

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's Church Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2010, in the Schoolrooms

The following council members were present:

Rev Ed Bangay, John Brookes, Ros Bush, Simon Corner, Ian Croxford, Roger Fox,
Alan Irwin, Phil Juggins, Linda Keyworth, Jennifer Matthew, Joy Neville, 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 from a book entitled Wise Counsel containing John Newton's letters. The passage talks about the highs and lows that we may feel as a Christian. The writer quotes from Philippians' chapter 4, verse 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Despite how we feel it is important that we stay close to God so that he can take us through the difficult times to the good times.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Bob Banfield, Nick Chatwin, Keith Ovenden, Keith Stevens, Paula Rollason,

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November were approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising

a) Mission Statement/strapline

James said that he was getting together a small group to look at this.

5. Correspondence

a) Charity Commission Registration

The secretary reported that he had been working on our registration with the Charity Commission which was a requirement for all PCC's with an annual income of over £100k. As St. John's and St. Andrew's operated independently and produced their own accounts which were not consolidated with St. John's it had been decided to register St. John's Church Council as the representative body. It was a requirement that all members of the Church Council acting as trustees sign the registration document confirming their eligibility and that the information contained in our application was true complete and correct. A signature sheet was passed around for all members to sign.

b) Letter from Margaret Hamilton

James read a letter from Margaret Hamilton about the worship at St. John's which she found to be very uninspiring and was not spiritually uplifting. She preferred a more charismatic form of worship where we sang more modern choruses which expressed the love of God and where we were able to show our emotions. The views of the committee were varied. It was felt that the changes that we had made in our patterns of worship had been good but it was recognised that even these changes had been difficult for some members of the congregation. It was a pity that we no longer have an occasional Sunday evening praise service and that perhaps we should try this again, possibly on a Saturday night, and try to attract more young people. James said that we all

know what we like and dislike but we need to be open to the views of all members of the church and not just our own views. James said that he would meet Margaret to discuss her letter and it was agreed that it would be a good idea if another member of the Church Council went with him.

6. Finance Report

In the absence of the treasurer the secretary reported that the 2009 accounts, which are with the Independent Examiner, showed a General Fund deficit of £596 but this is only after reducing our annual donations figure by £1,000 from our budgeted figure of £11,000. Nevertheless, during the year we gave to charity the sum of £11,700, including special collections.

A budget for 2010 has also been produced and portrays a deficit of £3,586. This figure includes a donations budget of £11,000 plus a figure of £1,000 to recover the 2009 shortfall. In addition, this budget reflects an increase of £5,710 in the diocesan quota (approx 7.5%) to a new total of £77,186. It will not be feasible to meet our charitable donations target without increased income beyond our budgeted income figure. This currently stands at £127,000 (excluding Youth Minister funding) but would need to increase by a further £2,500 to avoid the General Fund going into cumulative deficit. It was pointed out that of our total budgeted income of £127,000, £77,000 goes directly to the Diocese leaving £50,000 to run the church including our support for charities and missions. It was agreed that it was important that our church members were aware of our financial position so that they can decide whether to increase their giving to enable us to fulfil our charitable obligations.

7. Ray Willis and the Choir

As this was the first occasion that it had been possible to discuss this matter at a Church Council meeting James briefly explained the position. The matter was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting when there was a need to make savings in order to balance our budget for 2010 and the recommendation made that we could not afford to continue to pay Ray for choir practices. This was then discussed and agreed by the wardens and Ray and the choir were informed early in January. We have tried to be as helpful to Ray as possible in order that he can look for other paid work and we will pay him for his choir duties until the end of March. He will continue to be paid for playing the organ for 2 Sundays a month and on other occasions as required. The committee thanked James for the sensitive way in which he had dealt with the matter.

8. Fabric Tower

Roger reported that he was still waiting for the architect to arrange for the tower to be surveyed in order to estimate the cost of repairs.

Redecoration and New Lighting Scheme

Roger reported that it was expected that work would start on the redecoration on 8th February and was expected to take up to 14 weeks. The DAC had given verbal approval to the faculty for the new lighting but it cannot be granted until the public notice asking for objections has been displayed until 14th February. It is not prudent to order the new lighting until we have the faculty. There is a wedding booked for the middle of May so it was important that the work should be finished by then. Roger was thanked for all his work.

Suspended Font Cover

Phil Juggins said that he had had a meeting in the church with a representative of the

company who inspect lifting equipment at AgustaWestland and he said that the cost of an annual inspection could be reduced to about £50. However he would carry out an inspection of the attachment to the roof when the scaffolding is in place.

9. Parish Youth Work

Simon mentioned a number of events happening shortly which he asked us to pray about. This Sunday evening the CYFA group were meeting at Simon's house. A group of 12 young people are going to Hereford in a fortnight for a weekend away. There is a shortage of leaders for the Climbers group, 8 to 11, and also an additional leader for Pathfinders is wanted. He was shortly taking a test driving a minibus. Simon asked about insurance cover whilst they were using the scout hut at St. Andrew's and Jennifer Matthew agreed to give him the name of a contact at the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. Roger Fox asked about the holiday club which was at the end of July and wondered about the possibility of getting some of the young people interested in bell ringing.

10. Forthcoming Events

a) Services during February and March

All arrangements had been made for the joint services at St. Andrew's and they were looking forward to welcoming us. In view of the extended time to complete the St. John's redecoration it is likely that we will need to worship in St. Andrew's until early May.

b) Easter Services

James said that he has still got to plan these services

c) Parish Weekend Away 10th to 12th September

James said that he had arranged for a couple to lead the weekend and would be looking for a small committee of volunteers to help organise it.

d) Fellowship Groups – a new start in September

James said that he was planning a re-launch of the fellowship groups for the autumn. This would be an opportunity to start new groups, possibly for some to change groups and particularly for new people to join groups. This was welcomed by the committee.

e) Christmas 2010 - a proposal from St Andrew's

St Andrew's had been concerned about a number of issues involving Christmas services. The attendance at the 9pm Christmas Eve service had dropped and as James was at St. John's for the 10.30am service on Christmas day it was not possible for him to be at St. Andrew's on that morning. They had proposed that they do not have a service at 9pm on Christmas Eve and, if St. John's agreed not to have an 8am communion service on Christmas morning, could they instead have a 9am communion service which James could take. This would cut the number of services in the parish from 5 to 3 and reduce James's workload. This proposal received a favourable response and was agreed. The question of whether we continue with a combined service with the Yeovil Community Church at 10.30am was discussed and generally felt that it was a good opportunity to renew friendships, particularly for the young people, and should continue in its current form.

f) Boxing Day Service on 26th December

It was agreed that there would be no 8am service in St. John's but a short communion service at 10am with 2 or 3 hymns.

11. Any Other Business

Ian Croxford said that he and Frances would not be able to organise the Christmas lunch for single people this year and was therefore looking for volunteers to organise it. He said that it was very much appreciated by those who had attended.

12. Dates of next meetings

AGM Wednesday 7th April

Church Council Tuesday 18th May

The meeting finished with a prayer at 9.30pm

Unapproved