

Minutes of a Meeting of the St. John's & St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 13th April 2010, in the Schoolrooms

The following were present:

Ed Bangay, John Brookes, Ros Bush, Ian Croxford, Jenny Jones, Phil Juggins, Jennifer Matthew, David Maynard-Griffin, Joy Neville, Colin Reston, Jenny Salberg, David Upton, Anne Wicks, Revd. James Dudley-Smith, Chairman

1. Opening Worship

James opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. He read from Luke c 20 v 17 where the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus by asking him who a widow who had been married 7 times would be married to when she died and was in heaven. Jesus' answer was that whether we are in this life or the after life we are all alive to God. It is as if death in God's eyes is nothing at all as we are all alive in him.

The question that we should be asking ourselves and praying about is whether we are spiritually alive and therefore with him and can participate in the after life with him or whether we are spiritually dead.

2. Apologies

Simon Corner, Beth Farrington, Roger Fox, Ted King, Keith Ovenden, Roy Penny, Paula Rollason, Kath Upton.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes for the previous PCC meeting held on 20th October 2009 were accepted without amendment and signed.

4. Matters arising

Simon's Corner's Contract

This had been signed and Ed asked if we could see a copy. It was agreed that David Upton would make a copy available with the sensitive bits taken out for circulation to the members of the PCC.

Christmas Lunch

Ian Croxford said that it had been very successful but he and Francis would not be doing it this year. However the YCC's were considering doing something and we should encourage them. They have much better facilities than the schoolrooms which are quite difficult.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Reports on Church Council Meetings.

St John's

The last meeting was on 2nd February and the secretary said that St. John's had registered with the Charity Commission which was a requirement for all PCC's with an annual income of over £100k. It had been decided not to include St. Andrew's as they operated independently from St. John's and we do not produce consolidated accounts. We discussed a letter from Margaret Hamilton about the worship at St. John's as she thought that the services were not spiritually uplifting enough. Various views were expressed but the main problem was trying to satisfy a variety of tastes and it was difficult to satisfy everyone. However our patterns of worship are being kept under

review.

The accounts for 2009 showed a deficit of £596 after withholding £1k of our Missionary and Charitable giving. It is hoped to make this up in 2010.

Due to a large increase in the Parish Share for 2010 of £5,710 (8%) it had been decided that we could not afford to pay our Director of Music, Ray Willis, to take choir practices.

St Andrew's

David Maynard Griffin said that the main event had been the water leak in the hall. This had now been repaired and covered by insurance except for a £50 excess. A frost stat had been installed which should prevent a reoccurrence. New cupboards were being built for the storage of crockery. A contract had been signed with a company in Bridgwater to service the fire extinguishers but this was much more expensive than before. There was a problem of the lack of storage in the hall and various options were being looked into.

7. Reports from meetings

a) Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met on 4th February when the visiting speaker was Chris Harris, Deanery Warden of Readers. He was encouraging us to use the Diocesan Lent Course DVD called "Love for the Future". He gave a preview of a part of the new resource and did stress that it could also be used at other times of the year. He chose Compassion out of the six subjects which are featured in the DVD. The others being, Respect, Justice, Simplicity, Repentance and Hope.

A vicar from Bridgwater spoke compellingly and bluntly about the problems of the youth within his parish and how his actions were compassionate.

Bishop William from Zambia spoke of the importance of people in his country growing their own food if they are to be taken out of poverty.

A discussion then ensued in small groups using the four questions from the Diocesan course handout. Our thoughts were then shared with the Synod.

b) Town Centre Churches

James said that we were short of representation on the LEP committee and that Chris Salberg had decided to step down. A hustings was being arranged which will probably be in the Methodist Church on 30th April. The URC were without a minister and would almost certainly go through a reorganisation as the new person will be responsible for several churches. The Methodist minister was also responsible for several churches one of which is in another LEP. The amount of time that the other clergy could devote to LEP activities was limited and things were difficult but Ian Green was holding things together.

8. Report from Ian Croxford on the Yeovil New Estates Team

Ian said that he had replaced Alison on the committee when she moved to St James's church. The Diocese had decided that a Bishops Mission Order was not an appropriate structure so a new charity had been formed called YeovilNET which will have a trustee from each participating church but will be free of Anglican ties. David Keen is chairman of the trustees and Penny Joyce has been giving advice as she has been involved in a new housing estate project in Whitney near Oxford. The most appropriate time for Christians to move into an estate is when it has been half built. Due to the recession building work had not started on the Lufton or Brimsmore estates but work

has started on the Lyde Road estate but only on building work for social housing. There was a need to identify people who would be prepared to move into the estate which would probably be in late 2011 or early 2012. The most important thing that we should do at the moment is to pray about the new developments and reaffirm our commitment to participate. There is no financial commitment at the moment. There is no one from St Michael's on the committee at present but it is hoped that this will change when their new vicar starts.

9. Review of joint services at St Andrew's during St. John's closure

James asked us to split up into small groups to discuss the subject.

The main points raised in the feedback were:

- a) It was felt that the music group was either too loud particularly on the last Sunday or the vocalists could not be heard. One particular problem was the lack of setup and testing time especially when there was an 8am communion.
- b) It was good to have a more informal service as well as a traditional one.
- c) Not many young people at either service.
- d) There was a lack of space for the Traidcraft stall.
- e) Not many people coming to the 11am service had come into coffee and consequently there was little opportunity for fellowship between the 2 congregations. Many thought that it did not feel right having coffee before a service.
- f) It was good that those involved in the Sunday school or crèche could go to the 11am service.
- g) The time between the services was felt to be too short.
- h) There had been no complaints from the 8am congregation.
- i) One main anxiety was about those from St. John's who have not made it to St. Andrew's.
- j) It was good that James had been at both services.

10. Report on the redecoration of St. John's Church

The secretary read from a written report from Roger Fox.

- a) The scaffolding may start to come down mid week in the week commencing 20th April, but this depends on the timely delivery of light fittings. It could take 10 working days to take down.
- b) Extra work had been found necessary and authorised since as it was sensible to do it whilst the scaffolding was up, fungicidal treatment of some roof timbers, extension of three phase wiring, window tracery cracks filled.
- c) There was some water penetration above the south transept after redecoration which required repair.
- d) It had been decided to deal with the wiring of light fittings and points in the vestry and crypt.
- e) The archdeacon's consent had been sought for the extra work.

The suspended font cover had not been load tested as the firm that Phil had contacted had failed to respond. Upon Jennifer Matthew's proposition it was agreed that we would go ahead and have it examined whilst the scaffolding was up by the firm recommended by our insurers.

There is a potential VAT problem on the cost of the lights which could cost us up to £5.5k if we have to pay it. Roger is seeking professional advice.

Once the scaffolding has started to be removed the light fittings can be installed and the electrical wiring requiring lifting of the floor boards can be completed. There will need to be a big clean up operation and James thought it unlikely that we would be able to use the church before 16th May.

11. To consider the possibility of another ordained member of staff.

James said that every year there about 6 deacons available for training in the diocese. The Archdeacon was aware of our desire to have a curate and she was supportive but we are one of several churches hoping for one. James's view was that we are only maintaining the ministry in the parish but should we be seeking to grow it more and possibly exploring other ways of getting assistance. At the PCC away days we had identified several areas of ministry that as a town centre church we could start but they would require an additional priest. It may be something that the diocese would not like but could not stop. A big issue is how we should pay for another person but it is something that we should be thinking about. There was also the question of the effect on our parish share if we grow the church at our own expense.

12. Sunday evening worship in the parish

James had not tabulated the survey results but his initial view was that they were fairly inconclusive. In the longer term he said that he would like an evening service at St. John's with an appeal to young adults and teenagers with some life to it and imagination. There are those who like a traditional service but not that many. The lack of a celebration type service was a disappointment to some and they would like it to be brought back in some form. There was a feeling that in the past the clergy had not really owned the celebration service and it had largely been run by lay people. James said that there was a great deal more preparation required for an informal service than a liturgical service. However there was a definite need for more modern music for the young people. Ted King was happy to take the 4th Sunday evening worship service at St. Andrew's and the future of Sunday evening services at St. Andrew's would be discussed at their AGM.

13. Future Events

Parish weekend away 10th to 12th September

A meeting of the planning group was being held on 14th April.

Rev Tony Baker and his wife Margaret were leading it. Tony is a retired vicar from Hove and was also a teacher at Trinity College Bristol for some time.

Archdeacon's Visit

The Archdeacon is preaching at the 5th Sunday service in St. John's on 30th May.

Civic Service

This is being held in St. John's on 27th June at 6pm.

There being no further business James closed the meeting with a prayer at 9.30pm.

Date of the next meeting Tuesday 5th October.