

Minutes of a Meeting of the St. John's & St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 20th October 2009, in the Schoolrooms

The following were present:

Ed Bangay, Bob Banfield, John Brookes, Ros Bush, Nick Chatwin, Simon Corner, Ian Croxford, Roger Fox, Alan Irwin, 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 by referring to a book entitled "Operation World" which contains information about all the countries of the world and is designed as an aid to prayer. He recommended that we have a look at the book. He also referred to a leaflet produced by SIM (Serving in Mission) entitled "Praying for Missionaries" which was an excellent resource for prayer. James then read a passage from 2 Thessalonians c3 v 1 to 5 which reads "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." James said that these are brilliant words to be paying especially with Marc and Hilary in Benin in mind who need God's protection from the evil one as they overcome some of the difficulties that they are experiencing. We too, in Yeovil, need God's protection and love which we should be praying for.

2. Apologies

Ted King, Keith Ovenden, Paula Rollason, Keith Stevens, Kath Upton.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes for the previous PCC meeting held on 14th April 2009 were accepted without amendment and signed.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence

Jennifer referred to an e-mail from the Diocese inviting us to purchase a copy of the book on the history of the Diocese produced in connection with the 1,100th celebrations. She had also received a complementary copy of the book and a childrens' book for display in the church for which we were invited to send a donation of £25. It was agreed that we would not send a donation. The secretary said that the Diocese was now offering 2 copies of the book for the price of one at £19.99p.

6. Reports on Church Council Meetings.

St John's

The secretary reported that at the last St. John's Church Council Meeting we discussed the make up of the sub-committees and the proposed constitution of the LEP. We are trying to set up a pool of volunteers to provide transport to St. John's services and other events but to date there has been little response.

On the financial side there was a deficit on the General Fund to the end of August of £2,175 which was £1,258 worse than budget. For the full year there is a budgeted deficit of £2,159 and subject to unforeseen items it is likely that the result will be of this order. Our income is down £3,000 and our expenditure is down £2,100,

The Youth Minister Fund stood at £26,500 before the receipt of any money from the Diocese and we should have sufficient money to cover the next 3 years.

We have had problems with the tower due to the prospect of falling masonry and our insurers are insisting that we erect a fence from the south door around the tower to the north door and at the moment we are getting the necessary planning permission.

Roger was given permission to approach the DAC to obtain approval for new lighting which would be similar to the lighting in Crewkerne parish church. We hope to redecorate, rewire and install the lighting early in 2010.

Our insurers are insisting that we have an annual inspection of the pulley mechanism supporting the wooden font cover. This is likely to cost about £300 and as an alternative we are seeking approval to do away with the pulley and just have the cover suspended by a steel wire.

A sub committee was set up to review church services and this is ongoing. We had an excellent away day on 26th September at Wimborne parish church which is a very progressive church and this has given us a lot to think about and will require further consideration.

St Andrew's

David Maynard Griffin reported on 2 meetings. The church hall has been redecorated inside and out. They are considering the provision of additional storage, kitchen improvements and a disabled toilet. They discussed baptisms in the context of church services. A decision was made to stop Sunday evening services in the winter apart from evening prayer led by Ted King on the 4th Sunday. Proposals to revamp and tidy up the organ loft and vestry are being considered. Work on the quinquennial survey is continuing including the cutting down of 2 trees.

7. Reports from meetings

a) Deanery Synod

Colin Reston gave the following report on the meeting held on 25th June in Marston Magna. There were 2 main items. A report on the mission to the proposed new housing developments in Yeovil and a report by Maureen Bowland and Tony Cook, the parish advisors on youth.

Planning permission for the 3 sites around Yeovil has been granted with 1,500 to 2,000 people living in each estate. Leaders from 9 churches representing 6 denominations have agreed to work together. It is the vision that Christians' from other areas in the town will move into these new estates to establish a nucleus for a new Christian community. 4 options are being considered.

- a) Run by a local church as a lead partner.
- b) New organisation similar to an LEP.
- c) Use of a Bishops Missions Order.
- d) An agreement by local churches to work together.

A Bishops Mission Order (BMO) is a new legal structure enabling churches to work together where the normal parish structure is not appropriate. The purpose of a BMO is to affirm, enable and support a new mission initiative. There is an opportunity to review the structure at 5 years intervals. There are a number of obstacles to be overcome in setting up a BMO one being that it is an Anglican concept.

Maureen Bowland and Tony Cook gave a presentation on youth work within the Diocese and said that there are 186 church schools, 9,000 involved with youth activities and 35 paid staff. The Synod were asked to consider 2 questions, firstly what contact does your parish have with children and young people and secondly why are children so important to the development of the parishes. James commented that we do not have any church schools within our parish although we do have contact with schools. The Synod was then presented with some very interesting statistics on the work of the Childrens' Society.

b) Town Centre Churches (LEP)

James said that he had not attended the last meeting but would welcome volunteers to represent us on the LEP. The week of prayer for Christian unity was being held at the end of January and the Bishop of Bath and Wells was coming to preach in St. John's on the 24th January.

8. Report by Simon Corner on Youth Work in the parish

James welcomed Simon to his first PCC meeting. Simon said that he had a number of aims in developing youth ministry within the parish.

- a) To enable young people to come to know Jesus for themselves, to mature in their faith and to share it.
- b) Youth work is God's work and so is very important, a matter of life and death.
- c) To work with and encourage parents.
- d) To teach the Bible in a relevant way for young people.
- e) To embrace prayer in everything that we do and to encourage young people to pray both on their own and together and within worship.
- f) To create a safe environment where young people can feel at ease, can feel free to express their feelings and ask questions without any fear of being judged.
- g) Somewhere where they can be prayed for and work though the truths of the gospel.
- h) It has got to be fun.
- i) For leaders to share their lives with young people both as roll models and to see how they struggle with some of the issues of life.
- j) Encourage young people to apply the principles of the bible in every aspect of their lives.
- k) To develop one to one and small group fellowships.
- l) Ensuring that they feel valued and loved.
- m) Provide opportunities for them to develop and use their own skills within a safe environment amongst friends.
- n) To help equip them when they leave and go out into the big wild world.
- o) To build, encourage, train and develop the leadership team and involve them in decision making.
- p) To help the young people to develop an involvement within the wider church and particularly in church services.
- q) To encourage parents to become more involved particularly those not involved in church life.
- r) To involve the leadership team in regular meetings, to pray together, socialise and consider training needs. To review progress and plan for the future.

Simon's first impressions were that Pathfinders, years 8 to 10, are very regular at the moment both on Friday and Sundays but there is a need for additional adult help. There

are issues with crossing over of age groups. Cyfa numbers are a bit up and down due to their many outside commitments. Simon said that he is forging links with schools and particularly the Park School and is meeting with the chaplain of Yeovil College. A weekend away is being arranged to Hereford in February to discuss love issues. James said that part of Simon's brief is to raise the profile of our young people within the church and he is very encouraged by all that is happening and is so thankful that he is with us.

9. For the PCC to nominate three representatives to sign Simon Corner's contract of employment

James said that as the PCC was Simon's employer we need to nominate 3 people to sign his contract of employment. It was proposed by Roy Penny and seconded by Jennifer Matthew that David Maynard-Griffin, David Upton and Ian Croxford be nominated. All were in favour.

10. To consider venues for St. John's church services when the building is out of action for work on lighting and decorating.

It was agreed that when the redecoration of St. John's takes place, hopefully between the beginning of February and Easter 2010, the church would be closed for all services. James handed out a list of suggested venues for St. John's Sunday services. After some discussion it was decided that we would explore the possibility of combining services with St. Andrew's and possibly having 2 identical services on a Sunday morning and using their hall and the scout hut, if available, for youth activities. It was pointed out that parking would be available in the surgery car park.

11. Any Other Business

a) St Andrew's 75th Anniversary

This takes place on 29th November and it is proposed that the parish combines for this Sunday and that 2 services are held in St. Andrew's commencing at 9.15am and 11am with coffee in between. There will be an 8am service in St. John's.

b) Christmas Services

These will be as last year with a shoppers service in the week before Christmas. St John's carol service on Sunday 20th December and St Andrew's on Tuesday 22nd. Linda Keyworth asked if the youth group could lead the 10.30am service in St. John's on 20th December.

c) Distribution of Christmas cards around the parish.

David Upton agreed to speak to John Mitchell who organised it last year.

d) Christmas Day Lunch

Ian Croxford said that he and Frances were willing to organise a Christmas Day lunch upstairs in the schoolrooms but would require a number of volunteers to help.

e) Other events

Sausage and mash evening on 31st October, a bring and share lunch on 15th November and an Indian evening on 5th December.

f) Parish Away Day

Ed asked if we would be considering the results of the away day and James said that it would be discussed at future St John's church council meetings.

g) Baptisms within services

This had been discussed at 2 St. Andrew's church council meetings. James said

that there were a number of issues about the suitability of the type of service especially where the sermon was following a series and may not be appropriate for a baptism family. Where possible he would use the green service sheets and give more of a family service type talk. It had been suggested that we have 4 services a year when we have baptisms however this was not always possible due to the availability of relatives of the family requesting baptism. We wanted families to feel welcome and it was suggested that when they come into church they are given a sheet detailing the activities for children so that they had time to decide beforehand whether they wanted their children to participate.

h) Samaritans' Purse

Ed mentioned that these were shoe boxes of gifts to be sent to counties such as Romania and were being organised by Jo Dodwell at St. Andrew's. He asked whether this was something that St. John's should get involved in.

12. Dates of Future Meetings in 2010

This was deferred to a later meeting.

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

Date of the next meeting to be arranged.