is welcome to attend.

Social Committee - Jenny Salberg, Ros Chatwin, Frances Croxford, Gil Ovenden

7. Finance

Martin said that the accounts for the first 4 months to April showed a deficit of about £500 which is better than budget allowing for the loss of casual income whilst we have been at St. Andrew's. However the deficit does not include the cost of gas estimated at £1,050 whilst the church has been closed. As the heating and lighting needed to be left on whilst the redecorating took place Martin proposed that the cost of gas and electricity be charged to the Fabric Fund and this was agreed. The cost of the redecoration project is estimated at £117k but includes about £17k of VAT which it is hoped can largely be recouped and we are obtaining professional advice on this. The restoration fund has now largely been used up. Martin expressed concern that the voluntary income that we used to receive through the collecting boxes and milk churn had reduced dramatically since the new arrangement of just having one collecting box for all income and he asked that we raise the profile of the collecting facilities without seeking to offend people.

8. Christians Against Poverty

Ian Croxford said that he had been working with David Keen for some time on setting up a debt counselling service covering Yeovil and Sherborne. Two successful CAP money courses have been held and a number of obstacles preventing the start of a debt counselling service have been overcome. Three things need to take place in order to make it happen. Firstly, someone to run the service, secondly some money to pay for it estimated at £5k per annum for a volunteer or £30k if we have to pay someone, and thirdly a lead church to take it on to give it the management and spiritual lead. Ian said that he was prepared to manage the service but would very much like St. John's, as the parish church of Yeovil, to be the lead church otherwise it would almost certainly be St. James's church. The YCC had agreed to fund it for the first year and Ian hoped to come back with a proposal in the autumn for St. John's to lead the project.

Martin expressed reservations about St. John's taking it on and particularly the financial commitment.

**9 Fabric
Redecoration and New Lighting Scheme**

Roger said that the project was now complete but that certain additional work had been necessary to comply with the electrical installation requirements, fumigation of timbers, and repairs to the stone work around the windows. He said that we need to be economical with the use of the lights as they will use more electricity than the previous ones. Some of the floorboards under the pews are in a poor state and may need to be replaced at a later date.

Tower

Roger reported that following an inspection of the tower it has been estimated that the cost of repair to the surfaces is likely to be about £300k. This will be a long term project dependent upon raising the necessary money. Roger said that legacies are a good source of income and also tax efficient as they avoid inheritance tax. James thanked Roger for all his work and wished him a good holiday.

Font cover

Phil Juggins said that it had not been possible to inspect the hanging mechanism whilst the scaffolding was in place. However he was meeting the person concerned from

Morris Handling on Thursday to arrange an inspection. It was agreed to take this item off the agenda.

10. Parish Youth Work

Simon said that there was nothing major to report but he would value our prayers as he is meeting at the Park School to launch a Christian Union. He was also visiting the head at Westfield School.

11. Future of the Youth Choir

James said that Fiona Bennett had been running the Youth Choir but for various reasons the numbers had dwindled to about 5 members. It was suggested that the holiday club may provide recruits and some of the schools may be approached. However it is difficult to enthuse them without their family support. Martin said that it was important for the future of the church to involve young people within the church. James had doubts about whether we should approach the schools to persuade children to sing in a youth choir just for our benefit and Keith said that it was important that we were clear about what our motives for having a youth choir are. He said that we had 15 musicians we can call on to play in the band and the three things that we ask for are competence, confidence and commitment and the ones who have that in abundance are regular attendees. However one of the problems is that whilst in the band they cannot be involved in other youth activities on a Sunday morning. We need to be clear about what takes priority and make provision for them to participate in other activities. Jenny said that if we have children from local schools and their parents come it may be the only opportunity that we have of telling them about the Christian message. James agreed to relay our thoughts to Fiona.

12. Forthcoming Events

a) Parish weekend away 10th to 12th September

The brochure will be available at the weekend. If anyone would like to run a workshop let Helen know. Discretionary financial support will be available to anyone needing help who might otherwise be unable to go.

b) Back to Church Sunday on 26th September

It was agreed not to have a communion service. Packs of literature, posters and invitations have been ordered. We need to be praying for people to invite. There is some training material available which David agreed to review. It was agreed to have some donuts or cake. A workshop at the weekend away would be a useful session to have.

c) Harvest Floral Celebration from Friday 1st October

The floral group had agreed to put on a display of flowers on the theme "All Good Gifts Around Us".

13. Any Other Business

a) Cards for Good Causes

It was agreed that this could take place from 11th October to 4th December. Arrangements regarding putting the displays away for Sundays to be agreed with the manager. James expressed concern about Saturday stewards being asked to move the displays and said that we need to know exactly what services we are being asked to provide.

b) Bath & Wells Association of Change Ringers 16th to 23rd October

Roger asked if the tower could be open on the 2 Saturdays for a recruiting

campaign.

14. Dates of next meetings

Church Council Tuesday 14th September

PCC Tuesday 5th October

The meeting finished with a prayer at 9.30pm

Unapproved